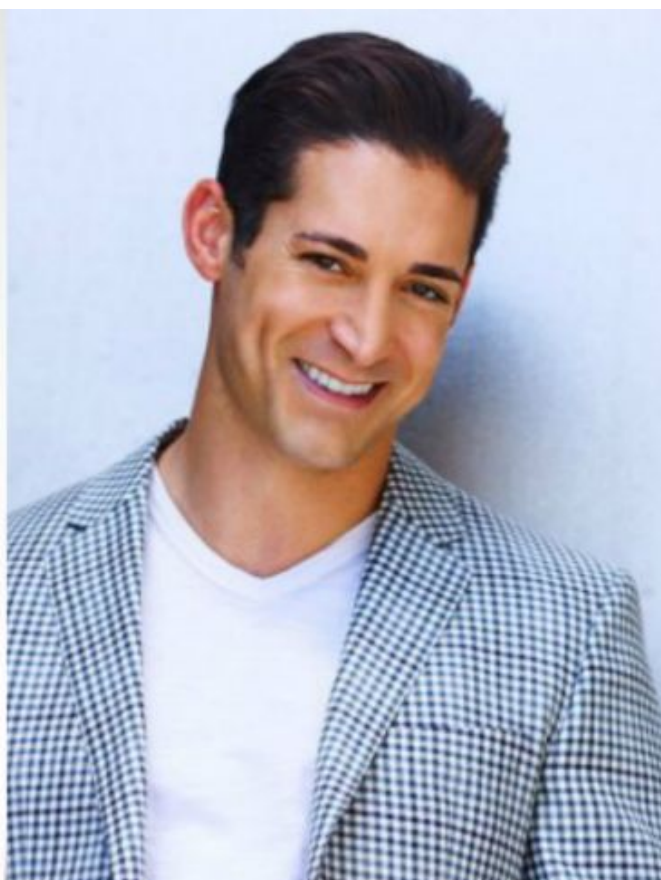


Celebrity News: 'Bachelorette' JoJo Fletcher Has Another Ben In Her Life



By [Cortney Moore](#)

If you aren't up to date on the latest dating show [celebrity news](#), ABC's season 12 of *The Bachelorette* will star JoJo Fletcher, the 25-year-old who had her heart broken in the season 20 finale of *The Bachelor* with Ben Higgins. Fletcher and her illustrious Texan family are no strangers to reality TV. Aside from appearing on *The Bachelor*, she is also sister to *Ready For Love* reality star Ben Patton, who we had the chance to interview twice at Cupid's Pulse! See [here](#) and [here](#).

This celebrity news has us realizing that reality TV stars JoJo Fletcher and her brother Ben Patton share more than bloodlines. Cupid discusses below.

Last time we spoke with Patton, he was set on pursuing a relationship with his final pick and former Miss Texas winner, Angela Zatopek. He even proposed to her in the final episode of *Ready For Love*. Side note: Zatopek wrote episode recaps for us at CupidsPulse.com (see [here](#)). Unfortunately, the magic didn't last for this [celebrity couple](#) and they separated shortly after the season finale. Zatopek, beauty queen and self-proclaimed virgin, opened her heart for Patton and all of America to see, going as far as to make the first move with a bold kiss in episode 4. "I've never done anything like that in my life," she told us. "As I watch it back on television, I realize it wasn't the smoothest move..but hey, I was a rookie."

Related Link: [‘Ready for Love’ Exclusive: Winner Angela Zatopek Shares Her Emotional Journey](#)

Patton may have hinted that his relationship with Zatopek was on the rocks when he told us, "I keep telling her that we shouldn't force the relationship for the sake of the show or to prove America wrong. If it's not working, then it's not working." Will this be the advice he gives to his sister? Surely his experience would be a great asset to her as she tries to weed out potential suitors that are interested in her for not so genuine reasons.

Related Link: [Ben Patton of ‘Ready for Love’ Says He’s “Still Going Through It” With His Final Pick](#)

Is it a coincidence that Patton's younger sister has followed in her big brother's footsteps, or should it not be that much of a surprise since Fletcher had a role in helping her brother on *Ready For Love*? According to recent reporters, she's friends with other reality TV stars, like the infamous *Bachelor* Jake Pavelka. It looks like reality TV stars run in the same circles, and family is no exception.

Related Link: [NBC's 'Ready for Love' Contestant Ben Patton Says, "When You've Fallen in Love, You Can't Deny That It Exists"](#)

We all know that big brother Patton was extremely tough on Higgins when they met on the hometown dates, so we're sure that wasn't the last we'll see of him. If he's looking for more air-time, no doubt he'll be appearing on Fletcher's upcoming season of *The Bachelorette*. In fact, if Patton is still single, would ABC reconsider changing the format to a brother/sister season? Now, that's something we would all like to see!

Regardless of what happens or who ends up winning Fletcher's heart in this season of *The Bachelorette*, we cannot wait to see more of this sister/brother tag team. Maybe Patton and Fletcher can convince their brother Matt to join their pursuits next!

Are you excited for the next season of *The Bachelorette*? Share your thoughts below.

'Ready for Love' Exclusive:

Winner Angela Zatopek Shares Her Emotional Journey



By Angela Zatopek

Yesterday was quite an emotional day for me. As I watched the finale with loved ones, I relived the love I found last summer with Ben and the amazing moment we shared at the vineyard. Thinking back to the beginning, I realized that we came a long way given the circumstances of “group dating.” Now, I find myself in the final two.

Throughout the season I cannot help but question the way certain things were edited, leaving key parts out that were important steps to what took us to the vineyard on that day.

As I wrote in the last blog, I was so unsure if it was to be me or Allie, but no matter what the outcome I knew I had learned so many life lessons.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 8; Home in Houston](#)

After going to Dallas, I got to see his world and meet some of his friends to get a look at what life would be like together. It was so ironic, because he actually lives two miles from some of my best college girlfriends near Uptown Dallas. Going there I was so tempted to sneak away and see them because I had missed all of my friends so much after being away filming!

