

DANIELA MELCHIOR

narrative.

DANIELA MELCHIOR | BIOGRAPHY



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

Most recently, Melchior made her franchise debut in *FAST X*, the tenth installment of the *Fast and the Furious* films which introduced her character Isabel, a Brazilian street racer with an important tie to Dom's past. The film made its theatrical debut on May 19, 2023, bringing in \$512.5 million worldwide.

Melchior also appeared in James Gunn's *GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3* opposite Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldaña; the film was released theatrically by Disney and Marvel on May 5, 2023, with a box office gross to date of \$773.3 million. She can also be seen in Camille Delamarre's *ASSASSIN CLUB* opposite Henry Golding which released on digital platforms on May 16, 2023.

Next, Melchior will star opposite Jake Gyllenhaal in the reimagining of the 1989 classic *ROAD HOUSE*. Doug Liman directed the Amazon original which filmed in the Dominican Republic and features Billy Magnussen, Lukas Gage, and Conor McGregor. A release date for the film has yet to be established.

Melchior is best known for her U.S. breakout role as Ratcatcher II in James Gunn's *THE SUICIDE SQUAD* opposite Margot Robbie, Idris Elba and John Cena. *Ratcatcher II* is 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. Upon its release in August of 2021, the film earned \$26 million at the box office opening weekend, setting a new record for an R-rated movie in the pandemic. Melchior received critical acclaim for her performance with many calling her the film's "secret weapon."

Melchior 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.' Her other credits include, The French Film, *THE BLACK BOOK*, which premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival and the Liam Neeson thriller, *MARLOWE*. Melchior also voiced the lead role of 'Gwen Stacy' in the Sony Pictures Portugal Animation version of *SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE*.

In television, Melchior 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.

Melchior currently resides in Lisbon.

RED CARPET

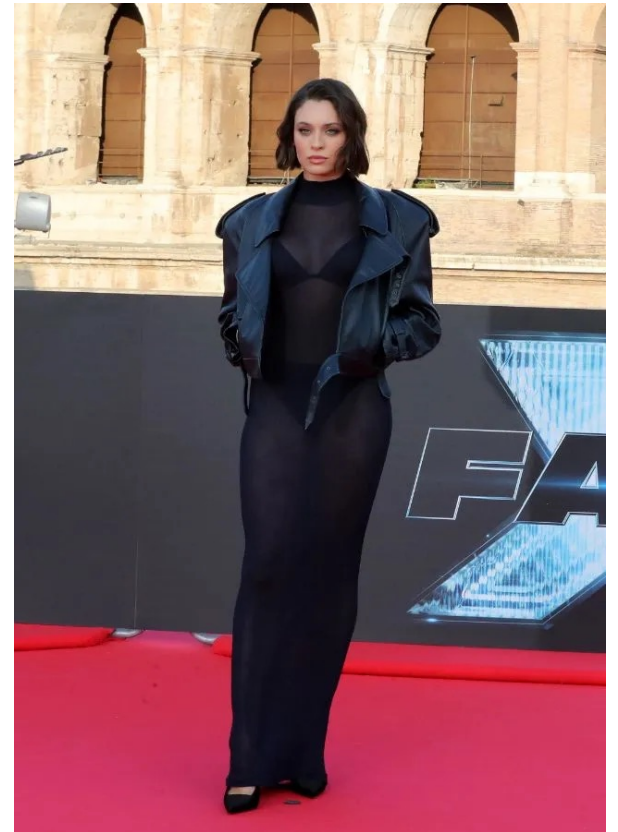
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The Suicide Squad



Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3
Premiere



FAST X: Rome Premiere

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EDITORIAL

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Interview

DANIELA MELCHIOR | OCTOBER 26, 2023

GROWN UP

Meet Daniela Melchior, Balmain's Newest Muse

By Emma Schartz

Photographed by Katja Rahlwes

Styled by Ray Tetauira

October 26, 2023



Hat, Leotard, Earrings, and Shoes Balmain

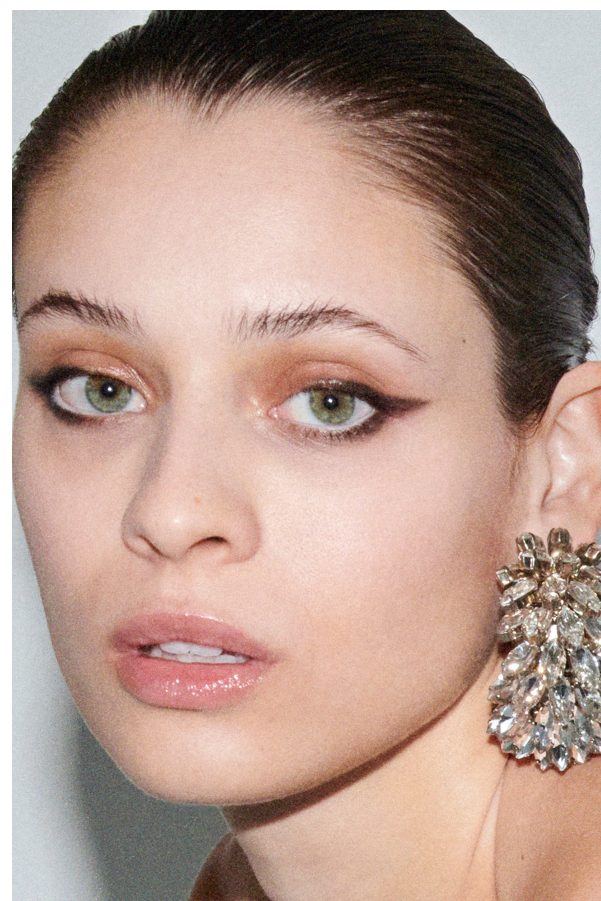


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DANIELA MELCHIOR | OCTOBER 26, 2023



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Daniela Melchior Is the New Action Star To Watch

The Portuguese actress can be seen in both the new "Fast X" and "Guardians of the Galaxy" movies.

BY LEIGH NORDETRON
PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL DOPERALESKI

Daniela Melchior has known she wanted to be an actor ever since she experienced that first rush in drama class, the one where the quiet kid is suddenly the center of attention and discovers they like making people laugh.

"I had the chance to be funny, to improvise a lot," the Portuguese actress says, over Zoom from her home in Lisbon. "I always took risks and I would be like, 'OK, so on stage people find me funny.'" She chose to concentrate on acting as her professional course in high school in Portugal and booked her first role by the time she was a senior.

After beginning her career in her home country, Melchior has made her crossover into American blockbusters. In 2021 she was seen in "Suicide Squad," and this spring is in both the new "Fast and Furious" movie "Fast X" and the new "Guardians of the Galaxy" film.

"It's been overwhelming, actually," she says of the attention she's now getting.

"When I was in Mexico City, I wasn't expecting at all for so many people to recognize me from the Suicide Squad. They were there asking for autographs with my Funko pop from the Suicide Squad. They had posters and everything. In Rome, they were recognizing Jordana [Brissole] and Michelle [Rodriguez], everyone that was already in the movie, so I really thought that it would be the same in Mexico."

Melchior's agent had been following the open role in the "Fast" film, but told her not to get her hopes up about anything coming together. Next came a Zoom with director Justin Lin, but again it was kept open ended.

"Then he told me that he had a role for me, and I was like, 'What?' I read the script and I knew that if I had a character that I could play, it would be Isabel," Melchior says.

She'd long been a fan of the franchise, watching the movies in Portugal at such



Daniela Melchior

a young age she couldn't even read the subtitles. "Fast Five" was the first one she remembers seeing and really grasping.

"I started to be like, 'OK, this is deeper,'" she says.

With her American breakout in "Suicide Squad," followed now by "Fast" and "Guardians," Melchior is making a name for herself in the action franchise space.

