

Karina Guardiola- Lopez

Biography



Karina Guardiola-Lopez aka Karina G-Lopez, is an Honduran American who was born in the Bronx, raised in Queens and resides in East Harlem. She writer, author, poet, actor, teaching artist and educator from New York City. She is also a poetry mentor, poetry judge, content creator, and marketer as well. She is 1/3 of the Live Big Girl cast, writer and author. The Live Big Girl show is a poetic play based on living in a body that isn't always celebrated. The show sold out at the National Black Theater, BAAD Theater and The Tank Theater. For more information on Live Big Girl, visit www.livebiggirl.com Karina is also the founder of The Pen, The Pad and The Poet series which includes publishing, poetry workshops and performance for teens. She was born in the Bronx, was raised in Queens and is now residing in Spanish Harlem. She has been writing and performing for over 18 years. She is the author of several poetry books including: Jewtina Journals. Her books are available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and itunes.com. Karina has been published in various magazines, anthologies and websites including: Live Big Girl, Tribes Magazine, Poetica Magazine, No Apologies Anthology, New Voices Anthology, The BX Files, SofritoForyourSoul.com, Latinoauthor.com, Latinabookclub.com just to name a few. When Karina is not writing or performing she works with the college students for the City University of New York (CUNY) She is a Success Coach and this involves advising, facilitation, counseling, data,

designing and marketing. She is a former educator with background in various populations including special needs, homeless and foster care. She has over 18 years of teaching experience in various positions as well including but not limited to being an: Education Director, Education Coordinator, Education Specialist, and Creative Writing Instructor with grades K-12. She has also facilitated classes and workshops in Creative Writing and Poetry to elementary, middle and high schools including The Bronx Hope Center, Public School 52, Public School 96, Public School 48, P.S. 200, Hope Leadership Academy and The Stanley Isaac Center. She also conducts workshops on American Sign Language, College Readiness and Art Therapy. Karina is currently working as an academic advisor and marketer in CUNY.

Some of the locations Karina has performed include: The New School, LaGuardia Community College, La Casa Azul Bookstore, Hooligans Bar, Canvas of Words, La Marqueta, Tsion Cafe, El Fogon, Hostos Community College, The Andrew Freedman Home and The National Black Theater and BADD Theater just to name a few.

Since the age of 9, Karina's favorite subject was English, especially creative writing. She enjoyed writing fictional short stories and musical lyrics. The homework became a hobby by the age of 11 and then into a serious art by the time she was 16. She then dedicated her time to poetry and music by the time she was 20 and began reciting and performing her works in high school and then in college. She eventually collaborated with a hip hop group by the time she was 21 and was featured in a compilation album in the year 2000.

Karina was far from a straight A student. She had difficulty focusing in school but she loved to write short stories. This is where she was able to vent to escape from time to time. Her teachers praised her imagination and creativity throughout elementary school and her works were usually displayed in atriums. However, by the time she was in middle school and high school her grades were low, she lacked motivation and she had no academic support. Her guidance counselor at the time told her to drop out of high school and get a GED. She was also told not to pursue college because she was not "college material". Karina could have let her guidance counselor's words discourage her, but instead she strived to prove her wrong and she eventually did. Now her goal is to encourage her students to accomplish their goals and dreams regardless of setbacks and challenges. Karina currently holds an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree and has obtained Master's degree credits in High Education Administration.

She continues to learn and take courses in acting, video production and creative writing. Karina has definitely proven that the words impossible can become I'm possible, a motto inspired by an Audrey Hepburn quote.

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!"