

DANIELA MELCHIOR

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# DANIELA MELCHIOR | BIOGRAPHY



Daniela Melchior is quickly establishing herself as a well-respected and highly versatile international actress, and one to watch for American audiences.

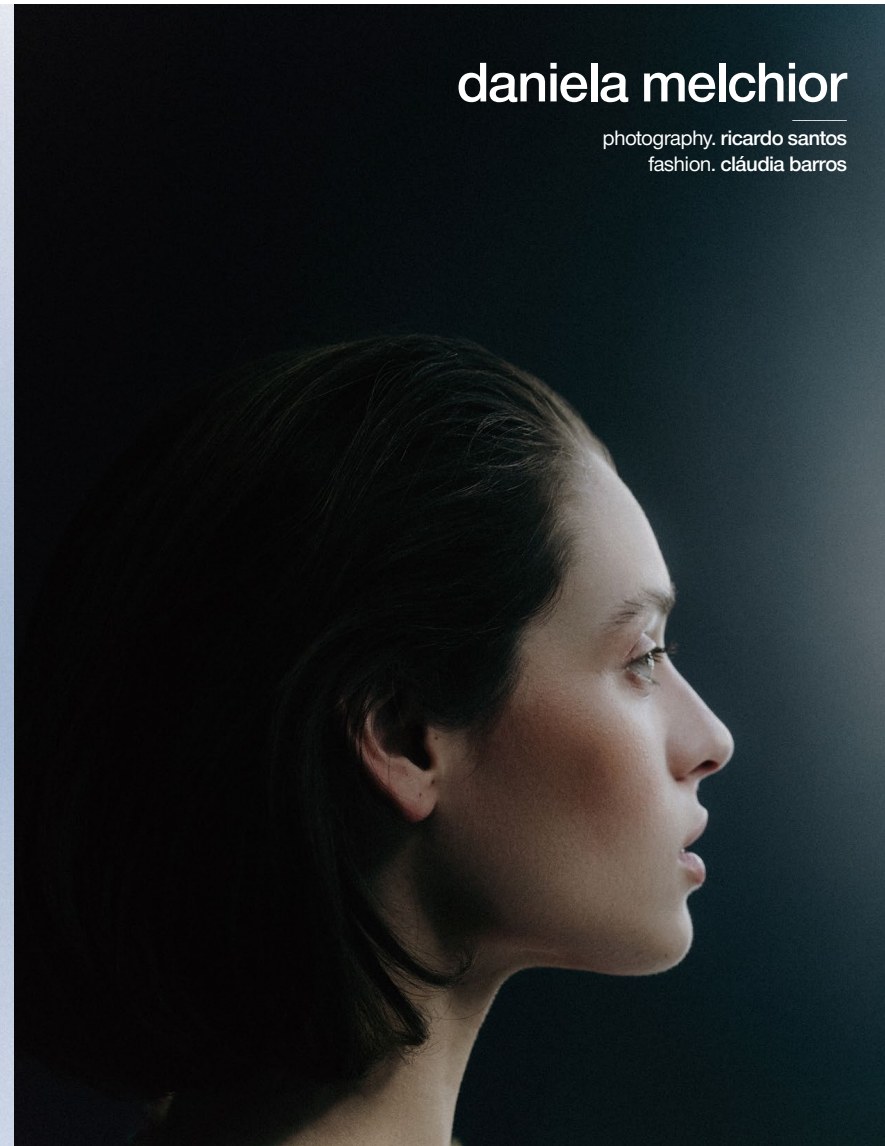
Daniela can most recently be seen in James Gunn's *THE SUICIDE SQUAD* as her American film debut opposite Margot Robbie, Idris Elba and John Cena. Daniela plays the role of 'Ratcatcher II', a former exterminator who turned to a life of crime, while being aided by an army of small rodents she can communicate with and control. The film follows the supervillains who join a secret task force. The film released on August 6, 2021 to rave reviews, citing Daniela's performance as "remarkable and "the film's secret weapon."