"When I started self taping from Portugal before I started working internationally, those would be the kinds of movies that I would tell my agent back in Portugal, 'Oh my God, that's so difficult to do. I don't think I would ever make a movie [like that]," she says. "In

Portugal, we don't have special effects, we have smaller budgets, so it's all about the acting and the things that we can see and more about the connections between the characters than external things. Then after I booked 'Suicide Squad,' I was like, 'OK, this fun.'"

Up next she'll be seen alongside Jake Gyllenhaal in a remake of the 1989 movie "Road House."

"I watched the original one, the older movie, and I was like, 'This is funny,' because a few things were just fun to watch, but it was cool to watch. I had fun. Then I read the script, the Doug Liman version, and I was like, 'OK, this version is deeper.'"

My character got to be cooler as well, rather than just a love interest and very delicate."

As the franchise films roll out, she's heeding Portuguese lore and taking her time before committing to her next project.

"I have a few offers on the table, but at the same time, I don't want to be too feisty accepting, just because, so we're waiting right now for... in Portuguese we would say, 'for the dust to settle after,'" she says. "Also, we've been having the writer's strike and everything, so I don't want to be desperate for anything. We really need to be thoughtful, because I didn't know that the fans would be paying so much attention to what's next."

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[Full Feature](#)

Schön!

DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021



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



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top, shirt + necklace, Alexandra Moura
shoes, Archive



jacket, Rafael Ferreira
trousers, Constança Entredo
shoes, Archive

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



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dress: Marques/Almeida
earring: Beatriz Jardimha
shoes: Archive

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MOVIES

Meet Daniela Melchior, the heart of James Gunn's 'The Suicide Squad'



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[Full Feature](#)

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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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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021



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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 Ratchcatcher 2. Up next: the "making sure she was okay chilling with rats" test.

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

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021



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

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021



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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 NECESSARILY 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 CONNECTED 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 Almeida
production dsection creative studio
special thanks THE OMNIA HOTEL

dsection.

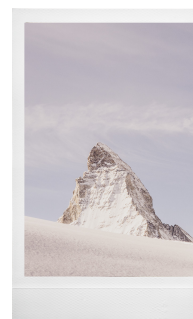
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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



ALL CLOTHES BY FENSI

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021

CORRECTED



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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



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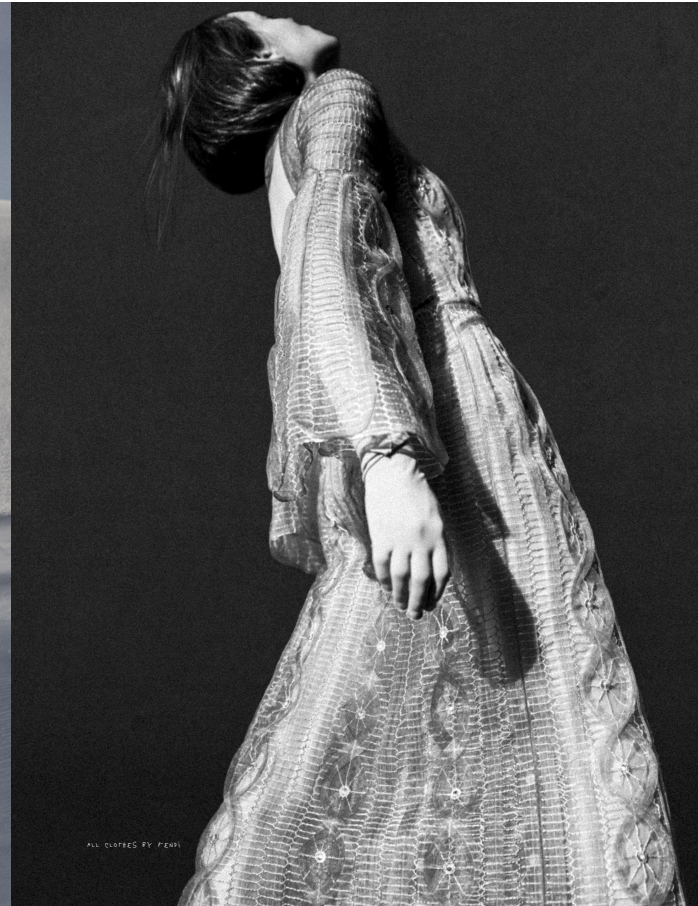
DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



