



April Hernandez Castillo's dream became a reality when she booked her first commercial as the “Yo girl” in the Visa Check Card spot starring Yao Ming and Yogi Berra. The commercial would air for the Super Bowl and become a sports classic. April then starred in television shows such as; *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Following*, *Person of Interest*, and *Elementary*. April garnered a recurring role on Showtime’s *Dexter* which she was nominated for a SAG nomination for Best Ensemble cast. April is most noted for her powerful portrayal as “Eva Benitez” in the hit movie *Freedom Writers* starring Oscar winner Hilary Swank. She also has worked on NBC’s popular shows- *New Amsterdam*, *Prodigal Son*, and *Gossip Girl*.

April has also graced a different stage as a public speaker. Her message of resilience, overcoming adversity, and the ability to move beyond trauma has taken April on a journey across the United States and internationally. She is reaching an array of audiences ranging from high schools, universities, conferences, and corporate events.

April has spoken on some of the most prestigious stages starting from Harvard University, Q Conference to her most significant stage to date, TEDx.

April released her second book, a memoir titled “*Embracing Me*”, a heartfelt, transparent, and witty memoir that explores April’s story of being a survivor of intimate partner violence with the understanding that; we all possess the power to rewrite our story. She takes the audience behind the scenes to some of the most intimate parts of her life. April uses her voice to ignite, empower, and educate her audiences with a dash of humor!

She currently lives in NYC with her husband and two beautiful daughters. They own a production company called LionChaser Media, Inc.