Daniela is well known for her film and television work in Portugal. In 2019, she was nominated for two CinEuphoria Awards and one Portuguese Film Academy Sophia Award for her work in the Portuguese film *PARQUE MAYER* as 'Deolinda.' She can also be seen in the French film *THE BLACK BOOK*, which premiered in 2018 at the Toronto International Film Festival. Daniela also voiced the lead role of 'Gwen Stacy' in the Sony Pictures Portugal Animation version of *SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE*.

In television, Daniela has appeared in five series in her home country: *VALOR DA VIDA*, *A HERDERIA*, *OURO VERDE*, *MASSA FRESCA* and *MULHERES*, all for Portugal's Channel TVI.

Daniela currently resides in Lisbon.

EDITORIAL



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cape: Rosarinho Balebi  
tights: Archive

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longsleeve, A-line Clothing  
top + skirt, Marta Costa  
shoes, Archive



longsleeve + skirt, Constança Entrudo  
ruff, Rosarinho Balebi  
shoes, Archive

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corset, Rosarinho Balebi  
earrings, Beatriz Jardimha  
body, shorts + shoes, Archive



dress, João Magalhães

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dress, Dino Alves  
corset, REW  
opposite  
blouse, REW



photography, Ricardo Santos @ Solve Agency  
fashion, Cláudia Barros @ Solve Agency  
talent, Daniela Melchior  
hair, Cláudio Pacheco @ Solve Agency using L'Oréal  
Professionnel products for Chiado Studio/Lisbon,  
make up, Inês Aguiar @ Solve Agency  
production, Solve Agency  
fashion assistant, Margarida Paiva

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021

NEW FACES

# Meet Daniela Melchior, Unlikely New Hero of *The Suicide Squad*

by **Stephanie Eckardt**  
08.09.21

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Full Story: <https://www.wmagazine.com/culture/daniela-melchior-suicide-squad-interview>



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To say that Daniela Melchior's chances were slim when she sent in an audition tape to play the rodent pied piper Ratchcatcher 2 in *The Suicide Squad*, which just hit both theaters and HBO Max, would be an understatement. For starters, the 24-year-old up-and-comer only did so out of fear that her manager would fire her. "I was really, really new in the industry, so I thought that would be possible," she recalls with a laugh over Zoom.

Still wondering if it was a ploy to attract viewers in her native Portugal, Melchior eventually showed up to the screen test in what her managers guessed was Stateside protocol: full glam. The moment she walked in, director James Gunn and producer Peter Safran later told her, the pair "looked at each other and were like, 'No.'" It turns out Melchior's first-ever departure from her bare-faced, toned-down appearance at auditions was an unfortunate fit for a superhero whose secret power is literally to harness the power of sewer rats.

Fortunately, Gunn and Safran were adhering to the mindset that there are two types of people in the world: those who would sooner perish than come into constant physical contact with rodents, and those who wouldn't so much as blink an eye. Melchior immediately made it clear she fell into the latter category. It wasn't until months later, when Gunn tagged her in a tweet, that Melchior learned that she was just one of three out of the hundreds to make it to the final hurdle to becoming Cleo Cazo, aka Ratcatcher 2. Up next: the "making sure she was okay chilling with rats" test.



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## ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