During the hometown date in Dallas, it was also my birthday so I was really excited to spend it there with him. We spent the day going around town, I met some of his friends and then we took a stroll by the lake. What I was shocked about was the skeet shooting scene?? That actually took place in Houston. It was something that I thought of for us to do...had to show him my true Texan side! Luckily, Ben and I were spot on that day and had so much fun. I realized in Dallas that I had fallen hard for him. After filming ended that day, we actually went out for my birthday. It was great going out on the town together while not being filmed. We got to be real. At this point, I felt pretty confident in our connection but I also knew Allie was going to be seeing him the next day.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 7: Meeting the Family](#)

A side note not many people know (don't be mad at me producers!!!)—but after I was dropped off at the Hotel I was definitely not ready to end my birthday celebration. After spending my summer cooped up in a house for 10 weeks, I got back to my room and thought “freedom!” The hotel was completely empty, I couldn't sleep and was in celebration mode for my birthday, so what did I do? I snuck down to the lobby and played pool with the security guard on the night shift named Randall until 3 am! HA HA! It was probably the most

hilarious and random birthday I have had so far, but I won't ever forget it.

On a more serious note, moving along to what everyone has been asking me about...The Finale. Not only is my birthday a cherished memory, but so is how Ben and I ended our journey filming 'Ready For Love.' I have never been so blunt to say "I love you" in an unsure situation but figured the time was right when I first saw him in the garden. When he took me away in the helicopter, I had no idea where we were going since I was blindfolded. I was completely shocked when we landed and I saw the vineyard, which we called "our spot." When Ben got on one knee, I was absolutely blown away with tears streaming down my face. I thought to myself "this is a crazy thing, but I don't care, there is no handbook on love!" He told me he had another surprise for me and turned me around where I saw both my family and his running at us. Words cannot describe the feeling I had at that moment...Happiness, joy, love, you name it, I was on cloud 9. I had all of the people I cared for most in the world all in one place, and I was loving how our families were so supportive of it.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 6: Finding Love in Paradise](#)

After the show wrapped it was as if we were thrown back into 'real' reality, but could not tell anyone. We had fake names for one another in our phones, just in case friends were next to us, I had crazy colored wigs (I will never have jet black hair by the way), and the list goes on with what we did to hide our romance. We were on such a high after the show, that to be back in reality with our old lives while completely living a new one at the same time was an interesting adjustment.

The first few months were bearable, however we needed to be together to really build a foundation. It wasn't something we could do with 11 other women in the picture. It was

frustrating that we couldn't really be in each other's lives like a normal couple. It saddens me, that he doesn't even know most of my friends or family, yet he was my fiancé at one point? We have been together most of the time since filming wrapped in August, but decided about halfway through the show airing that there were a lot of hardships being apart/in hiding for so long and that maybe it was best if we went separate ways.

I am not sure what the future holds, but I wouldn't take back the adventure I went on by putting my heart out on the line last summer. I learned so much about myself, love, what I want in life/a partner and also gained amazing friendships with cast and production. I see it as my "Ready For Love" family. I will forever cherish the memories I made cooped up in that house with all the girls, the fascinating people I got to know from all different backgrounds and most of all having a taste of what the love will feel like when I do finally find my "prince charming" as I said in the garden to Ben.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 5; Drama in Vegas](#)

I can't help but go back to my faith when it comes to hardship, which is exactly why I want to preserve my heart 100% completely for the day I walk down the aisle. Love is a magical thing we all strive to find, even if it doesn't last a lifetime like we all can hope for....it makes us better for when we do meet that special one. Reflecting back on this entire process, I cannot dismiss the impact this has had on me. I was so inspired on the show when a little girl ran up to me in the audience telling me how much she looked up to my message. I was absolutely humbled and thought "I am just a normal girl!", but then thought of how awesome it would be to create something that would be a legacy of my story and journey of where I am today.

I am currently creating and soon launching OneLove Collection, a faith inspired jewelry line for women and men. OneLove

Collection will have a variety of necklaces, bracelets and rings, over time. I am not a jeweler by trade, but I feel very called to do this and also offer young trendy jewelry for people of faith! These pieces can have multifaceted meanings whether it be purity, commitment to your significant other, or a reminder of God's love. I also am finishing a book about my upbringing, dating experiences, 'Ready For Love', and what God can promise for a relationship when you put him as your first, "OneLove." I can't help but infuse my quirky humor and include a chapter of some hilarious dating stories I have to share.

I am so blessed and humbled by this entire experience and although my journey on 'Ready For Love' ended last night, my journey in life continues where I hope to make a positive difference in whatever God calls me to do. Thank you for reading this and stay tuned for more to come. ☐

Blessings,
Angela

To keep in touch please follow me on Twitter @AngelaZatopek and [facebook.com/Angela-Zatopek-359219517524621/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/Angela-Zatopek-359219517524621/?fref=ts)

Ready for Love, Episode 8: Home in Houston





By [Angela Zatopek](#)

This week on *Ready For Love*, Ben came to Houston to finally meet my family! I was missing them like crazy and knew that, by meeting them, he would get a better look at who I was as a person.

Rather than a quiet date, I thought I'd show him another side of me and brought him to a skeet shooting range. I am so sad to see that our date didn't make the edit – it was so fun! You can tell that we were there because when they interviewed me for this episode, I have clear glasses on my head that we had to wear for protective reasons. Just wanted to clear up that I'm not usually sporting those lovely glasses!

My twin brothers also didn't make the cut during the episode, but everyone was there, and the date couldn't have gone better. First, we went skeet shooting, and to spice it up, we decided to make different bets based on who would shoot the targets. We had a blast, and it was a close call, but I think

Ben may have beaten me by a few shots. I couldn't totally school him!

After that, we headed to my parents' house where my hilarious stepfather John greeted us at the door. You can clearly see his Italian roots and his dry sense of humor. It's so funny to watch because I had no idea what took place in the study that day until now. Even though he comes off harsh, it definitely was his way of having fun with the process and being protective of me. It is a big step for me to introduce someone to my family in that way, and it definitely created a stronger bond between us.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 7: Meeting the Family](#)

My parents actually got Ben a few Texas-themed gifts that day to welcome him. One that I loved was a Texas Longhorn polo since my family are all Texas alums. Although Ben went to Penn, my mom said he was officially inaugurated into the "burnt orange cult" as we jokingly call it. My birthday was coming up, so my mom made my favorite, red velvet cake, to celebrate. The *real* celebration, though, was coming up that next week when I got to spend it with Ben in Dallas.

It was so nice to be out of California and back home in Texas. After having him come to Houston to meet my family, I was nervous but excited to head to Dallas to see what life could be like after *Ready for Love*. At this point in the process, you're so emotionally invested, but you've also come to realize you could be sent home. Being in the final two, I knew that him and Allie also had a strong connection, but I continued to open my heart to him.

