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Cachita Dead: Alina María Hernández, One Of First Transgender Women On Hispanic TV, Passes Away



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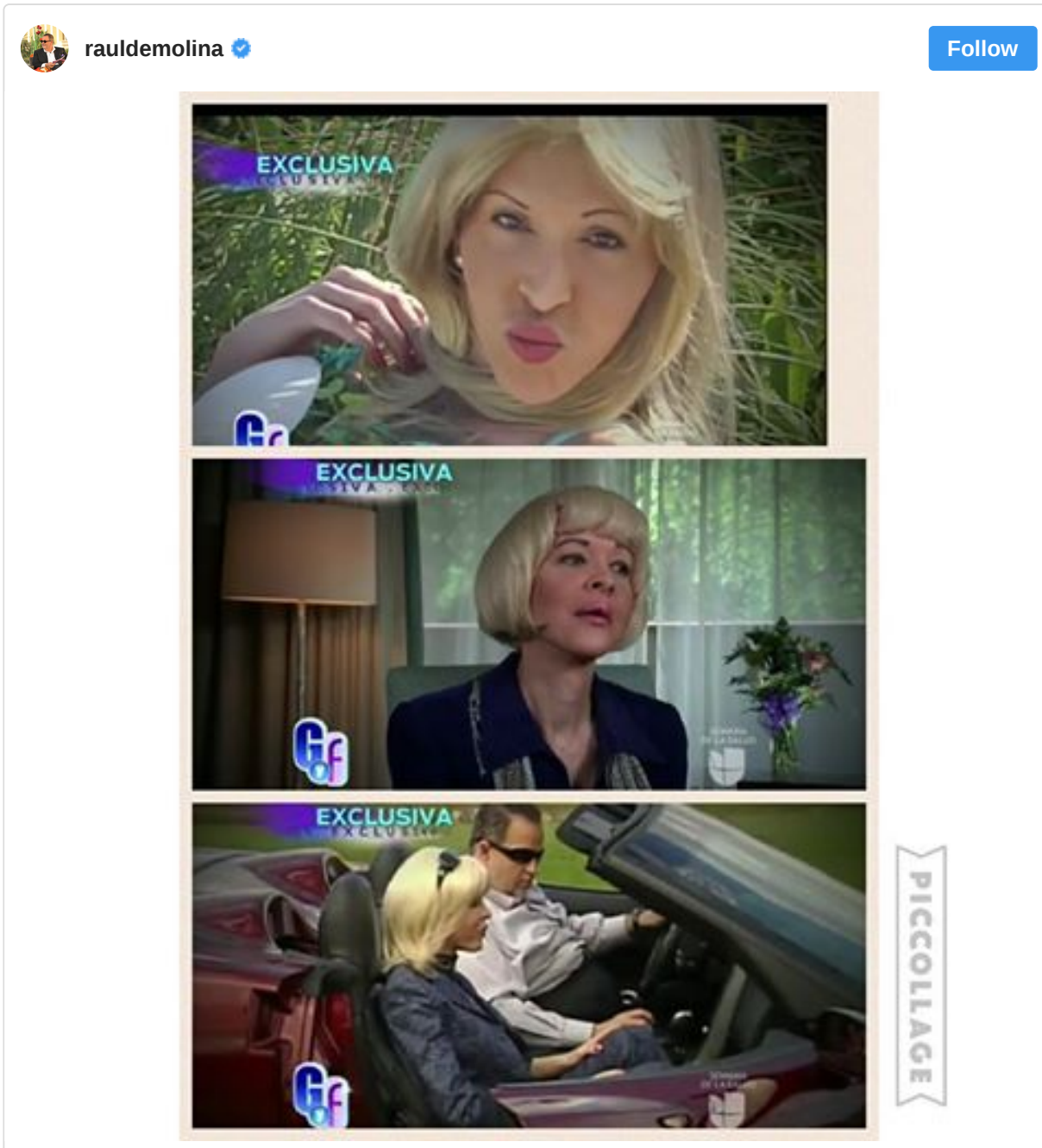
By **Maria G. Valdez** Oct 10 2016, 01:13PM EDT



Alina María Hernández, known professionally as Cachita, has passed away. She was one of the first transgender women on Hispanic TV and came to fame when she took over hosting duties in "El Gordo y la Flaca" while Lili Estefan was on maternity leave. Screenshot/Univision

Alina María Hernández, known as "Cachita" from Univision's "El Gordo y la Flaca" [passed away on October 8](#), according to a post shared by Raúl de Molina on his social media accounts. "I've been informed of the sad news of the passing of #Cachita #AlinaHernandez, who was one of the great personalities from @elgordoylaflaca. My most

sincere condolences to her loved ones. She will always be in our hearts,” De Molina posted. Hernández worked with the show for over 10 years.



A source close to “El Gordo y la Flaca” revealed that the cause of death is still unknown and Cachita’s body was still at the morgue of the hospital where she died because her family were traveling from Cuba to North Carolina, where she lived.

Cachita debuted on television as a participant in a singing contest at Don Francisco's *Sábado Gigante* show on Univision. After winning the contest, she used the \$500 she earned to buy a car. She was still a struggling actor when she found work at Univision's *El Gordo y la Flaca* when Lili Estefan went on maternity leave for her firstborn, Lorenzo in 1999. Cachita took Lili’s place making a reference to the telenovela “La Usurpadora” and her appearance was so popular that she became a part of the show for another 10 years. She was one of the first transgender Hispanics on television.



liliestefan

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After her time in the spotlight, Hernández decided to take a step back and lead a low-key life away from the cameras until a little over a year ago, when she gave an exclusive interview to Univision where she explained that she underwent a sex change surgery, becoming female. She revealed that she had always felt she had a female mind and was trapped in a male body.



El Gordo y La Flaca ✓

about a year ago



Cachita fue la primera mujer transgénero hispano, en su última entrevista le cuenta a Tanya Charry todo lo que sufrió #QEPD 🙏
#Cachita



Cachita, el dolor y traumas tras su transformación y lo c

Alina Hernández 'Cachita', una de las mujeres transgénero más conoc...

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Cachita returned to Cuba for a family visit soon after the first of her series of sex-change surgeries. She had a difficult time there with her family, as her aunt and grandmother in particular did not accept her change. Her aunt insisted on calling her “Alberto,” the name she was born with, but her mother always stood by her side, reminding everyone that “Alberto” was now Alina and she should be referred to as such.

The last medical step towards her becoming a female came in late November 2005, when *TVNotas*, a magazine she worked for, paid for her sex-change surgery.

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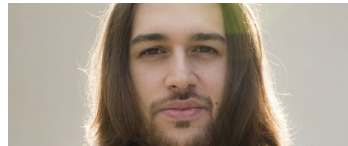
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Maria G. Valdez



Maria was born and raised in Dominican Republic, where she began her career in journalism covering human interest stories, entertainment, beauty and wellness for a national magazine. She moved to New York City to study Musical Theatre, but went back to journalism after graduating in an attempt of becoming the Latina Carrie Bradshaw. She has an unhealthy obsession with JLo and claims to be Sofia Vergara's long-lost daughter, and has tried a crazy amount of treatments to keep looking young. She became a Zumba instructor for fun.

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