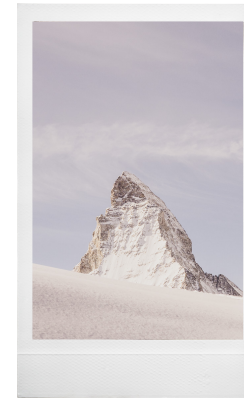
A FULL STORY IN FENDI

"TO BE CONNECTED IS TO KNOW THE WORLD WHERE WE LIVE;  
TO RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS THAT RESIDE IN IT; TO BE AWARE  
OF WHAT SURROUNDS US AND TO ACCEPT THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS  
AS OURS. TO BE CONNECTED IS TO CONSUME ANY KIND OF ART;  
IT IS TO KNOW AN AUTHOR'S POINT OF VIEW BUT NOT NECESSA-  
RILY AGREEING WITH IT. IT IS TO IMAGINE THE STORY BEHIND  
THE MASTERPIECE, HOWEVER INCOMPREHENSIBLE IT MAY SEEM.  
TO BE CONNECTED IS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR WHAT IS NEW;  
FOR THE UNFAMILIAR; TO DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU GO  
FURTHER THAN PLANNED. TO BE CONNECTED IT IS TO GIVE AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER, TO ACCEPT AND TO REJECT. IT IS TO  
KNOW THAT ANYTHING IS CERTAIN IN LIFE. WE CAN BE CONNec-  
TED WATCHING THE BEST DOCUMENTARY IN THE WORLD OR ALSO  
LISTENING TO A MAN'S STORY WHO SELLS VEGETABLES BY THE  
ROADSIDE IN DEEP ALENTEJO, IN PORTUGAL.  
TO BE CONNECTED IS TO BE AWAKE. IT IS TO BE REACTIVE."

DANIELA MELCHIOR

Credits

starring Daniela Melchior photographer Paulo Meixedo  
production dsection creative studio  
special thanks THE OMNIA HOTEL



ALL CLOTHES BY FENZI

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



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# EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THIS BREAKOUT STAR FROM THE SUICIDE SQUAD

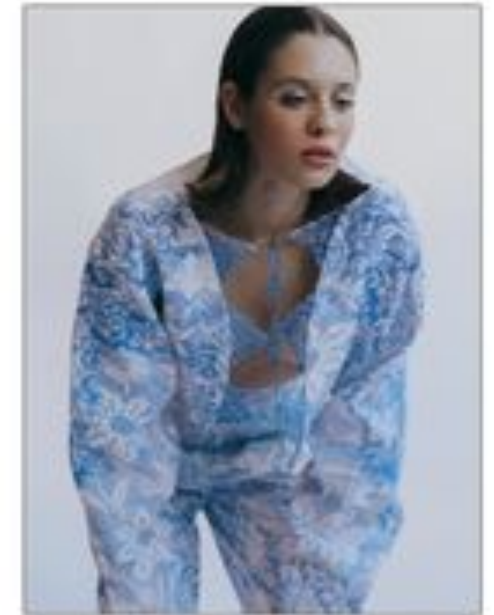


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The reviews are in: *The Suicide Squad* is a bona fide hit. Critics agree that the film is a romping—albeit gory—good time. They also agree that Portuguese actress Daniela Melchior, in the role of Cleo Cazo/Ratcatcher II, is the film’s clear breakout. She’s described as “luminous,” “wonderfully guileless,” and “the film’s secret weapon.” In her first English-language role, Melchior is not only capturing the attention of audiences, but she’s also proving she has the star power to make it far in Hollywood. She more than holds her own alongside the likes of Margot Robbie, Idris Elba, and John Cena, bringing a refreshing charm and wit to the villainous gang of convicts while simultaneously giving the film its heart. It’s a performance that is not to be missed.

What’s more, Melchior has been serving up some pretty chic looks on the side. The 24-year-old is bringing Portuguese designers to the forefront with her press appearances for the film, including a particularly eye-catching polka-dot number by Constanca Entrudo and a beautiful bow-bedecked top by one of her favorites, Alexandra Moura. “Even if many people from my country don’t always understand the outfits that I choose, I love to feel like a little bit of a visionary in that way,” she tells me of her recent fashion choices. If this is just a glimmer of what we can expect from the young actress, I’m fully bought in. All of this is to say I’ve got my eye on Melchior, and so should you. As she has already built up a successful acting career in Portugal, I suspect we’ll now be seeing more of her in the U.S.

