

Leah Benavides Rodriguez is a proud Mexican from Houston, Texas. After graduating from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy conservatory in New York for musical theatre she pivoted and pursued playwriting and directing through the independent theater circuit. In 2011, she was accepted into the prestigious **Lincoln Center Directors Lab**. She founded her own theater company, and her production of Sam Shepard's **Cowboy Mouth** earned rave reviews in **Backstage**, **Show Business Weekly**, and **Cultural Capital**, receiving a nomination for Best Revival of a Play at the **New York Innovative Theatre Awards**.

She then transitioned into television drama and wrote for **E!'s The Arrangement**, a one-hour series set in the world of A-list celebrity, for the show's entire run. She also wrote for **FOX's** hit musical drama, **Empire**, a **Taylor Kitsch** project for **HBO** with **eOne Studios**, and **BET's** music-based anthology series, **Tales**.

Currently she is a **Consulting Producer** on **Washington Black** for **Hulu**.

In film, she did on-set script rewrites for Sony's **Bad Boys For Life**, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. She's developing a feature film based on **Scholastic's** best-selling YA novel, **Truly Madly Royally**, with **Barry Josephson Entertainment**.

She is writing **The Cloud**, a musical, with Rene Rigal, Co-Founder of Atlantis Entertainment with music by Grammy nominated guitarist Nuno Bettencourt and multi-platinum selling songwriting couple Jade Novah and Devin Johnson.

Leah recently launched her production company, **Custom Light Entertainment**, in partnership with her husband, Carlito Rodriguez. They have series in development as Creators /Executive Producers with **HBO** and **MACRO Ventures**, **Annapurna Television**, **Lionsgate Television**, and a script deal with **20th Century Fox Television**. They are also producing a dramedy based on a NYTimes Bestseller and a mini series about a well known American family spanning generations.