

***InFluential* Spotlight**  
**Featuring Eliana Alexander**  
**An Accomplished Author and Writer with Much More to Accomplish**

Eliana Alexander works between the Latin and English entertainment markets as an actress and novelist. She plays a role in the upcoming *EPIX* series *Perpetual Grace LTD* which premiered on June 2. Eliana stars as Marisol Contreras, wife of the town's sheriff played by Luis Guzmán. The series follows a young drifter as he attempts to prey upon the town pastor who turns out to have bilked hundreds of people out of their life savings. The cast includes Sir Ben Kingsley, Jacki Weaver, Jimmi Simpson, and Damon Herriman. Steve Conrad and Bruce Terris are showrunners / executive producers for the series.

Eliana is a veteran of the entertainment industry for over 30 years. Prior to her acting career, Eliana taught dance and musical theater as well as choreography. She began as a singer, first touring with the Hilltown National performance of *West Side Story*. Later, Eliana would transition to broadcast television appearing on CBS' *The Bold and The Beautiful*. She would move on becoming a series regular on the *MyNetworkTV* show *Desire* as character Rita Thomas alongside Ashley Greene. Other credits include a recurring role on *Telemundo's La Ley del Silencio* as well as a regular role in *Sin Verguenza*. In the latter series, she was nominated for an Imagen Award for Best Actress in a Television or Online Series. The New York International Independent Film and Video Festival gave Eliana an award for Best Actress for her role in the feature film *Agenda*. UnidosUS recognized her work with an American Latino Media Arts award for Best Ensemble Cast in the ITVS miniseries, *Foto Novelas*.

Beyond her work as an actress, Eliana maintains a secondary career as a novelist. Her first book, *The Neighbor*, released in 2012. She recently announced the first installment of an adventure / sci-fi book series called *Tilt*. The stories are set to follow two teens, Blane and Jake, who inadvertently set off an inter-dimensional time vortex that takes the duo on exciting and dangerous new possibilities and times whilst learning about the worlds within themselves. The first book is set for release August 2019. She is taking a foray into writing for scripts for films and television, in talks currently with Fox.

Originally from Mexico City, Eliana calls Los Angeles, California home with her husband. In her free time, she plays guitar, sings, and makes music a high priority in her life. She is an avid animal rights supporter who stands behind Sea Shepherd and PETA.

You can follow the latest on Eliana on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook @ElianaAlexander](#).

Chatting with Eliana was such a joy. We're pleased to bring this thrilling spotlight to you.

***InFluential Magazine*: Who or what inspired you to become an actress / writer?**

**Eliana Alexander:** There isn't something or someone who inspired me. It's as if the universe opened the doors. I started out as a singer in a band at the age of 16. After touring Japan, I was asked to be in a musical that opened the door to TV and films. A producer who saw me in *A Musical Extravaganza* asked me if I wanted to be in a commercial. It was for a German ice cream and they needed dancers who could sing. I was thrilled to be on set, and I knew I wanted more. I started training as an actress with Al Valletta and later Cherie Franklin. I took commercial workshops and made sure I was on point. The love of the art is what continues to inspire me.

***InFluential:*** What do you get from acting that you don't get from writing? And vice versa?

**Eliana:** As an actor I get to breathe life into the words from the pages of a script. I get to develop the characters based on the words on the page. That is a huge thrill. As a writer I get to create character and stories. I get to see them in my imagination first then onto the page. I love doing both and I'm blessed I can keep acting and writing.

***InFluential:*** This June you were part of the new series *Perpetual Grace LTD* on EPIX. What made you want to be part of this show?

**Eliana:** Wanting to work with Steven Conrad the writer and creator on this modern noir project was a big part of it. In addition, I knew I was going to get to work with the legendary Sir Ben Kingsley. I'm incredibly grateful for the style of this show for it's amazing.

***InFluential:*** What do you relate to most about your character Marisol Contreras?

**Eliana:** I relate to Marisol in the fact she values her family. She is strong and will protect her family at all cost.

***InFluential:*** What is one characteristic of hers you're glad you do not possess?

**Eliana:** One characteristic Marisol has that I do not is she knows her husband Hector, played by Luis Guzman, is up to something and yet doesn't point blank ask him. I personally would get into communication with my husband immediately and find out what is going on. Marisol is dealing with situations as they come along. She is guided by what happens because of what Hector is getting involved in.

***InFluential:*** You've been acting in both Latin and English entertainment markets for over 30 years. What has been the biggest change you've had to adapt to over the last three decades?

**Eliana:** I don't think in terms of having to adapt over the years as my journey unfolds, it's more that I've been in action changing what I don't want to settle for. I've come into my own more. When I first started is when I did a lot more adapting, such as coloring

my hair darker to come across as a Latina because I'm very light skinned and I have light hair. Now, I adapt for the role instead of having to change to be a perfect fit for any role. I've seen a lot of changes and finally we are being seen in a more professional light.

***InFluential:*** In addition to this new series, you're also getting to release your adventure / sci-fi novel series called *Tilt*, about two teens who travel through an inter-dimensional time vortex, learning about the multiverse and themselves in the process. How did you come up with the idea for this series?

**Eliana:** I've always wanted to time travel. What if I could go into different eras and see how they lived? That is what inspired me to create this story. I wanted it to be unique, so I created something different for how Blane and Jake set off a vortex not only into eras but into other dimensions and worlds. I wanted to have facts intertwined into the fiction so that through this journey my readers can discover facts through this story.

***InFluential:*** How many novels will this series comprise of?

**Eliana:** Right now, *Tilt* has two installments *Tilt: Magic Ei8hts* and *Tilt: The Red Moon*. Who knows the way my mind works; there just might be a third installment.

***InFluential:*** What do you hope readers achieve from reading the *Tilt* series?

**Eliana:** I'm in great hopes they lose themselves into their imagination and go into another place. I'd love for them to connect with the characters and root for them as they travel throughout this journey. In *Tilt* the characters learn a lot about the planet and themselves and really evolve. I'm hoping the readers also experience a sense of evolvment of their own.

***InFluential:*** What do you still hope to accomplish that you haven't yet?

**Eliana:** There are a lot of things I'd like to accomplish. One, is to travel more. Maybe take an RV across the United States, trains through Europe spending quality time in each country. Maybe even sail from California to Hawaii. Hopefully soon, so I can enjoy it all while my body and age allow me to.