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## celeb bio

### Gina Torres

A constant TV presence

Gina Torres's career could overwhelm even the most passionate of pop-culture fanatics. With runs as Zoë Washburne in "Firefly," Helen Carter in "Cleopatra 2525," Bella Crawford in "Hannibal," Jessica Pearson in "Suits," and countless other appearances, the number of beloved characters she has brought to life is astounding. Simply put, if you've watched television in the past 30 years, you've likely been given the chance to fall in love with Gina

Torres. Born in Manhattan, New York, Torres allowed her creative ambitions to soar from a young age, and despite her parents' objections and desires for her to seek out more stable job industries, Torres enrolled at the prestigious LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. There, she was classically trained as a jazz and opera singer. However, when the time came to decide what career she would pursue professionally, Torres found herself financially

## Sudoku

				1	4		
		6	2				8
					7		
	7		8			6	
9		1			8		2
			9	5			7
5							3
			7			8	6
1	2						

190714

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column,  
and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

*Solution on page 20*

unable to take the next steps in her vocal studies. Luckily, this was a situation that allowed her to replace one calling for another, a decision destined to lead her to the stage and screen. From the very beginning, Torres's acting career seemed to encompass

a single, crucial word: prolific. Whether it was a guest role in "Law & Order," a recurring role in "Alias" or a supporting role in "The Matrix Reloaded" (2003), Torres always kept the ball rolling. A decades-long career is bound to hold many credits, but

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not only has she put in the hours, she's also found a way to give meaningful cultural footprints to not one, but many of her roles. She often visits fan conventions for the different shows she's been a part of, sometimes even years after they've wrapped. People reach out to her for characters that span the genres of law procedurals, science fiction, horror, animation and fantasy. No matter the role, it is clear from the kind of longevity and diversity that characterizes her career that there is something distinctly memorable about Torres. It is no shock, then, that in a show such as "Suits," filled with adored characters and dynamic performances, it's Torres's character, Jessica Pearson, that was given a spinoff show. Torres doesn't just star in "Pearson," she is also an executive producer for the series. "Pearson" premieres Wednesday, July 17, on USA Network.

#### FACTS:

- Born April 25, 1969, in Manhattan, New York City (age 50)
- Was formerly married to her "The Matrix Reloaded" (2003) "The Matrix Revolutions" (2003) co-star, Laurence Fishburne
- Shares a daughter with

ex-husband Fishburne, and is step-mom to his two kids from a previous marriage

- Speaks fluent Spanish
- Has done charity work for the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association
- After voicing Wonder Woman for the DC Universe Online video game, there was a huge push from fans to make her part of the live-action franchise
- She is open about protecting and cherishing her personal life, leaving "Suits" to tend to her family and avoid being away from them so often

#### QUOTES:

"Hollywood likes everything in a neat little box. They have operated in that way for many, many years. And what happens is that Afro-Latinos don't fit into a box, they fit in all the boxes."

"Life is about choices, and the grace or lack thereof with which you execute them is a make-or-break moment in anyone's life. So in terms of an example of how a woman in power could function, I'm very proud of what I put out there."



Gina Torres as seen in "Suits"