

# viva NEW YORK

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Marco de la O  
(r.) as El Chapo

## MAKING OF A KINGPIN

### Univision, Netflix team for 'El Chapo' tv series

BY RAY MONELL

The story of one of the world's most notorious drug lords is coming to TV.

The twisted tale of Mexican kingpin Joaquin Guzman — aka "El Chapo" — is now a Univision series focusing on his rise to power beginning in the mid-1980s, when he was a bloodthirsty, ambitious underling in the Guadalajara Cartel.

Premiering Sunday, April 23, with back-to-back episodes starting at 8 p.m., "El Chapo" — a co-production with Netflix — will air every week in Spanish with closed captioning available in English (the eventual Netflix run will have subtitles).

"His life is like a movie," Mexican actor Marco de la O, who stars as El Chapo, tells Viva.

"It's the dream of every actor to take on a personality of this caliber, of this size. It's a great responsibility because this is a person who is known throughout the entire world."

After escaping from a Mexican maximum security prison in July 2015 through a mile-long tunnel dug under the

shower area of his cell, Guzman was recaptured in Sinaloa six months later after a vicious shootout that killed five of his henchmen.

He's since been extradited to the U.S., where he faces a slew of charges that include murder, money laundering, kidnapping and drug trafficking. His trial starts next month in New York.

With little footage of Guzman at his disposal, de la O prepared to play the cartel leader by trying to understand the mindset of someone who would have grown up in a place that offered little to no economic opportunities.

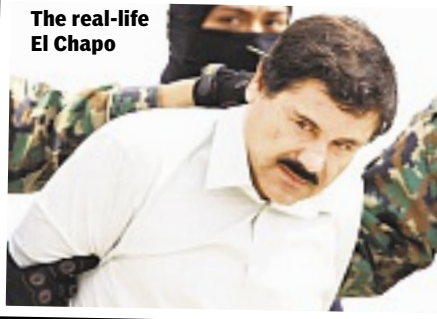
"No one can be prepared for what he's lived, what he lives," says the 38-year-old actor, who was born in Mexico City and has appeared in such telenovelas as "Tanto Amor" and "Un Dia Cualquiera."

"What I did was to try to understand the 'why' behind what he's done, but it still wasn't clear to me," de la O adds.

"Where he was born, it's a very poor region of Mexico... and people end up having to figure out how to survive."

"We find out in the series why he went down that path."

The real-life  
El Chapo



## Tacvba still rocks

BY JOSE MANUEL SIMIAN

For a band that's been around for nearly three decades, Café Tacvba seems to have a curious recipe for longevity.

After all these years, the alternative Mexican group's music keeps being both playful and serious album after album, the result of a loose creative environment in which "each one of us brings his songs to the table," says multi-instrumentalist Emmanuel (Meme) del Real about Tacvba's multiple-handed writing process.

"The concept of the album reveals itself as we uncover the songs," he adds. "It's the energy in the songs that determines in which direction the band leans."

That methodology was apparent on Tacvba's latest album, the upcoming "Jei Beibi" that's set to be released May 5. It's a collection of songs that, true to the band's style, points in many different directions at once while still sounding coherent and enthralling — from a romantic bolero ("Enamorada") to a sensitive ballad about fatherhood ("El Mundo en que Nací"), to unclassifiable folk-meets-R&B tracks like "Me Gusta tu Manera."

"The only rule for this album," says del Real, "was that there were no rules."

"Jei Beibi," produced by Gustavo Santaolalla, is the band's first album in five years, and it marks a new stage for Café Tacvba. It's the first recording that they released on their own, a move that del Real thinks inspired them to bring the music that came out of the studio to another level.

"I don't know if I could define this moment of where the band is in a few words," he says. "But I do think that the fact this is our first independently-released album, and the total freedom that we had, did bring out in us an energy and a determination to make it a successful adventure."