Speaking of Allie, as I mentioned in my last blog, the two of us have been close since the first day of production. Now, we were at the end of this process, and ironically, I found myself competing against her. It was such a weird dynamic to be close friends but also have an invisible wall that

separated us at the end of the day, knowing one of us would go home eventually. Before we got to the end, we spoke about the scenario and how we would be happy for the other no matter what. It was important to me that we kept things positive.

During that last week, things were so different than the previous weeks. We moved out of the house and into a hotel where we all were completely separated from everyone. Allie had lent me a bag that needed to be returned, so I decided to write her a note and slipped it into the bag before production gave it back to her. At this point, I didn't know if I would see her again.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 6: Finding Love in Paradise](#)

I spent a lot of time writing that letter. We had shared all of our past relationship stories with one another, and knowing our love lives were about to change after the finale, I felt that it was the appropriate thing to do. Just like me, she'd been with boyfriends who weren't right for her. I told her if she was the final choice, I was happy she could be with someone like Ben. If I was the one in the end, I wrote for her to promise me to never settle and wait for God's best when it comes to love. I had no idea what to expect for the finale, but woman-to-woman, I genuinely meant what I wrote.

I was thankful for our friendship, and regardless of what happened in the end, I hoped that we could be friends later in life. Knowing that it'd be an awkward situation with us both "dating" the same guy all summer, we understood that we most likely wouldn't talk for a while after the show ended. After I put the note in her bag, I only saw her once more, which was the night of the finale.

Tune in for next week's finale to see what happens...!

Ready For Love, Episode 7: Meeting the Family



By [Angela Zatopek](#)

One of the biggest steps in a relationship is when you meet your partner's family for the first time. I believe there is truth to the saying "you not only marry the person but also into their family." This week on *Ready For Love*, Ben's family visited from Texas to meet all of us, and I couldn't have been more impressed with how sweet and genuine they were. Being the first girl to meet them, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't

nervous, but I felt like I would have a lot in common with them based on my conversations with Ben.

We spoke a lot about both of us being from Texas since that is a huge factor in having something real after this process. I joked saying Ben was “geographically desirable” since Houston and Dallas aren’t far apart. I immediately clicked with his sister JoJo and his mother Soroya; they reminded me a lot of my own mother and sister.

I’ve obviously shared my choice to wait until marriage for sex, and I feel it’s something primarily focused on during the show. I’ve never told someone’s family about my decision, but it was almost as if his mom was indirectly asking me about my beliefs. I thought it was important to be real with them, to show my intentions and how much I value an honest relationship. All things aside, though, there is so much more that defines me as a woman. That’s a choice I made, not a characteristic, and I definitely want to make that clear to viewers. In my real life, I barely even talk about it.

Another thing: Has anyone else noticed I seem pretty serious on stage nights? Editing certainly has a way of portraying me as a bit stiff, and all the girls on the cast, my family and my friends would definitely attest to that not being true. With so many different scenarios going on, I guess the more serious content is making the cut!

Related Link: [Ready For Love, Episode 6: Finding Love in Paradise](#)

Back to this week’s episode. Ben told me he was very close with his mother, and I too am extremely close with mine. My mom is from New York originally, and she’s a strong woman with a cut-to-the-chase attitude. Right away, I could tell that Ben’s mother had those same qualities. I knew it was important to convey to her and JoJo that I was there for the right reasons. Given that my own mother is so important to me, I had

a lot of respect for Soroya. I was definitely missing my family after this date, but as you'll see next week, I'm finally reunited with them in Houston.

At this point on *Ready for Love*, our huge mansion in the hills seemed even bigger since there were only four of us left. It was a tough week for me when the girls brought up Allie not being there for the right reasons. I was in between a rock and a hard place since Allie was one of my closest friends. She was the very first girl I talked to – before I even knew that she was there for Ben and we were competing against each other. In a weird way, we were each other's biggest support since we were away from our family and friends. Trust me, you need someone to talk to all day!

I tried to stay out of the drama, but feelings were also rising for Ben at the point, and as I previously said about Keri, I had to ask myself: Was I there to make best friends or see if I had something with Ben? When Giuliana asked me my opinion, I didn't want to lie and say I disagreed with Renae and Tarryn. I knew it was the matchmakers decision, so I wanted to leave it at that. Things clearly escalated, and that was probably one of the most awkward car rides back to the house after stage night. After that, I felt like the middle man because I got along great with both Tarryn and Allie.

Related Link: [Ready For Love, Episode 5: Angela Zatopek Discusses the Drama in Vegas](#)

Ready to get away from the drama, I was excited to finally go back to Texas and introduce Ben to my family. Here's a rundown of the gang you'll meet on next week's episode: My mom is an amazing mother to me and my siblings. I'm basically her clone, and she's more like my best friend than my mom. John is my Italian stepfather. He loves Roman history and has a collection of swords and shields – he isn't afraid to bring them out if someone messes with his daughters! My dad is a spiritual leader in my life; he's a great man of God who is

always so supportive. Still, he definitely had a hard time understanding why I was going through this process. Audrey is my younger sister who has artistic talents like you wouldn't believe. She taught herself how to play three instruments (guitar, mandolin and ukulele); she sings; she's fluent in Spanish – and she's only 21 years old! My identical twin brothers, Josh and Chris, are 20 years old and absolute studs. They're athletic and smart and have bright futures ahead of them. I should add that they're heartbreakers, but I get the final say on who gets by since I am the protective older sister.

Hope everyone can tune in to see my amazing family! Until then...

Ready for Love, Episode 6: Finding Love in Paradise





By Angela Zatopek

This week on *Ready for Love*, we went to one of my absolute favorite places, Hawaii. My two best friends from childhood went to University of Hawaii at Manoa, so I have been to Oahu a few times, but this was my first time in Kona.

A really funny thing that viewers didn't see is that we literally had to go straight from the plane to our date. The flight attendants kept asking what we were doing and what show we were on. We were cracking up because, obviously, we couldn't tell them anything. It was quite apparent that something was up when we're trying to do our hair and makeup in our seats and the small restrooms. Have you ever tried to get ready for a date in an airplane bathroom? It was a bit stressful for all of us, especially knowing that it's going to be televised for the whole world to see.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 5: Drama in Vegas](#)

At the airport, security questioned our purpose for the trip,

and I joked with the guard and said, “Yeah, our boyfriend surprised us all with a trip to Hawaii.” He gave me a crazy stare, but I figured we might as well make light of dating the same guy!

