

**M**odel Alessandra García-Lorido is at the forefront of the body positive movement. The youngest daughter of *The Godfather Part III* star Andy García and his producer wife Marivi Lorido, Alessandra, 25, studied film production at The New School, New York, but instead of going into the family business she embarked on a modelling career that has seen her become something of a role model. Her sisters Dominik, 32, and Daniella, 28, are both actors, while 14-year-old brother Andrés gained his first film credit in 2005's *The Lost City* alongside dad Andy. The Cuban-American starlet has focused her efforts on championing diversity in fashion, eager to encourage other young women to be proud of who they are. She's posed in lingerie for plus-size magazine *Slink*, and is now starring in a campaign with renowned fashion photographer Ellen von Unwerth for Marina Rinaldi ([marinarinaldi.com](http://marinarinaldi.com)). "It was super exciting to be involved because it's such an incredible label," Alessandra tells HFM. "It can be hard to find quality and style for curvy women." Here, Alessandra reveals her fashion tips, what it was like growing up in Hollywood and why confidence is key...

**Tell us about working with Ellen von Unwerth?**

"It was a dream come true – she's been my favourite for so long. She creates such great energy that you want to match it."

**Did you always want to model?**

"I never really knew what I wanted to be, but I loved fashion and took a chance on modelling part-time while at university. It allowed me to travel and work with some incredible people."

**Did you ever consider following in your father's footsteps?**

"Acting is a job you need to put your whole heart into because it's really difficult. I didn't have that passion for acting, even though I love the industry. My family is very



# ALESSANDRA GARCÍA-LORIDO

*As an ambassador for plus-size models, Andy García's daughter is championing diversity in fashion*

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close, so we always talk with my dad about what he's doing, and now my sisters are both actresses, too. It is like a weird family business in a way, because we're all involved, but my parents always kept life private and normal at home. We take Hollywood with a pinch of salt."

**What do they think of your success?**

"They're super excited and supportive. As long as I'm happy, they're happy."

**How important is body confidence?**

"Through modelling I've become more proud and confident of my body. Confidence is important – it's the first step to success in any part of our lives – but women's bodies are constantly critiqued. We're taught to focus on the negatives. That's why the body positive movement is important – we should be proud of who we are."

**Is there anything you'd like to see change in the fashion world?**

"Diversity in fashion is important, not just size, but also skin colour, age and height. The more we can represent different types of beauty in the industry, the better."

**What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?**

"Wear what makes you feel good rather than follow every trend. I feel most comfortable and beautiful when I'm wearing a long, romantic floral dress. Don't listen to people who say you can or can't wear something because of your shape – you have to own it."

**What do you do for downtime when at home in New York?**

"I love hosting friends and family for dinner. My favourite dish is a Sunday roast chicken. It's a Nigella Lawson recipe but I tweak it with my mom's spices. And, of course, I'm a huge film geek."