Full Story: <https://www.whowhatwear.com/daniela-melchior-interview>

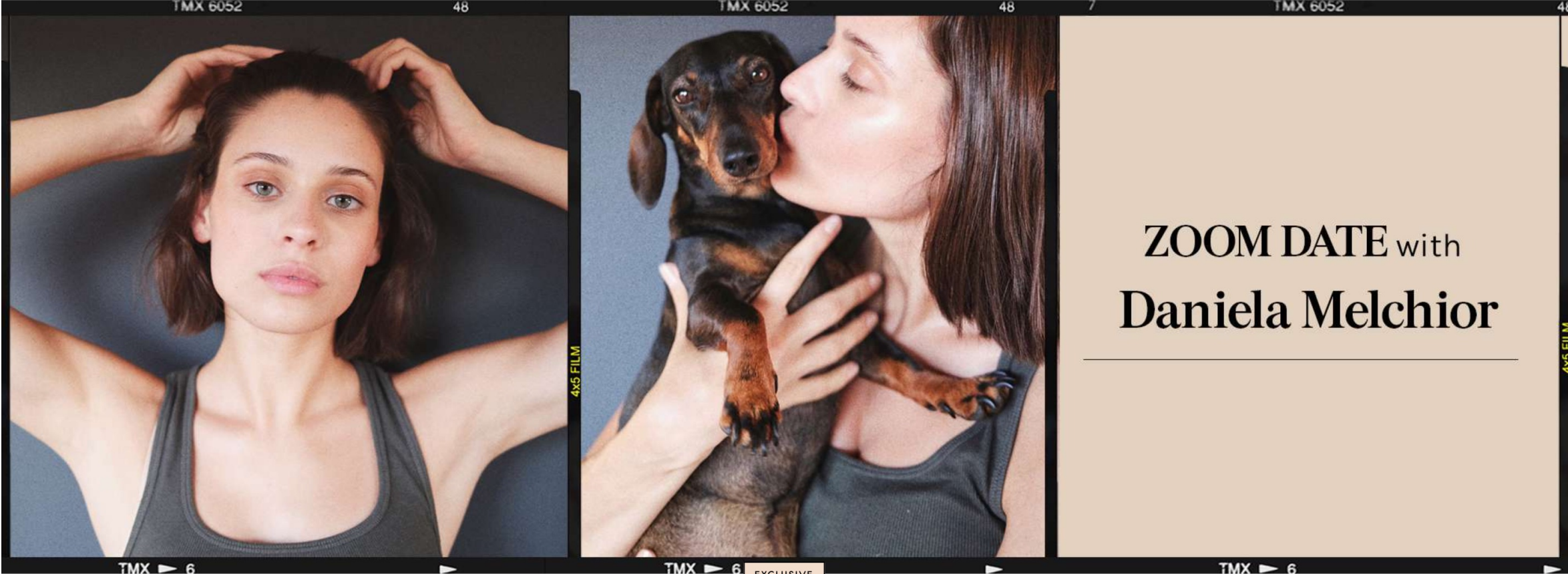


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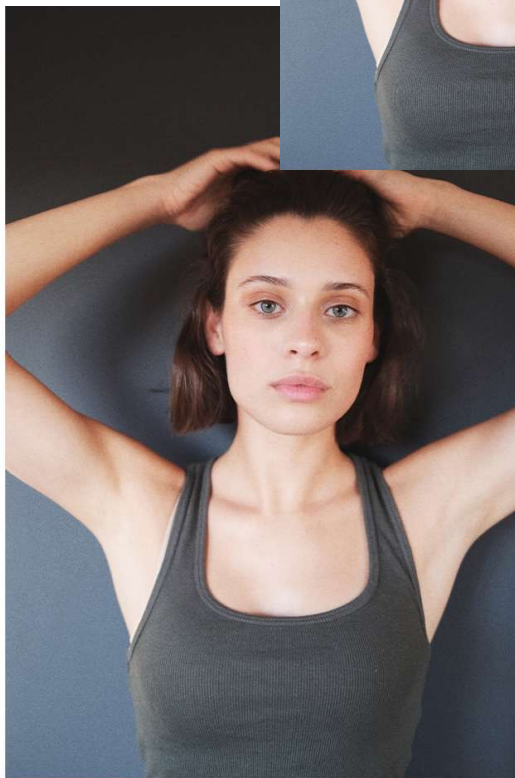
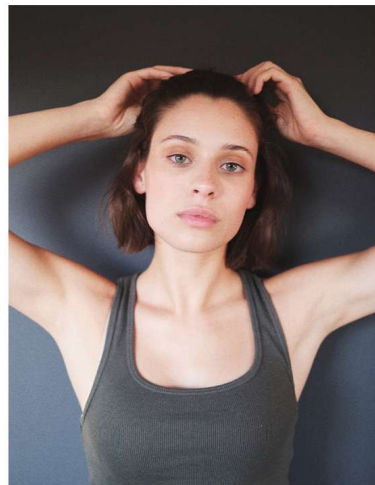
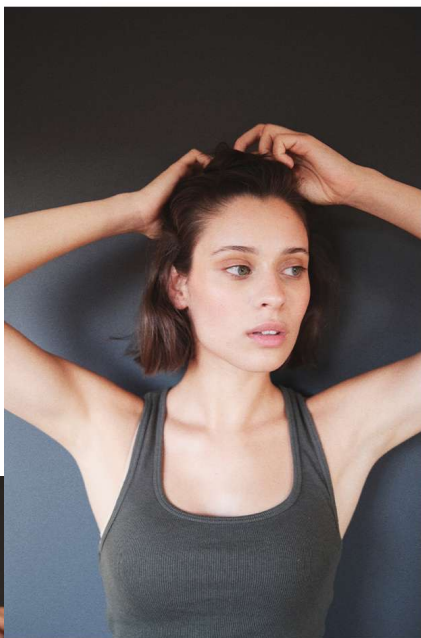


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# DANIELA MELCHIOR ON JOINING THE "SUICIDE SQUAD" AND THE POWER OF MEDITATION



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Getting on a call with Daniela Melchior is like chatting with a friend. And much like on the silver screen, the actress's down-to-earth, relatable, and positive attitude immediately radiates through my Zoom screen.

Melchior just made her U.S. acting debut in *The Suicide Squad*, James Gunn's latest directorial project which premiered on August 6. She plays Cleo Cazo, or Ratcatcher 2, a member of the Suicide Squad, alongside fellow castmates Margot Robbie, Idris Elba, and John Cena. Cleo Cazo has the ability to control and communicate with rats, which makes her a central character to this new installment of the franchise.

The 24-year-old is already a star in Portugal where she was nominated for a Portuguese Film Academy Sophia Award for her role in *Parque Mayer*. She also graced the cover of GQ Portugal and acted in *The Black Book*, a French film that premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival the same year.

So what's next for this star on the rise? Ahead, Daniela Melchior shares behind-the-scenes details from the set of *Suicide Squad*—including the rat she worked with that was *not* CGI—as well as her self-care rituals and what has been inspiring her lately.

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# About Town

People, Places, Preoccupations

NEXT BIG THING

## Daniela Melchior

Playing a character who controls rats, the Portuguese actress gives a star-making turn in *The Suicide Squad*.  
By Aaron Couch



In early 2019, Portuguese actress **Daniela Melchior** flew across the globe for the biggest meeting of her career: Filmmaker **James Gunn** and producer **Peter Safran** were in the midst of a global search to cast *Ratcatcher II*, a comic book character at the heart of *The Suicide Squad* (in theaters and on HBO Max on Aug. 6).

In Portugal, actors do not wear makeup to auditions, but Melchior's manager persuaded her to glam it up for the pre-audition meeting. "I wore a biker jacket, skinny jeans, full makeup," recalls Melchior, 24. But glamorous did not fit the description of the character, a loner with the power to control rats.