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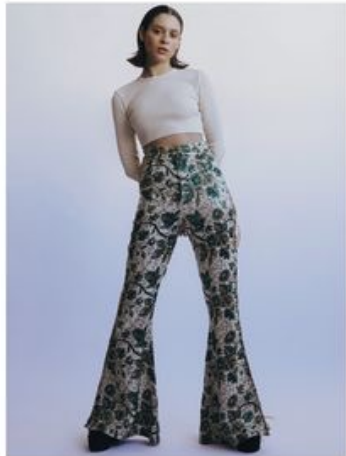
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DANIELA MELCHIOR | APRIL 2021



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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>

WHO WHAT WEAR

DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021



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

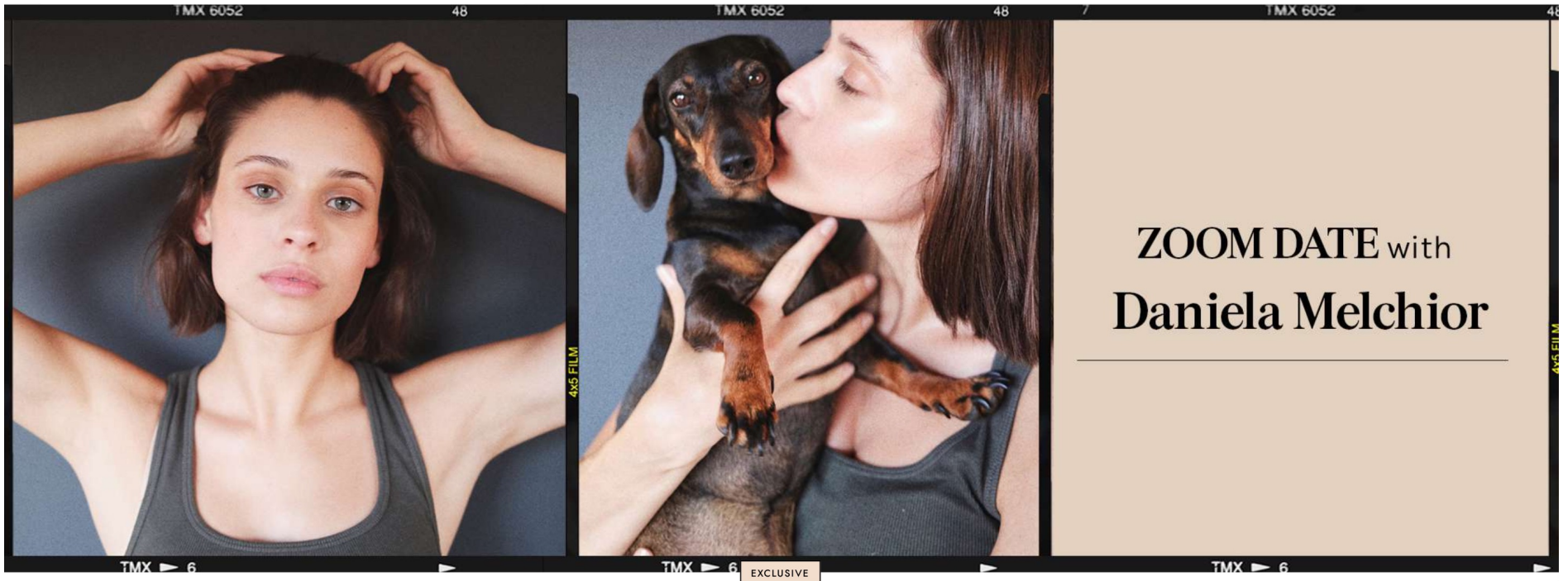


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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021