Whatever stress we felt immediately went away the second we hit the beach. We boarded the catamaran where we all got to enjoy each other’s company and the beautiful scenery.

You only saw three dates that took place with Ben: Beth, Renae and Tarryn. Ben and I had a really great date too! I was his last date, and we spent the evening soaking in a hot tub with a waterfall surrounding it. It was gorgeous, and we got to sit and talk more in depth. I really started to connect with him when we discussed our families and our similar upbringings. Our parents both divorced when we were the same age, and we’re both very close to our moms, who came from big families.

I also talked to him about what I was looking for in a potential husband. This process can be especially difficult since the girl is pursuing the guy in an unconventional manner, so it was important to me that Ben knew that I had qualities that I wanted in a man. A big must-have is that my guy not only has knowledge but also wisdom and discernment when making choices. Trust, honesty and integrity are key for a solid foundation with anyone, whether it be a romantic partner or a friend.

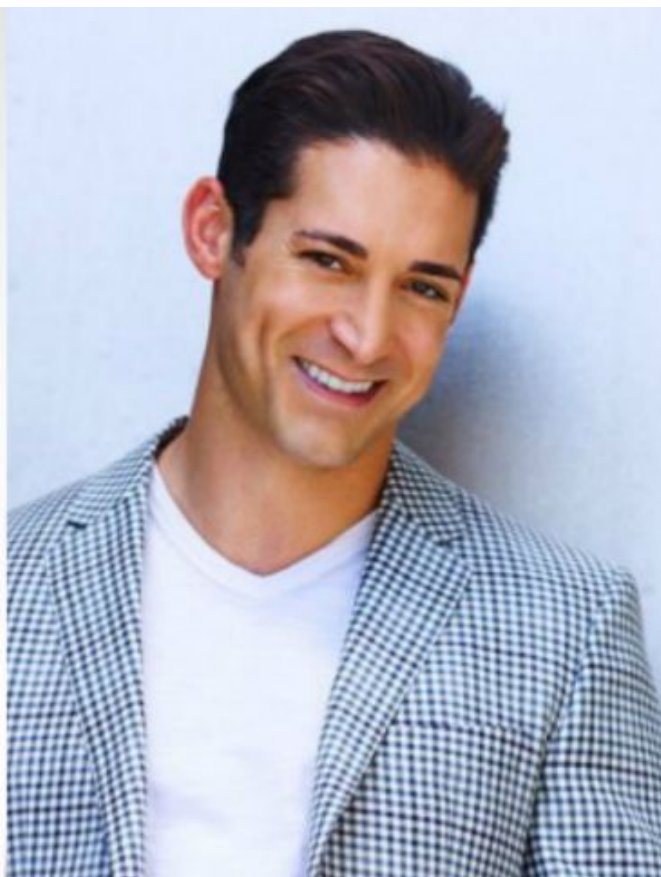
We ended the night with a champagne toast, and I slipped Ben a little note that I wrote on the plane telling him my thoughts about the experience so far.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 4: Angela Zatopek Recaps Her First Kiss with Ben Patton](#)

Our house wasn’t so “kumbaya” after we got back to Los Angeles. There were only a few of us left, and we were all becoming more private about our dates.

I am a huge family person – I believe it is one of the most important things in life. So I'm definitely excited to meet Ben's family on next week's episode. You'll have to tune in on Tuesday to see what happens!

Ready for Love, Episode 5: Angela Zatopek Discusses the Drama in Vegas



By [Angela Zatopek](#)

On this week's episode of *Ready for Love*, Ben surprised us and told us we were going to Las Vegas. I have absolutely no complaints about the amazing house we got to live in for the show – in fact, Rihanna reportedly just bought it! – but being cooped up for so long made it feel like a prison. Plus, the tensions were really high that week, so the timing couldn't have been more perfect.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 4: Angela Zatopek Recaps Her First Kiss with Ben Patton](#)

When people think of Vegas, most people picture getting all jazzed up for shows, hitting the casinos and enjoying many delicious meals. Instead, we had quite a unique experience that didn't include any of those things. The date started with us arriving at the MGM Grand, where some of the world's greatest fighters have stood. It was incredible to think about the history as we entered the arena, but we soon realized that we'd be fighting one another. I'm very into health and fitness, and I have done a lot of kickboxing in the past, so I was looking forward to showing off my skills. My excitement, however, was quickly overshadowed when Tarryn Franco and Kari Krakowski hit the ring. Unfortunately, the fun ended early once it got too heated.

After boxing, we headed to the lounge where the blowout fight between Kari and Allie Wagner took place. It's important to understand that there were so many factors leading up to this argument. We're all there competing for Ben, but we can see a clear connection between him and Kari. He saved her from elimination already, so the door was obviously still open. Our feelings weren't coming from a place of crazy or jealousy but more from frustration. We're thinking, "It's great if they get back together, but don't drag the rest of us through this process."

Personally, I was in a really awkward position with "The Kari

Situation,” which has definitely been a hot topic. Kari and I are both from Texas, so we have a ton of mutual friends. Plus, we were roommates in the house and ironically were in the same sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma (I went to University of Texas at Austin, and she attended University of Oklahoma). We actually got along great, but it was still a weird dynamic since we both wanted to be with the same guy. I finally put my foot down and asked myself, “Am I here for Ben or to make best friends?” I tried to stay out of the argument and just calm Allie down, but emotions were running high since we had flown to Vegas, only to have such an awesome date cut short.

Related Link: [Ben Patton Is Still Dating His Final Pick](#)

Okay, back to Ben. After we had our first kiss at the vineyard, I knew our one-on-one time would be even better when I saw him again. I blocked the fight (which he didn’t know about) from my mind and refused to let it affect my night. The view was incredible, and during our chat, we really started to dig below the surface. There’s so much to cover in such little time – and you have so many things running through your mind related to the tips from the matchmakers. I thought it was best to tell him about my upbringing first: Being the oldest of four siblings, I had a lot of responsibility at a young age. I am a very focused, task-oriented and driven person, which makes me seem stiff or guarded sometimes. I’m actually a very outgoing and fun-loving person, but it’s not my personality to not be an open book so fast, which can play against you in a process like this one.

