



ROSIE PEREZ

Rosie Perez is a Brooklyn-born actress/choreographer. Perez attended Los Angeles City College before making the cattle-call rounds for dancing jobs. She worked a few seasons with the TV variety series *Soul Train*, then went on to perform at the LA club Funky Reggae. Here she was spotted by director Spike Lee, who cast her in a choice role in his 1989 film [Do The Right Thing](#). She can also be seen dancing to the title tune under the opening credits. As a choreographer, Perez has staged shows for [Diana Ross](#) and Bobby Brown, and was Emmy-nominated for her work on the Fox comedy/variety series *In Living Color* (1990-94). She has been shown to best advantage on screen in explosive supporting roles, such as the [Jeopardy](#)-obsessed girlfriend of [Woody Harrelson](#) in [White Men Can't Jump](#) (1992) and the hilariously covetous wife of lottery winner [Nicholas Cage](#) in *It Could Happen to You* (1994). On a more sombre note, Perez was excellent as the troubled plane-crash survivor in [Fearless](#) (1993) and received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. In 1997, Perez travelled to Spain to play the title role in Alex de Iglesia's wild [Perdita Durango](#). Hal Erickson, Rovi

Pérez is an activist for Puerto Rican rights. Her film *Yo Soy Boricua! Pa' Que Tú Lo Sepas! (I'm Puerto Rican, Just So You Know!)* documents her activism. She starred in and directed the Spanish AIDS PSA campaign "Join the Fight" for Cable Positive and Kismet Films. The campaign featured actor Wilmer Valderrama, BET's Juliss Bermudez, Telenovela actor Erick Elias, singer/actress Lorena Rojas, 2006-2007 Miss Universe Zuleyka Rivera and Judy Marte. An English-language campaign was also directed by Live Schreiber, President Barack Obama appointed her to The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). She was sworn in on February 2, 2010.

On January 6, 2000, she was arrested for disorderly conduct in Manhattan following a rally to protest U.S. Navy air weapons training, as well as other forms of payload on the government training range owned at Vieques, itself a small island off the coast of then- Roosevelt Roads Naval Station.

Perez serves as the chair of the artistic board for Urban Arts Partnership, a New York City arts education nonprofit that uses arts integrated education programs to close the achievement gap.