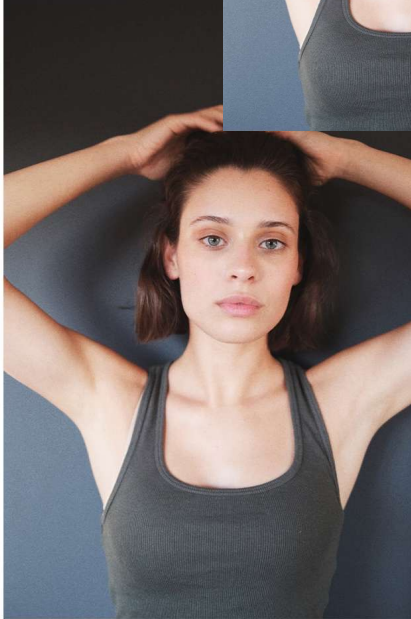
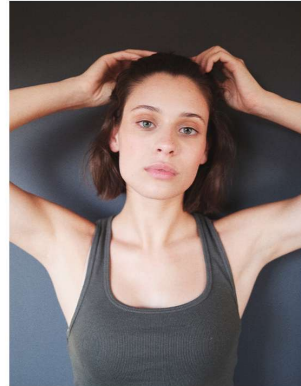
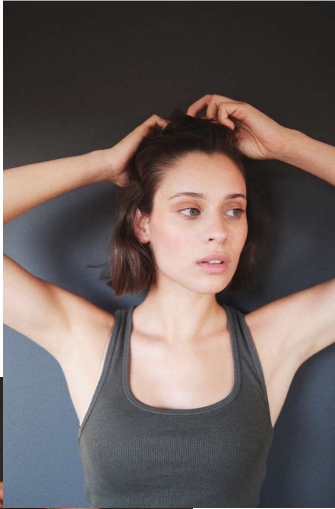
DANIELA MELCHIOR ON JOINING THE "SUICIDE SQUAD" AND THE POWER OF MEDITATION



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Full Story: <https://www.byrdie.com/daniela-melchior-suicide-squad-interview-5197368>

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021

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.

Full Story: <https://www.byrdie.com/daniela-melchior-suicide-squad-interview-5197368>

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DANIELA MELCHIOR | AUGUST 2021



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Full Story: <https://www.byrdie.com/daniela-melchior-suicide-squad-interview-5197368>

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 fisher jacket, skinny jeans, full makeup," recalls Melchior, 24. But glamorous did not fit the description of the character, a lone 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 weirdo, 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 **Idris 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 costars. The cast had movie nights and celebrated her birthday on set, with **David Dastmalchian**, who plays Polka-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."

"I want to just see 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 asking 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. "It 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. 6 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 Lauder** 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 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 (1501 Wilcox Ave., thompsonhotels.com), after dealing with COVID-19 and general contractor delays. The 11-story hotel includes 300 guest rooms (from \$289 a night), restaurant **Miss Arnie**, named by chef Lincoln Carson (whose acclaimed **San Temp** closed in DTLA during the pandemic), and the rooftop bar **Las Vegas and Pool**. "The Dream brought a velvet rope type of feel," says Relevant's co-creating "Celine" 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!" —**USA TODAY**

narrative.

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

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



narrative.

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.

