

Sofia Aguilar

FILM 3105

Prof. Anna Weinstein

11/01/2021

## **The Portrayal of Latina Women in Hollywood**

### **Abstract**

This analysis explores the history and characterization of the “Spicy Latina” trope through the character analysis of Isabel Fuentes Whitman portrayed by Salma Hayek in the film *Fools Rush In* (1997). The trope has evolved throughout its existence but has remained within the boundaries of “exotic, passionate and dangerous”. In *Fools Rush In*, Isabel Fuentes is depicted as the free-spirited Latina who disrupts the world of the protagonist, Alex Whitman, played by Matthew Perry. Ultimately Isabel is merely a projection of Alex’s desires, not reaching full potential as a developed character. The study focuses on how this Hollywood trope can lead to lack of character development and depth in the structure of a story as it does in *Fool Rush In*. These repeated portrayals of Latina women have affected not only the actresses who have played and are offered the same roles over and over but also the community.