I had no idea what to expect for this week’s elimination. As the elevator rose and I saw Allie instead of Kari, it made me realize that Ben was looking towards the future and truly trying to embrace this experience. It’s not that we were happy to see Kari gone – it was nothing personal against her, but it was more of a relief that we hadn’t wasted our time on the show.

Since Vegas wasn't really a success, we're even more excited to head to Hawaii next week. Until then...aloha!

Angela Zatopek Talks 'Ready For Love,' Saving Herself for Marriage and OneLove



By [Rachael Moore](#) and [Lori Bizzoco](#)

Angela Zatopek, the youngest contestant vying for the heart of

Ben Patton on NBC's cancelled dating competition show *Ready for Love*, has always been open about her love life, even before she joined the reality television world. What really sets her apart from other young women are her Christian values, particularly the fact that she has decided to "save herself" for marriage.

Related Link: [Ready for Love, Episode 4: Angela Zatopek Recaps Her First Kiss with Ben Patton](#)

The Texas native feels strongly about breaking the stereotypes that come along with being abstinent. "People think that when you're a virgin, it's a very conservative belief. But I'm not this Amish girl walking around with a bonnet on my head or a person who sits at home and knits sweaters," she explains. "You can still be sexy and fun and have a romantic, passionate relationship even if you're waiting to have sex until marriage. It makes it that much better when you find the right person and don't rush the physical stuff."

Being abstinent was an important choice Zatopek made from a very young age, and surprisingly, she says many guys from her past have been accepting of her decision. "Before the show, I didn't have a problem finding a date. Being a virgin would never be the first thing I said to a guy, but I did let them know within the first couple of dates who I am and what I'm about."

When it comes to sharing her views regarding the show's cancellation, the blonde beauty says that she was very confused when it went off the air. "It was such an exciting thing in my mind, and then hearing that it was cancelled was very hard. But you have to look on the bright side. It's on NBC.com, Hulu and On Demand, and there's a lot of fans who still watch the show and send me supportive messages."

Zatopek also reveals some secrets about Patton and his ex-girlfriend, Kari Krakowski, who makes a surprise appearance on

the series. Of course, she had her doubts at first. "We look completely different. She is a brunette with dark eyes, while I'm blonde with blue eyes. So I wondered if I was his type." Still, she says she really likes Krakowski. "It was hard, though, because we were roommates. She would confide in me every night and pour her heart out. I was learning all of this girl's secrets, but then we were competing against each other."

Though she claims that she tried to stay away from the drama, she did get frustrated when Krakowski had her one-on-one time with Patton on last week's episode. "He came back from his date with glitter on his face, and I saw that her lip gloss had glitter in it, so I knew they had kissed. I thought, I'm not going to be here and put my heart on the line if they're going to work it out. He shouldn't make all of us go through this show if they're going to get back together. It's a very mentally taxing process."

Throughout their conversations, Zatopek learned that they had a few things in common. She is from Houston, and Krakowski is from Dallas; the Texas social scene can be a small world. "We have a ton of mutual friends. I learned that Ben and I even have mutual friends outside the show, which is so crazy. I felt like it boosted my confidence because it gave me a connection to Ben since we have similar interests from the people we hang out with."

Even so, the 24-year-old questioned her relationship potential with Patton because of their age difference. She reveals something that was edited out of the first episode: "Before Ben chose me, he asked, 'What makes you ready to be in a relationship? It worries me because we are at different points of our lives.' And I told him that I feel like maturity is not defined by your age but by your life experiences. I'm the oldest of four kids, and my mom was a single mom. I know I'm young on paper, but I grew up quick."

Related Link: [Ben Patton from 'Ready for Love' Is Still Dating His Final Pick](#)

Before her *Ready for Love* journey, Zatopek was in two serious relationships. Her first boyfriend was a long-distance relationship that lasted for a year, and her second relationship was with her college sweetheart, who she dated for three years. The pageant girl says that both guys respected her morals, but she is ready to meet the person she'll be with for the rest of her life. "I want to get to know a guy first and then make those steps towards the altar. I also want to have a huge family."

While she can't reveal how far she got on the show, she's staying busy until the finale airs. She's currently teaming up with Lisa and Brittny Gastineau to form a jewelry line called OneLove. "I want to make cute, trendy purity rings to represent loving yourself first and not needing someone else to complete you. When you're doing your own thing, and respecting yourself first. That's when you're most attractive."

For more information about Zatopek, Ready for Love and OneLove, you can follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit [angelazatopek.com](#). Be sure to watch the remainder of the show on [NBC.com](#)!

Ben Patton of 'Ready for Love' Says He's "Still Going

Through It” With His Final Pick



By [Lori Bizzoco](#) and [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

If you've been watching NBC's dating reality competition show [Ready for Love](#), you may have been disappointed to hear that it was cancelled by the network after only two low-rated episodes. Many viewers felt like the new series presented a false reality when it came to dating and relationships, reinforcing the belief that you have to be perfect to find real love.

For those of you who are fans of the show, don't fret! NBC.com is airing the remaining episodes, so you'll still be able to

follow the journey of Ernesto Arguello, Tim Lopez and Ben Patton as they search for their soul mates. Filming wrapped last August, so we can't imagine what it's been like for the bachelors to keep their final picks a secret – something that they must continue to do until the finale airs on Tuesday, June 4th. To tide us over, we caught up with Patton, who we interviewed prior to the premiere, and chatted about his current relationship, his take on the other two bachelors and his past love with one of the contestants.

Related Link: [Ben Patton Tells Us Why He's 'Ready for Love'](#)

Since the show is still officially airing on NBC.com, the Texas businessman can't reveal his final choice. However, he did mention that it's been a pretty challenging time since the show finished filming, particularly given the constraints that the new couple has faced (they haven't been allowed to be seen together in public for almost nine months). Even so, he says that he's "still going through it" with his significant other. "After the finale airs, that's when we can see if it's the real thing. Right now, we can't even go through the real experience of dating."

Given their busy schedules, the twosome's time together varies. Sometimes, they see each other every two weeks, but other times, they're apart for over a month. They last saw each other about three weeks ago, and Patton says their relationship has become "more stress than fun. She's really stressed. I'm really stressed. I'm not going to lie, it's very hard." For now, they're learning to balance their individual lives and trying to make it work.