"After that meeting, they looked at each other and said, 'no,'" Melchior says she later learned. But when she returned the next day for the audition (and a chemistry test with a real-life rat), she had transformed into "that weird, creepy girl," as she puts it. Gunn's "no" became a "yes."

With *The Suicide Squad*, which centers on a ragtag group of DC villains deployed on a mission to a fictional South American island, Melchior is poised to go from regional fame (thanks to steady work on Portuguese film and television) to the global reach of a major comic book movie.

Melchior gives a vulnerable, hopeful performance buoyed by chemistry with co-star **Iris Elba**.

Melchior describes herself as growing up a little awkward. "I was really, really skinny. I was not interesting at all. I never had a boyfriend," she says. But when

### VITAL STATS

**AGE** 24  
**BORN** Lisbon, Portugal  
**BIG BREAK** *The Suicide Squad*  
**REPS** CAA, Brave Artists Management



Daniela Melchior in *The Suicide Squad* with Idris Elba, whose character Bloodsport becomes a father figure to her character.

she discovered drama class at a young age, she realized it gave her an outlet to connect with her classmates.

At 17, she booked a role on the Portuguese TV drama *Mulheres (Women)*. Her parents supported her career but noted that since she was making an income, she'd be responsible for paying for her own things. "My first two cars, it was all paid by me, and I am really proud of it," says the actress.

She broke into the comic book world voicing Spider-Gwen in the Portuguese version of *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, which opened up an entirely new market to her: the passionate comic-book fan community in Brazil, where Portuguese is the main language. (Comic Con Experience, held in São Paulo, is bigger than even San Diego Comic-Con.)

"They love the fact that I speak Portuguese," says Melchior. "If I post anything at all... they tweet about it. They start conversations about it. It's crazy."

During months shooting *The Suicide Squad* in Atlanta and Panama, she bonded with her co-stars. The cast had movie nights and celebrated her birthday on set, with **David Dastmalchian**, who plays *Folka-Dot Man*, bringing in polka-dot cookies.

"They explained to me that sometimes in some movies in America, you don't meet as nice of people," she says. "I really felt that I was really, really lucky."

It wasn't just her human co-stars who made an impression. A rotating group of rats played Sebastian, a rodent her character controls. Though working with animals is not easy, she pushed the production to use the real thing. "It was the first taking every day, 'Where is my rat? Can I have my rat?'" she recalls with a laugh.

Melchior recently watched a cut of the film with her manager in Portugal. "I was really emotional," she says, "because I just wanted to go back and do it again." **TMZ**

## 'The Cars Were Puddles of Melted Aluminum'



Lucy Walker's new documentary, *Bring Your Own Brigade*, about the Camp and Woolsey fires, makes the case that not just climate change is to blame for increased devastation across the West. By Rebecca Keegan

A car that burned during the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, as seen in Walker's new film, which premieres Aug. 5 in theaters.

When British filmmaker **Lucy Walker** moved to Los Angeles in 2008, she was struck by a seasonal phenomenon many residents of the Western U.S. had come to accept as normal: raging and increasingly deadly wildfires. "I was thinking, 'Why is nobody making a film about this?'" says Walker, who lives in Venice. Armed with the curiosity of an outsider, Walker, who earned an Oscar nomination for her 2010 feature documentary *Waste Land*, about an artist who scavenges at a massive landfill in Rio, already had raised some financing from online education pioneer **Lynda Weinman** to make a documentary on the 2017 Thomas Fire. Suddenly, two horrifying new California case studies arrived almost simultaneously in November 2018, the Camp Fire in the Northern California town of Paradise and the Woolsey Fire in Malibu, which together killed 88 people and destroyed tens of thousands of homes. Walker pivoted to capture the historic 2018 events. Her resulting film, *Bring Your Own Brigade*, arrives in theaters Aug. 6 and on streaming services CBSN and Paramount+ on Aug. 20, just as an early, ominous start to the West's 2021 wildfire season has sent smoke as far east as Maine and brought a new threat, the Dixie Fire, to the same community the Camp Fire ravaged.