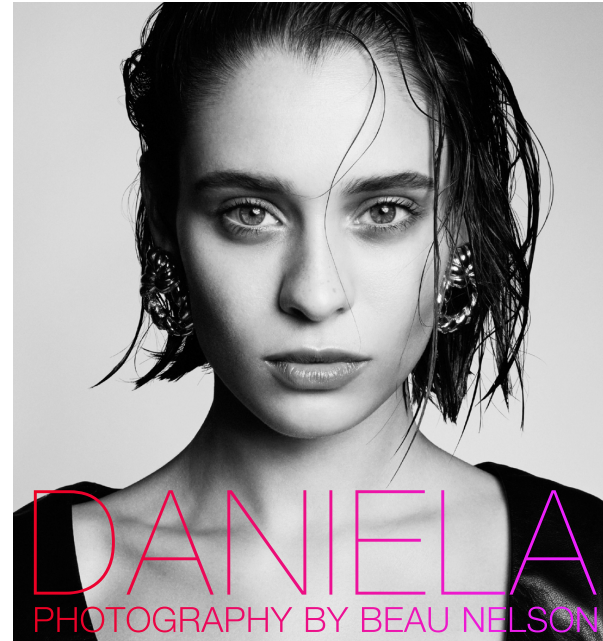
Because of this, I'm rooting for Melchior, both on screen and off. Below, get to know the 24-year-old, who only had eight credits on her [IMDb page](#) before *The Suicide Squad*.

narrative.

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

UNTITLED

DANIELA MELCHIOR | SEPTEMBER 2021

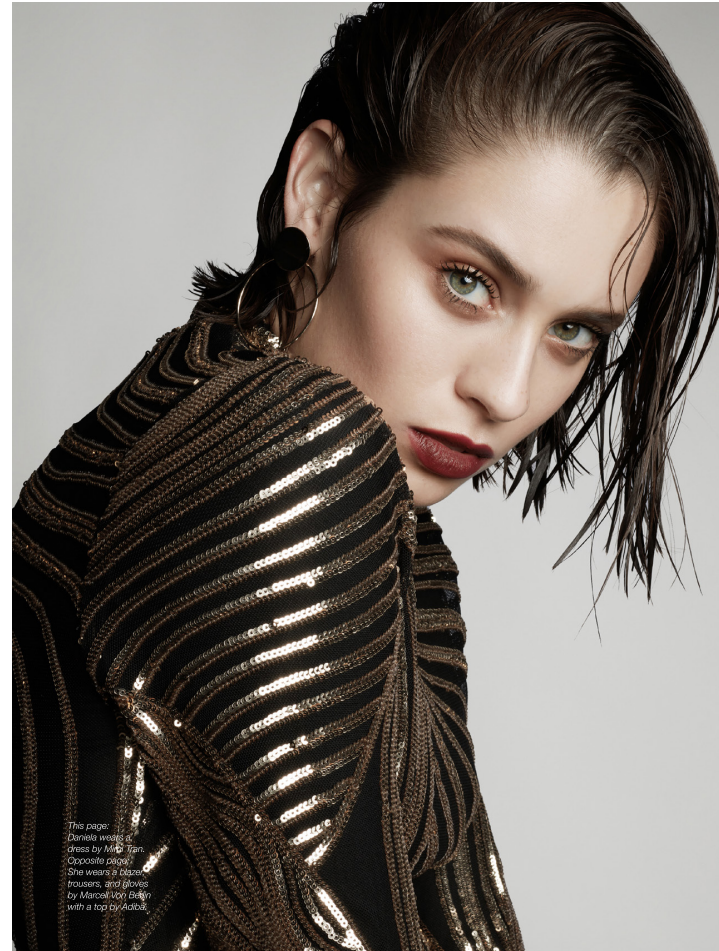


When Portuguese actress Daniela Melchior sent her very first self-tape audition to LA for a role in DC's *The Suicide Squad*, she really didn't know what to expect. "In Portugal we didn't have that kind of casting process, so when I signed with my manager from LA, everything was new to me." Even though Melchior wasn't particularly proud of her tape, she got a call from the studio just a few days later, "they wanted to fly me to Atlanta for a screen test and to audition in person. I did it, even though I was questioning all the time if they were sorry for me or something." That certainly wasn't the case however, and in no time Melchior was cast as the fan-favorite villain Cleo Cazo, aka Ratscatcher 2. Though to this day, "I couldn't understand what they saw in me from that tape!" "When Ratscatcher 2 is not taking naps," as Daniela puts it, "she has the ability to control rats and she has a favorite called Sebastian, who is her best friend." That might not sound like your typical supervillain boardroom pitch, but that's exactly what Melchior loves about her role. "I love the fact that she is different from every other member of the Squad, and I almost could say that she's not a super villain yet... that might be interesting in the future." Having already enjoyed success in Portugal, taking on a major Hollywood production was still a stressful undertaking for Melchior, especially considering that she "wasn't yet comfortable with acting in English" despite having "English classes for many years." Though English was certainly not natural to the actress, she was excited to hear from director James Gunn that he wanted her natural accent on display. "I was immediately relieved. I never dreamed about it in the past so I didn't even have time to develop fears about it besides the language barrier!" With such massive scale productions on the set of the blockbuster superhero film, there were bound to be some challenges amidst all the practical effects. But Melchior had nothing but a positive outlook about the chaos of it all: "having gigantic sets and many practical