As for the future, the hospital CEO says he can't leave Dallas and hopes that his pick will relocate. However, he does admit that he's a rationale person when it comes to love. "I keep telling her that we shouldn't force the relationship for the sake of the show or to prove America wrong. If it's not

working, then it's not working. At the end of the day, we need to think in terms of what's best for us."

He adds, "These challenges make it kind of impossible for people to be happy in a relationship. But that doesn't mean we won't be happy when we can be together."

So did the other men find love? "Yeah, I know that they did. All of us found love, and at the end of filming, we were very happy. We came off the show saying what an amazing experience it was." As for their favorite matchmaker, Patton explains that the guys bonded most with Matthew Hussey. "He knew what was going on in our heads. We could really relate to the advice that he gave the women."

Until the winners are disclosed, there's one woman who's stealing the spotlight on the show, something that Patton calls "The Kari Situation." He first dated contestant Kari Krakowski in 2006 and describes their relationship as "on-again, off-again for about two years." Of their past, he shares, "When I date someone, it's monogamous. Kari, though, was still emotionally involved with her ex and not quite over him. To be fair, when I wasn't available to hang out because I was busy working, she assumed I wasn't into her. There was just a lot of miscommunication." Patton admits that he really cared about her and was hurt.

Related Link: [Cancelled: Why NBC's 'Ready for Love' Fueled America's Hatred](#)

Although they tried to rekindle things when he returned to the states after spending time in Dubai, they eventually called things off for good. Viewers saw how shocked he was to see Krakowski on the *Ready for Love* stage. On the most recent episode, the pair spent some one-on-one time together and gave fans a glimpse of their chemistry. "I was smitten with her. I remember all of the good parts of being with her, and it's really hard to let go. Plus, it's a lot easier to kiss someone

you were once romantically involved with than it is to kiss strangers. There's more history."

Another lady who has captured our attention is Angela Zatopek, who is writing a weekly column for CupidsPulse.com about her experience on *Ready for Love*. Patton describes her as "an amazing girl." The bachelor shares that he never makes the first move, so it was fitting that Zatopek went in for their first kiss on their vineyard date. Only time will tell if that kiss leads to more!

It's no surprise that the most difficult part of the experience for Patton was sending the girls home in *The Garden*. Since these women were emotionally-invested in him from the start, he felt like he was really letting them down. "They watched videos of me, built this idea in their minds and thought I was 'the one' before the show even started filming. It was really hard to let them go."

Be sure to watch 'Ready for Love' on NBC.com. For more information about Ben follow him on Twitter [@Ben_Patton](#).

Ready for Love, Episode 4: Angela Zatopek Recaps Her First Kiss with Ben Patton





By Angela Zatopek

Last week on *Ready For Love* was the first time I actually felt present in this whole experience. Obviously, none of us on this crazy journey had ever been in a situation like this one, but it took me a few weeks to really get into this process, to completely open up my heart and be ready to fall in love. After being in the bottom three with Ben saving me, I realized this method isn't "traditional" – but is there a handbook on how love goes?

I absolutely loved that our first date was at a vineyard. You couldn't find a more romantic place for a first kiss! A part of our conversation that wasn't shown was how special it was to be there with Ben on my grandmother's 101st birthday – she grew up on our family vineyards in Netuno, Italy.

Related Link: [Ben Patton Tells Us Why He's 'Ready for Love'](#)

Each week, the relationship experts gave us tips to use on our date with Ben. I must say, most of these tips were completely

out of our comfort zones, but we knew we had to do them to show we were accepting of their strategy as our matchmaker. My tip for the week was to do a bold move.

I thought so hard about how I could do a bold move at the vineyard and came up with only one conclusion. Even though Ben was already labeled a “lip slut,” Kari Krakowski and I were the only girls in the house that had yet to kiss him. I figured I had to go in for the kill. I’ve never done anything like that in my life! As I watch it back on television, I realize it wasn’t the smoothest move..but hey! I was a rookie. Although I was one of the last girls to get one-on-one time with Ben, it was worth the wait. The vineyard date was perfect.

Feelings definitely heightened this week for all of us, and you will see the result of that on tomorrow night’s episode in Vegas. Let’s just say...what happens in Vegas doesn’t stay in Vegas. It’s about to get ugly.

Watch tomorrow’s episode of ‘Ready for Love’ on NBC.com, and check back later this week’s for Angela’s recap!

Ready for Love: Three Extraordinary Men





By Sammi-T for TVGrapevine.com

36 WOMEN WILL COMPETE TO FIND TRUE LOVE ON THE NEW NBC RELATIONSHIP SERIES 'READY FOR LOVE,' PREMIERING APRIL 9 AT 9/8c.

NBC announced today that its new relationship show *Ready for Love* has revealed the 36 women who will have the opportunity to compete for true love. The women have a chance to find romance with three successful and handsome men, hand-selected by executive producer Eva Longoria (*Desperate Housewives*). The series, from Longoria's UnbeliEVAble Entertainment, Renegade 83 and Universal Television, focuses on three extraordinary men – Ben Patton, an international financier from Dallas, Texas; Tim Lopez, a member of the popular music group Plain White T's from Austin, Texas; and Ernesto Arguello, an entrepreneur with a social vision from Miami, Florida – who are committed to finding their soul mate.

Giuliana and Bill Rancic will host the series, where

preeminent matchmaker Amber Kelleher-Andrews, relationship author Tracy McMillan and professional dating coach Matthew Hussey will help the men find their perfect matches.

Listed below are the women vying for the men's affections.

BEN'S MATCHES:

ALLIE WAGNER (Age: 26) – Resides in Cincinnati, Ohio – Wagner can brighten up any room with her smile. She is the opposite of shy; she loves the spotlight; and she and her twin sister, Mandy, grew up in Kentucky competing in numerous beauty pageants. She currently works as an event coordinator. Wagner thinks her love of family makes her the perfect match for family-oriented Ben.

ANGELA ZATOPEK (Age: 24) – Resides in Houston, Texas – Zatopek is a sassy, savvy communications executive. Zatopek devotes a lot of her time to philanthropy and even helped build a school in Uganda. She values her faith and therefore has made the decision to save herself for marriage. Zatopek believes her Christian upbringing has shaped her attitudes towards love and marriage and believes it will make her a perfect match for Ben.