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## A guide to Latin lovin'

Eugenio Derbez's first starring role in an English-language movie has the comic actor mining a well-worn stereotype for laughs.

In "How to be a Latin Lover," opening April 28, Derbez is a long-in-the-tooth gigolo named Maximo who doesn't quite measure up to his creed of "Age is a number; sexy is forever."

Tossed aside for a younger man by a wealthy L.A. woman old enough to be his grandmother, Maximo is forced to live with his sister (Salma Hayek) as he woos another mansion-owning sugar mama — a sexy widow played by Raquel Welch.

Venturing into the minds of real-life Maximos in



preparation for the role exposed Derbez to plenty of people who've long since bid their dignity farewell, he says.

"Every one of those guys, they do whatever it takes to get a (rich) woman to fill their necessities," Derbez, 55, tells Viva.

"It's funny because you'll see those guys that are 50-something, and they still think they're hot. They walk into a bar and they still feel that they are the s--t."

The Mexico City native is a huge

international star, yet didn't get any attention in Hollywood until he starred in 2013's "Instructions Not Included," which became the biggest Spanish-language hit ever after grossing \$100 million — on a \$5 million budget.

"It was a life-changer," Derbez says of "Instructions," which he also directed and co-wrote. "I came from Mexico and Latin America, where I was very well known. Here, I was nobody. It was like living in two different worlds at the same time. Hopefully, ('How') is going to be my vehicle toward a crossover."

Derbez, who co-produced "How," says his career took a sharp turn for the better once he decided to create his own opportunities.

"You must handle your own life, your own career, by producing your own material. That's what brought me this far, I think."

Ray Monell

## 'Lowdown' laughter

The Gotham is hosting a different type of comedy show every Wednesday night.

The Manhattan standup mecca presents "Lozada Lowdown Live!" featuring comics Angelo Lozada and Tammi Cubilette as the off-the-wall emcees of "a mash-up talk show, podcast and standup comedy," Lozada tells Viva.

"We interview the comics after their sets so the audience gets a behind-the-scenes glimpse of their lives. Every show we also have a non-comic — a singer, actor or tastemaker."

Wednesday's 8 p.m. show features comedians Mark Viera, Mike Britt and musical guest Lisa Velez (aka Lisa Lisa). "But most importantly, it's me and Tammi bantering about what's going on in the world," Lozada says. "And how is that not gonna be fun?"

Viva Staff



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# Mexican fighters going for Gold

A pair of Mexican-born heavy hitters are looking to dominate the lightest weight class at this year's Golden Gloves finals in New York.

Competing in the 114-lb. open bout on Friday night's card is Andy Dominguez (below, left), a quick-fisted 19-year-old from Mexico Distrito who's been honing his boxing skills since he was 12.

Meanwhile, Gerardo Vasquez (below, right), an 18-year-old high schooler from Staten Island who was born in Puebla, Mexico, will try to take home this year's 114-lb. novice title.

Dominguez, who grew up in the Bronx's Mott Haven section, says he started taking formal lessons after his mother grew tired of his constantly being sent home from school for fighting.

"I love fighting, even in the streets when I was growing up," says Dominguez, who will take on Giovanni Figueroa.

"My mother took me to the gym because she got tired of me getting in trouble, and I loved boxing.

"It's better because you can win something. In the streets you don't win nothing, except maybe get killed," adds Dominguez, who is representing the Mendez Boxing Club in Manhattan where he also works as a coach.

Vasquez took a different road to becoming a boxer. His father, an avid Julio Cesar Chavez fan, pushed Gerardo into going to the gym four years ago, and the young fighter never looked back.

"My father's a big boxing fan, and so I said I'd try it," says Vasquez, who will fight Matthew Sanchez.

"I did it for fun at first. But I got my ass beat in a sparring session, so I really started taking it seriously after that."

The Daily News Golden Gloves, now in its 90th year, is at the Hammerstein Ballroom in Manhattan Friday and Saturday nights. **Robert Dominguez**

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