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This page:
Daniela wears a
dress by Rickie Taylor.
Opposite page:
She wears a dress,
trousers, and gloves
by Marcel Vong design
with a top by Acolis.

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effects really helped the shooting to feel more realistic." In fact, she was so in awe with the effects that her biggest challenge was simply "staying focused and not be completely amazed by what the production teams had done for us and the movie." But of course, Melchior saves her highest praise for her work with the film's incredible cast and crew, whom she grew very close with. "I had special moments with almost everyone on set, and I loved getting to know them all more, learn from and listen to them. I will say though that James Gunn, Peter Safran (producer), Simon Hatt (co-producer), Lars P. Winther (First AD) and Henry Brahm (DOP) were very present during my experience; they supported me a lot and made it all even more special." She even had kind words for her non-human co-stars, her character's titular rats. "Being able to have actual rats on set helped me a lot to never forget Ratcatcher 2's power, even when she wasn't using it. They are such smart creatures and helped inspire me even when I wasn't on screen." As Daniela expected, the culture shock from working in Hollywood from her native Portugal was somewhat jarring, noting that "the industry in Portugal is smaller in every way you can imagine, Portuguese actors and crew do a lot with almost nothing." Starting out in that environment only strengthened her when it came to large-scale productions though, as she "learned how to deliver when it's needed," and always be there for the team. "I learned to keep doing my best even when everything can go wrong, and if

there is any kind of challenge, I still need to bring the same passion and enthusiasm as if I was in the biggest movie ever." Though "small" may be how Melchior describes the Portuguese movie industry, it by no means is lacking in incredible output. In 2019 Melchior starred in her very first film, *Parque Mayer*, as Deolinda, "a girl who came with her abusive boyfriend from the interior to the capital of Portugal looking for opportunities in the 'Broadway' of that period in Portugal." She dreams about being an actress and she's determined to leave everything behind to have the audience as her only friend and lover." Melchior went on to be nominated for two CineEuforia Awards and one Portuguese Film Academy Sophia Award for her role. She looks back on the memories fondly: "from the moment that I started that project I fell in love with the film process that was so different from my television experiences." Through all the challenges, Daniela gets through them by remembering a personal motto of hers: "everything is temporary, the good and the bad." She applies that logic to the pandemic, and how she has pushed herself to be innovative this last year. "I personally have been innovative because the times have changed, and I really had to change and deepen the way I see life, myself and others, thinking about what really matters and why. I don't believe I'm in the 'post' pandemic. This 'weird moment' that started in 2019 isn't finished yet, but that's the beauty of life."



Daniela Melchior is a talented actress and model. She wears a dress by Ann Vovsi. Opposite page: Corinne Bailey Rae. Photograph by Sean Nelson. Stylist: Estelle. Makeup: [unreadable]. Hair by [unreadable].

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ONLINE / BROADCAST



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'Fast X' Star Daniela Melchior Talks That Moment That Made Audiences Squirm and the Franchise's Future

The 'Suicide Squad' actor also looks at some unfinished business her character Ratcatcher 2 has with John Cena's Peacemaker.



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DANIELA MELCHIOR (THE SUICIDE SQUAD)



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