

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA



By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

Meet 'Grey's' addition

■ Broadway veteran Sara Ramirez tends to broken bones, not hearts, as *Grey's Anatomy* newcomer, 2D

Dr. Torres: Appeared in *Spamalot* on Broadway.

www.usatoday.com



Life

SECTION D

Paging Doctor Torres

Ramirez stays on 'Grey's,' 2D



By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

Thursday, October 12, 2006

People

'Grey's' has a smooth operator

Sara Ramirez gets her chance

By William Keck
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Sara Ramirez is slightly mortified.

A bus showcasing her image alongside 10 other *Grey's Anatomy* cast members on a massive promotional poster has just pulled up on the street outside a cafe.

"Oh my God. That is so weird," she cringes.

After the initial shock wears off, she smiles, pleased with the photo.

"For one of the first times, I'm looking at myself going, 'Yeah, I'm OK with that.'"

Ramirez, 31, should be pleased. After an eight-episode run last season, she's a *Grey's* regular.

And while the other female docs of TV's hottest medical drama (tonight, 9 ET/PT) are breaking hearts, Ramirez is mending broken bones as orthopedic surgeon Callie Torres.

Soon after she accepted the role, Ramirez was able to make the most of a twisted ankle and torn ligaments she received on stage playing *Lady of the Lake* in Broadway's *Spamalot*. Her orthopedic surgeon let her observe operations: "I was watching surgeries where they opened up knees and shoulders, taking pictures with my phone."

The Mazatlan, Mexico-born actress is no stranger to blood and guts. She's a fan of TV shows about medical procedures and grew up



By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

She's Dr. Callie Torres: Sara Ramirez is now a series regular on *Grey's Anatomy* as an orthopedic surgeon who is in a relationship with Dr. George O'Malley (T. R. Knight). Tonight the couple are at a crossroads.

with an oceanographer father who brought her with him to labs.

"I was always around rows of crazy jars that smelled like weird fermenting things from beneath the sea."

Ramirez's parents divorced when she was 8. Her father moved to Miami, and her mother, a former actress and singer, relocated to San Diego and enrolled Ramirez in a school for the performing arts.

Like *Grey's* Callie, who at one point was living in the hospital basement, Ramirez has resided in

less than luxurious digs. During her 12 years on and off Broadway, Ramirez had several "humbling" living experiences in New York.

"I ended up renting a room (from) a really eccentric couple," she says. "Then there was a woman who kept every room piled up with clothes and dirty stuff. I found things missing. But it taught me I can live with less."

For now, she has opted to rent a house in Los Angeles.

"If I was to put my money down on a house, I don't know that I'd

have much left. I don't know if this job's going to last. But if the show keeps me around for a little while, I'd like to settle down. I'm kind of in that nesting phase."

Ramirez has a boyfriend but prefers talking about her on-screen romance with self-deprecating softie George (T.R. Knight).

In tonight's episode, it's make-or-break time for the couple. But Ramirez says the characters are suited for each other.

"She gives him strength, and he gives her sensitivity."