

Every weekday morning, Erica Rico can be heard hosting the morning show on country music station, 93Q.

Katy Mom,
Erica Rico

Hosts the Morning Show on
Country Music Station 93Q

Written by Heather Lowrie
& Select Photography by Marisa Hugonnett

Not many people look forward to a 2:45 a.m. wake-up call every week day, but for Katyite Erica Rico, it signals the start to another exciting day. For years, she was a huge fan of the New 93Q country radio station, and now she is a listener, as well as a host on the station's *New Q Morning Zoo*. "I love Mondays," says Rico. "I never did before, [but now] I can't wait to come to work every single day. I am doing something I am passionate about and that makes a huge difference I think!"

The Road to Radio

In summer 2009, Rico and her husband, Ricardo, daughter, Danielle, and son, Rickey were on NBC's reality TV show, *Great American Road Trip*. She shared her experiences with future co-hosts, Tim Tuttle and Kevin Kline on 93Q and immediately got their attention. Six months later, she received a call from them informing her about an opening for a new radio co-host. "I went on the air with them for a few days and we all connected instantly," Rico recalls. "It was like we were old family members and the rest is history."

The Morning Is a Zoo

Armed with plenty of quick, witty comebacks, Rico is able to give the female opinion on the *New Q Morning Zoo* alongside two very opinionated and strong male personalities. She might be tiny, but she can definitely hold her own.

Tim Tuttle is macho, strong, and opinionated according to Rico. She likes to call him the "Cave Man." Kevin Kline is just the opposite, sweet and non-confrontational and has been nicknamed "Kevey Poo" by Rico. "I love them both so much, even though they have made it their mission to harass me every day," she jokes.

You can't have a successful morning show without chemistry, and this zoo has plenty. Everything that Rico does and all the hard work she puts into every day, both on the air and off, is for the show. Her advice to others interested in a career in radio is simple: Be ready to work hard.



Listen to Erica Rico on the *New Q Morning Zoo* every weekday from 5 to 10 a.m. on station 92.9 FM



Rico with her morning show co-hosts, Tim Tuttle and Kevin Kline

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5 Things You Need to Know About

Erica Rico

1. Loves kids and secretly wants eight, but only if her husband can give birth to the rest of them!
2. Wants to become a star just to be on *Dancing with the Stars*.
3. Is on a lifelong mission to become the real life wonder woman - she can do it all!
4. Grew up in a huge family in Arizona and couldn't wait to get to Texas.
5. Is the biggest Dallas Cowboys and George Strait fan ever and has been since birth.

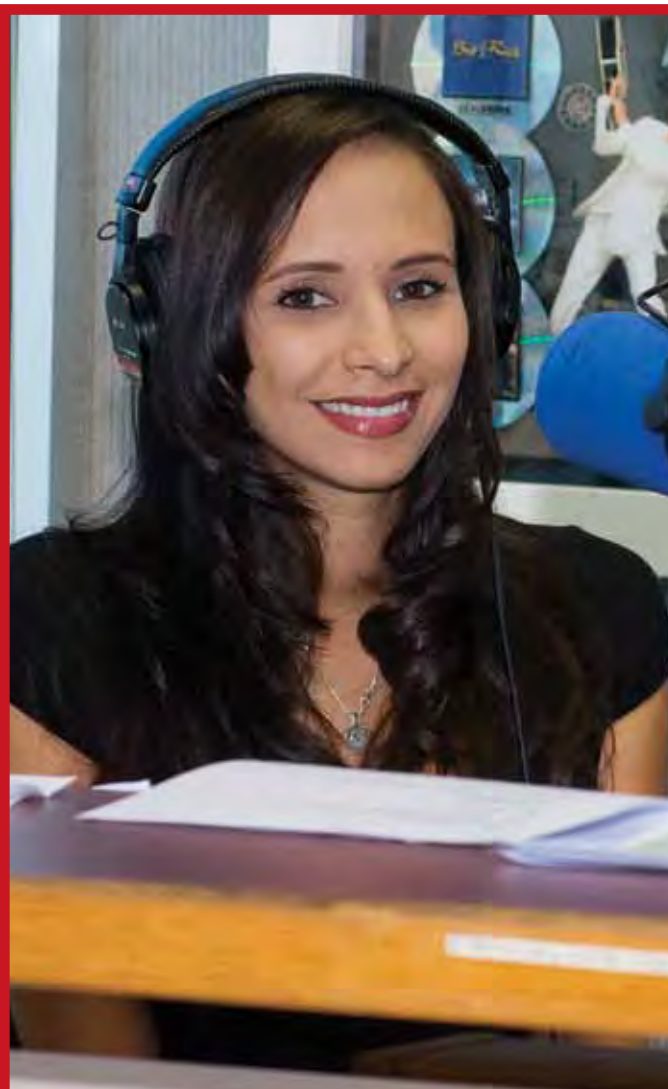
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10 Cool Things About Erica's Career

1. She gets to eat all morning.
2. It's hard for her to be completely awake and funny at 5 a.m.
3. People know everything about her personal life.
4. She gets to go to awesome concerts.
5. She gets to talk to famous people on a daily basis.
6. She stays up-to-date on current events and celebrity news.
7. She meets new people every single day.
8. Her workday is finished by 11 a.m.
9. There is no traffic driving to and from work.
10. She gets paid to hang out with two of her best friends all morning.

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Wild Cows and Superstars

Not only does Rico get to talk to famous artists like Kenny Chesney and Carrie Underwood, she also gets to do fun things like compete in the Celebrity Wild Cow Milking contest. Imagine petite Rico trying to milk a wild cow faster than her competitors, who were almost all male. "My boss didn't want me to do it, because of my size and because it seemed a little dangerous," Rico says. "Me, being me, I got myself into the contest, was the smallest one, the cows were really wild, and I won first place." One thing is for sure about Rico: Never underestimate her, because she won't let you down.

A Mom and Morning Host

With two kids and one on the way, a huge part of Rico's success is knowing how to balance both her career and family. Has it been challenging? Yes, but Rico has decided that you can have a rewarding career and great family life, too. Her son, Ricky plays baseball and football, and her daughter, Danielle plays softball and is raising a hog for the Seven Lakes High School FFA.

So what is Rico's secret for keeping everyone's schedules in check? "A Google calendar and daily to-do lists," she says. "Without them, I would be lost. I am the queen of Excel. I have a spreadsheet for everything." Family life is just one more reason that 93Q country listeners can relate to Rico.

Always ready to share a funny story, her experiences outside of the studio help her connect with listeners inside the studio on a daily basis. Rico is making Katy listeners proud, as she continues to light up the radio waves with her down-to-earth personality, feisty opinions, and genuine spirit. **KM**

HEATHER LOWRIE is a freelance writer, who loves encouraging others through her writing. She is married to the love of her life and has two children.



Rico enjoys meeting country music artists, like Taylor Swift, who signed a guitar for the radio station

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