

Celebrity Interview: 'High School Musical: The Musical: The Series' Star Frankie Rodriguez Talks Love and Reboot



Interview by Lori Bizzoco. Written by Ellie Rice.

Frankie Rodriguez is a young, rising actor known for his work on the *High School Musical* reboot, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*, and his guest appearance as Eduardo, on ABC's *Modern Family*. His groundbreaking role as Carlos on *HSMTMTS*, as an openly gay choreographer, has led him to center stage and into the hearts of many. A California native,

Rodriguez has always had a love for the entertainment industry and a passion for acting. When not on screen, he loves collecting sneakers and interior decorating! In our exclusive [celebrity interview](#), Rodriguez chats about the show and gives our readers some dating advice for those looking to make the first move.

In our [celebrity interview](#) with *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* star Frankie Rodriguez, we get a glimpse into the world of young Hollywood, some dating tips, and insights on the *HSMTMS* series!

HSMTMS follows the students of the East High drama club as they are set to put on the school's first production of "High School Musical". Episodes feature musical numbers unique to the reboot, and some of the beloved melodies from the original. Relationships are formed as the students of East High embark on their high school journey.

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As a member of such a beloved franchise and one that has been of constant relevance to popular culture, we asked Rodriguez how it felt to be a Wildcat. "I still pinch myself every morning. Getting to be a part of this franchise has been a literal dream come true." Citing Zac Efron and Ashley Tisdale as the only two original cast members he has yet to meet, he claims to be crossing all fingers and toes in hopes for an interaction with the pair!

We asked Rodriguez how he knew that a career in the film

industry was where he should be. He explained, “I always loved singing and dancing, so I think a career in entertainment was always in the cards. I remember watching the sunset on my first night living in Los Angeles and thinking this is exactly where I’m supposed to be.”

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And, with moving to a new city comes new relationships. Viewers watched as Rodriguez’ character on the show, Carlos, found love this season after taking that leap of faith, and hopefully inspiring others to do the same. We asked Rodriguez if he had a special someone in his life to which he joked, “Does a cardboard cutout of Zac Efron count? Haha, KIDDING! Yes, there is someone very special. :)”

Diving into a new relationship can be scary, especially if you are unsure of the other person’s feelings towards you. But as Rodriguez told us, “Take the chance! If they say ‘yes,’ AMAZING! But if it doesn’t turn out your way, that’s okay too! Have your BFF ready with your favorite ice cream and romcom”. We think this is some pretty sound advice, as nothing heals a wounded heart quite like your friends and some Ben & Jerry’s. Anything can happen, and you won’t know until you take that chance, so be brave and bold!

After coming out to his friends and family at fifteen, Rodriguez has been very open about his sexuality. We asked him if he had any advice for teens ready to come out and express their own sexuality. He shared, “Even though coming out can be a little scary, it’s so worth it! After coming out, I was able to put aside the fear of what other people would think, and I was able to live for myself. Life is way too short. Be YOU!”

The courage it takes to fully express yourself and be who you truly are is incredibly inspiring. Rodriguez explained that a standout moment during filming for him was the dance scene in

the “Homecoming” episode, where he is able to be himself with the boy he likes. “It was such a moment for Carlos and Seb’s relationship and history making for Disney. I’m so proud of that episode and to be a part of it”. This show serves as a huge step in the direction of inclusion for Disney, as featuring teens from all aspects of life is so important for viewers to see.

So what can we expect from Frankie Rodriguez in the future? With *HSMTMTS* back for a second season, Carlos and the Wildcats will be tearing up our screens once again. Beyond that, we hope to see this self-described Broadway nerd taking the stage one day! As Rodriguez shared with us, “I’m very inspired by nice people who work incredibly hard. I’ve had so many co-workers (including the cast of *HSM*) who inspire me to go above and beyond”. An inspiration to so many himself, we can’t wait to see where the future takes him.

Want to keep up with Frankie? You can follow him on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).