

Up-Close Personal

"She's not nervous," reported Longoria's hubby, Tyler Christopher (ex-Nikolas, **GENERAL HOSPITAL**), who was on hand to give his love and support. "Eva knows what she's doing, so she's calm."



THE YOUNG & THE RESTLESS

In Depth

HOT STUFF

Eva Longoria (Isabella) exercises her funny bone

Although her alter ego, Isabella Williams, doesn't get much of an opportunity to smile, let alone laugh, the same can't be said for **THE YOUNG & THE RESTLESS'** Eva Longoria, who recently joined mentor Kiki Menendez in forming **Hot Tamales**, a female comedy troupe based in Los Angeles.

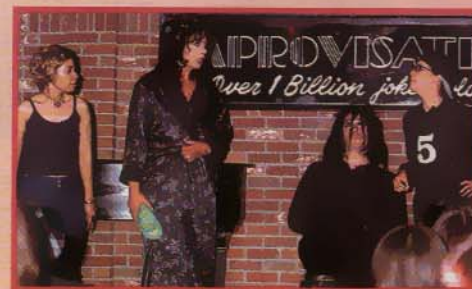
"I met Kiki when I helped her produce a pilot for her show, **KIKI DESDE HOLLYWOOD**, a Rosie O'Donnell-like show in Spanish," says the actress. "It was the No. 1 variety show in the Spanish market."

From that first successful collaboration a friendship grew. "When she came up with this idea for a diverse variety show that focuses on females, I said 'Where do we start?'"

"We're trying to give females, and ethnic females, a chance to show their stuff," Longoria explains. "This has snowballed into a great avenue for comedienne, and gives them a chance to showcase their talents in front of industry people and possibly get the chances that a Jerry Seinfeld, Jay Leno,

or David Letterman had."

In fact, the venture has proved so popular that it may soon be coming to a living room near you, thanks to a recent deal with Western Syndication. "They produce **SHOWTIME AT THE APOLLO** and other shows similar to the **Hot Tamales!**" Combine that with talk of a video and DVD release later this year, and it seems likely the actress will have plenty of reason to smile for the foreseeable future!



"Initially, I wasn't going to be in the show," the actress admits. "But when we added the sketch comedy, I said 'Why not?'"



Longoria and writing partner Kelsie Morales play the Osvaldo children in their spoof of MTV's popular **Osborne** clan. "We also do a **SURVIVOR** spoof," she reports.

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