BETH RICHMAN (Age: 30) – Resides in Charlotte, North Carolina – Richman studied business management and human resources at Ohio State and now works for a medical device company in Charlotte. She loves to travel and believes Ben is the perfect mate with whom to tackle new adventures.

JADE DHIR (Age: 24) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Dhir is an independent and outgoing woman who is dedicated to spending a lot of time with her family. She considers herself to be very driven and believes her over-achieving nature will make her a great match for career-oriented Ben.

KARI KRAKOWSKI (Age: 27) – Resides in Dallas, Texas – Krakowski thinks that Patton is the perfect man for her. They

met when she first moved to Dallas and soon began dating. Due to their busy schedules, they ended it and decided it would be best to remain friends. She is now ready to take a leap of faith and fight for true love. Krakowski thinks her previous personal connection with Ben will reignite their flame.

KATIE COYLE (Age: 34) – Resides in Pella, Iowa – Coyle is a mother to two wonderful children. She lives by the philosophy that life is too short not to be happy. In 2011, she had a health scare in which she made a full recovery but decided to never again take life for granted. In her spare time, she enjoys running, Pilates, yoga and boxing. Coyle thinks her energetic lifestyle makes her the perfect match for Ben.

KRISTINA ZAPATA (Age: 26) – Resides in Los Angeles – Zapata is dedicated to her family and her education. She studied broadcast journalism at the Universidad Catolica de Colombia to work towards her dream of becoming a Spanish news broadcaster. Zapata is very dedicated to her career but also makes sure she has plenty of time to relax. She thinks her balance of career and free time are a perfect match for Ben's life plans.

LYNSEE GONZALES (Age: 26) – Resides in Portland, Oregon – Gonzales is a small-town girl that turned her dreams of becoming an international model into a reality. She has traveled around the world to pursue her career, modeling for print publications and working the runway. She recently ended her relationship with her adulterous fiancé and is looking forward to a fresh start. Gonzales thinks it is time to focus on love and be the wife of Ben's dreams.

RACHEL BRIESE (Age: 26) – Resides in Schaumburg, Illinois – Briese is a fun-loving girl with a quirky personality. She is a self-proclaimed video-game junkie who is also obsessed with sci-fi movies and *Star Wars*. Briese loves being different and won't change her seemingly nerdy ways for anyone. She believes that if she stays true to herself, then a genuine, great guy

like Ben will love her for who she is.

RENAE VIRATA (Age: 31) – Resides in Houston, Texas – Virata is a go-getter. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Vanderbilt, she worked as a marketing consultant. Virata then took a risk and chose to quit her high-paying job to begin her own Internet start-up company. Virata believes her enthusiastic lifestyle would be the perfect match because she emulates Ben's ambitious work ethic.

SENECA BERNIARD (Age: 34) – Resides in Los Angeles – Bernard is a woman that uses her intellect to be a positive contribution to the world. She studied law at Loyola Law School and obtained her Masters in Business Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management. She currently works as a public defender. Bernard believes her level of success will make her a great half to a power couple with Ben.

TARYNN FRANCO (Age: 26) – Resides in San Francisco – Franco has a love for traveling, learning about different cultures and trying new things. Her appetite for adventure and exploration has led her to a career in the private aviation industry. Franco appreciates a night on the town with her best friends, but currently longs for a man that gives her a good reason to stay home. She believes her desire for adventure will be a perfect match for Ben's love of travel.

TIM'S MATCHES:

ALEXIS RODRIGUEZ (Age: 23) – Resides in Scottsdale, Arizona – Rodriguez is a recent college graduate. She currently enjoys her time working as a local radio personality in Arizona but can't wait to start her career. Rodriguez believes that her fun nature and closeness with her family is the perfect match for Tim, who shares similar family values.

CHRISTINA RIGAUD (Age: 25) – Resides in New Orleans, Louisiana – Rigaud is a classically trained pianist who graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in English. The avid

cook and gardener started a non-profit organization helping others learn how to raise fish and grow vegetables in a sustainable environment. She is looking for a man that is as passionate about life as she is. Rigaud believes she and Tim will bond through their shared music backgrounds.

DANIELLE DUFF (Age: 27) – Resides in Tucson, Arizona – Duff is a committed and loyal woman. After being married for nine-and-a-half years, Duff and her ex-husband realized they were not meant for each other and divorced. She believes that her overall readiness for love and experiencing the same loss as Tim makes their duo a perfect match.

HAILEY CLARK (Age: 31) – Resides in Indialantic, Florida – Clark is an elementary school art teacher by day and an expressionist painter by night. In fact, her paintings have been featured in several local art shows. Clark believes that her compassion for others and quirky sense of humor will be a perfect match for Tim's open personality.

JENNA REEVES (Age: 23) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Reeves is young but wise beyond her years. Unlike most of her peers, Reeves is ready to settle down and find her husband right away. She loves her life and prides herself on her determination in becoming the first in her family to finish college. Reeves believes her open-minded and free-spirited personality reflects Tim's same attitude towards life.

LANA SEARS (Age: 26) – Resides in Kansas City, Missouri – Sears is the girl next-door that most guys want to take home to introduce to their parents. The self-described tomboy grew up in a small farm town, has never had a problem dating and usually finds herself in a serious relationship. Although fond of committed relationships, Sears is very independent and likes for her partner to be the same. She believes that her independent mindset would be a perfect match with Tim's rock-star lifestyle.

LEAH TROGAN (Age: 27) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Trogan is a close friend of Tim. She is a makeup artist, but her biggest accomplishment is raising her son, Ryder, as a single mother. Trogan has known Tim for seven years and is looking forward to finally sharing her true feelings for him. She thinks that friendship makes for the best relationships.

LISA CONLON (Age: 32) – Resides in Vernon, Connecticut – Conlon has her hands full with her music career and is studying to receive her doctorate in music. She insists that music keeps her balanced in a relationship. When her mother was diagnosed with cancer, Conlon transferred schools to act as her mother's caretaker. Conlon believes that her dedication to both music and her loved ones would make her a perfect match for Tim.

SARA LAVAGNINO (Age: 30) – Resides in Franklin, Tennessee – Lavagnino is characterized as a strong and determined woman. She and her identical twin sister are very close and have a singing group called the Lava Girls, but she also works as a licensed real estate agent. She has faced adversity with the loss of her fiancé to cancer but credits that experience to making her a good partner and continues to search for love. Lavagnino believes both she and Tim are ready to find love again after persevering through painful loss.