Walker

Walker has a knack for gaining access to insular

communities, as she did in her debut documentary about Amish teenagers, 2002's *Devil's Playground*, and with the help of *Bring Your Own Brigade* producer **Holly Becker**'s family ties to the Los Angeles Fire Department, she was able to embed with firefighting crews. Shooting with a small team, often just herself, a camera operator and a sound person, Walker gets uncomfortably close to the flames, her panic palpable from outside the frame. But some of the film's most harrowing footage comes from the months she spent in Paradise during the aftermath of the fires. "It looked like a zombie movie set," Walker says. "The cars were just puddles of melted aluminum. And the smell of dead animals. The body-team people coming through looking for bodies. It's a landscape that haunts you." When Walker set out to make the film, she assumed she would document climate change as the key reason for wildfires around the globe getting hotter and more deadly. But her research revealed a much more complicated picture, one having to do with logging practices and building habits. Walker's footage from local town meetings reveals angry residents who are often disinterested in fire department guidance on building and landscaping practices. Says Walker, "If you wonder how this keeps happening, watch this." **TMZ**

## HOTEL DEBUT: THE THOMPSON HITS HOLLYWOOD



Relevant Group, developer of Hollywood's Dream Hotel, is betting big on the neighborhood, which suffered from a loss of tourism during the pandemic. In recent weeks, though, the area has seen pedestrian activity reach 80 percent of pre-lockdown numbers. Now, Relevant is launching its second Hollywood hotel, the Thompson (3541 Wilcox Ave., thompson-hotels.com), after dealing with COVID-19 and general contractor delays.

The 11-story hotel includes 190 guest rooms (from \$299 a night), restaurant *Max Amis*, helmed by chef Lincoln Carson (whose acclaimed *Ben Tempis* closed in DTLA during the pandemic), and the rooftop *Bar Lis* and pool. "The Dream brought a velvet rope type of feel," says Relevant's Grant King. "[With] the Thompson Hollywood, you'll see that we stepped up our game on sophistication, which will bring a level of elegance that I don't think is anywhere in Hollywood." —LEAH GARBETT

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Full Story: <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-features/suicide-squad-daniela-melchior-ratcatcher-1234991799/>

New Here

# Daniela Melchior Is the Heart of the New *Suicide Squad* Movie

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The 24-year-old actor opens up to *Glamour* about her breakthrough role, getting starstruck by Viola Davis, and more.

By **Christopher Rosa**

August 6, 2021



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Full Story: <https://www.glamour.com/story/daniela-melchior-is-the-heart-of-the-new-suicide-squad-movie>



Daniela Melchior is the heart and soul of the new *Suicide Squad* movie, now in theaters and on HBO Max. The Portuguese newcomer plays Cleo Cazo, a.k.a. Ratcatcher 2, one of the super villains tasked by Amanda Waller (*Viola Davis*) to complete a mission that will save Americans. Cleo is the daughter of the original Ratcatcher, and their superpower is exactly what you think: They can summon rats. Thousands of them. Whenever they want. And they have those rats do whatever's necessary to get the job done.

It's not the most glamorous superpower, but it's important. The Ratcatcher needs to earn the trust of her rats, which requires empathy, warmth, and kindness—things not exactly abundant in the other *Suicide Squad* members. Cleo infuses that warmth not just into her rodents but every character in this movie—and as a result, there's calm within the chaos. Because of her, *The Suicide Squad* has an actual emotional center. It's not just violence and gore and loud action sequences, though rest assured there's plenty of that. The Ratcatcher humanizes these super villains in a way that makes you love them—and root for them.

Because of this, I'm rooting for Melchior, both on screen and off. Below, get to know the 24-year-old, who only had eight credits on her *IMDb* page before *The Suicide Squad*.

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BROADCAST



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PODCASTS

## DANIELA MELCHIOR (THE SUICIDE SQUAD)



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Listen: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/daniela-melchior-the-suicide-squad/id1366421088?i=1000531213631>



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