SARA MOORE (Age: 28) – Resides in Charlotte, North Carolina – Moore is a self-described "girly girl." She is currently working on obtaining a Master's degree in teaching. She is a laid-back Southern belle who loves to laugh, watch sports and believes Sundays should be devoted to God and football. Moore believes her Southern roots will wrangle in the Texas part of Tim's personality.

SIHAM BENGOUA (Age: 25) – Resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Bengoua is a self-sufficient woman who created her own hair-care business to finance her studies at Temple University, where she studied marketing. A few years ago, she

lost her sister, and although she describes it as the worst time of her life, she knows it made her stronger. Bengoua believes that her dedication to loved ones will make her the perfect wife for Tim.

TAONAYA FLEURY (Age: 31) – Resides in Miramar, Florida – Fleury wants to make a difference in this world and is looking to earn a Master's degree in marriage and family counseling. In addition, Fleury and her cousin are looking to start a charity for sickle cell disease. Fleury believes that her deep-rooted understanding of commitment reflects Tim's belief that love is eternal.

ERNESTO'S MATCHES:

ALBA REYES (Age: 30) – Resides in Houston, Texas – The perfect combination of beauty and brains, Reyes has it all. She graduated from law school, and currently works in health law while she postpones taking the bar. In addition, Reyes was crowned Miss Puerto Rico in 2004 and the second runner-up for Miss Universe. Reyes believes she is more ready than ever to find true love and felt a spark when she saw Ernesto's video.

ELIZABETH CAPELA (Age: 30) – Resides in Dallas, Texas – Capela is dependable, honest, and an overall giving person. As a fifth-grade English teacher, Capela thrives on putting her heart into her lessons and helping her pupils grow. Her role in helping educate the youth will mesh nicely with Ernesto's charitable role in helping the less fortunate.

ERICA LARSON (Age: 25) – Resides in Addison, Texas – Larson is a recent graduate of Texas State University with a degree in fashion merchandising and currently works in the fashion industry. She enjoys dancing, cheerleading, swimming, reading and traveling. After watching her parents happily married for 38 years, she believes in true love and is ready for someone who will love her unconditionally. Larson believes Ernesto's similar upbringing will make for a long-lasting relationship.

KATIE CROSBY (Age: 26) – Resides in Chicago, Illinois – Crosby has lived with a “live life to the fullest” attitude since the tragic passing of her brother. While she misses him dearly, her relationship with her family has remained strong. Crosby has spent the past few years focusing solely on work, but now wants to put her attention on love. Ernesto’s giving nature left her inspired and she would love to partner in his philanthropic endeavors.

KRISTEN SIKORSKI (Age: 25) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Sikorski is a no-nonsense Texas woman who was raised on a ranch by her father and mother. Although she is an elementary school teacher, she majored in history and enjoys war movies and military facts. Sikorski was wowed when she saw Ernesto’s video and knows she is ready to take on the full-time role as wife for a family man such as Ernesto.

LISA MARIE HALL (Age: 30) – Resides in Covina, California – Hall’s friends describe her as funny, sweet and giving. While working as a children’s theme park performer in America and Japan for the past 10 years, she prides herself on making others happy. In her free time she likes to stay active by dancing, skating and biking. Hall is looking for a man that can keep up with her on new adventures, and she believes Ernesto is that guy.

MANDY WAGNER (Age: 26) – Resides in Studio City, California – Wagner is the State Director of Pure American Girl Pageants that aims at making its participants humble and genuine, as well as competitive. Wagner’s twin sister, Allie, is also a participant on the show and their parents are excited for them to find the right guy. Wagner believes her down-to-earth family and genuine nature makes her and Ernesto the perfect match.

OLIVIA MATTI (Age: 26) – Resides in Sterling Heights, Michigan – Matti is energetic, fearless, and fierce. She claims that her tough love attitude gives her a charm that other women

lack. Matti needs someone that can match her energy and give her the passionate relationship that she desires. Matti, like Ernesto, has never been in love and believes they'll bond over waiting to share those special three words with the right person.

SHANDI FINNESSEY (Age: 33) – Resides in Los Angeles – Finnessey is a driven woman, who isn't afraid to break boundaries. In fact, she became the first woman from Missouri to win the Miss USA title in 2004. She's currently a TV host on an entertainment Web series and has modeled in numerous magazines. Finnessey values family and religion and she believes Ernesto's similar upbringing will make them the perfect match.

SONIA LETTIG (Age: 29) – Resides in Los Angeles – Lettig graduated magna cum laude from Villanova and then went to receive her Master's degree from Pepperdine University. She has a background in human resources and professional development. Sonia is currently a business development director for an online fundraising company that raises money for charity, which allows fulfilling her passion of organizing community service events and giving back. Lettig thinks her charitable nature makes her a great match for Ernesto since he's always giving back to his community.

SUMMER BURNS (Age: 31) – Resides in Austin, Texas – Already a loving mother to a three-year-old son, Burns is ready to complete her family portrait with a husband. As a single mother, she has developed the perfect combination of strength and compassion. She would like her son to have a father figure and, based on his video, she believes Ernesto is the right fit for her family.

VICTORIA MORA (Age: 24) – Resides in Chicago, Illinois – Mora has a free-spirit attitude, but is grounded and humbled by her tight-knit Mexican family. She wants to be with a man that is confident and willing to take on anything by her side.

According to Mora, love is a two-way street and she will be the most loving and supportive partner as long as she receives the same respect. Mora believes Ernesto's confidence is the perfect match for her challenging nature.

Ready for Love is produced by UnbeliEVAbLe Entertainment, Renegade 83, and Universal Television. Longoria (*Desperate Housewives*), Jason Ehrlich (*The Bachelor*, *The Bachelorette*), Greg Goldman (*Secret Millionaire*, *Don't Forget the Lyrics!*), David Garfinkle (*Blind Date*, *The 5th Wheel*) and Jay Renfro (*Blind Date*, *The 5th Wheel*) serve as executive producers.

Longoria created UnbeliEVAbLe Entertainment, her own production company, which develops films, and television shows, that have been sold to NBC, ABC, CW, ABC Family, and VH1. Additionally, UnbeliEVAbLe Entertainment produces The NCLR Alma Awards on NBC.