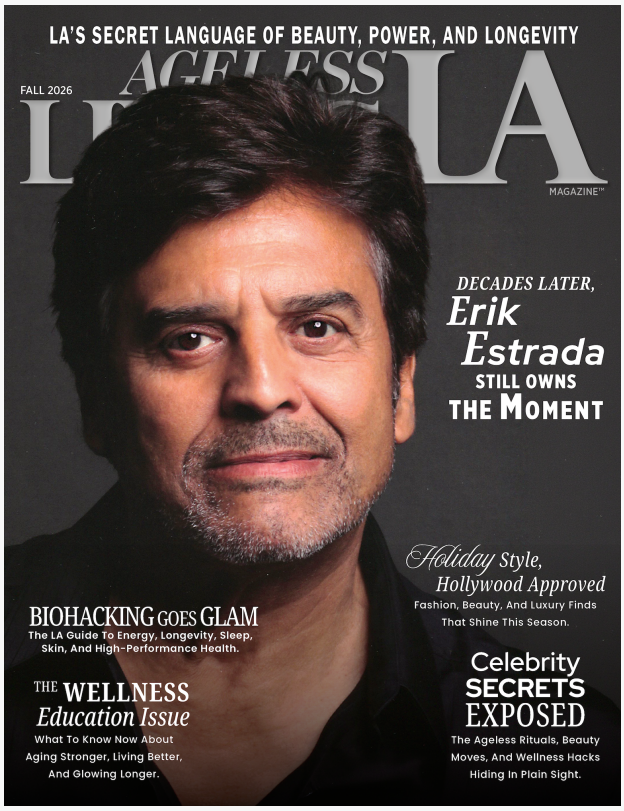
Hollywood Icon Erik Estrada Takes the Fall 2026 Cover of Ageless Living LA Magazine

The CHiPs legend discusses his Los Angeles journey, Latino representation, law enforcement service, and 16 years with the Hollywood Christmas Parade.



Ageless Living LA Magazine Fall 2026

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Ageless Living LA Magazine has announced television icon and longtime Los Angeles resident Erik Estrada as the cover star of its Fall 2026 issue, scheduled for release September 21, 2026.

The cover feature traces Estrada's journey from Spanish Harlem to Hollywood, his breakthrough role as Officer Frank "Ponch" Poncherello on CHiPs, and the personal values that have guided his career for more than five decades.

Written by Jana Short, editor-in-chief of Ageless Living Magazine, the editorial presents Estrada as an enduring part of the Los Angeles story. It explores his early years pursuing auditions by bicycle, the promise he made to provide a better life for his mother, and the decision that changed Ponch from an Italian American character into a Hispanic American police officer.

> I popped the door open a little bit for the Latinos; I'm proud of that."
>
> *Erik Estrada*

"Erik Estrada is more than a familiar face from television history. He is part of the emotional landscape of Los Angeles," Short said. "His story carries the ambition, cultural richness, resilience, and heart that define this city. We wanted readers to meet the man behind the role and understand why he remains one of Los Angeles' true golden treasures."

Before CHiPs, Estrada was frequently cast in roles reflecting the limited and stereotypical portrayals often offered to Latino actors during that era. When he earned the role originally

written as an Italian American officer named Poncharelli, Estrada asked producers to change the character's name to Poncherello and make him Hispanic American.

"I popped the door open a little bit for the Latinos," Estrada told Short. "I'm proud of that."

Estrada also shared his belief that CHiPs encouraged young viewers to imagine themselves as police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders. The role became especially meaningful in light of his childhood ambition to work in law enforcement.

At the time of the interview, Estrada said he was serving as a sworn investigator working with an Internet Crimes Against Children task force in Virginia. A central theme of the cover story is his journey from wanting to become a police officer to portraying one on television to serving in real life law enforcement.

"As an actor, I play a cop," Estrada said. "And in real life now, I am a sworn ICAC investigator."

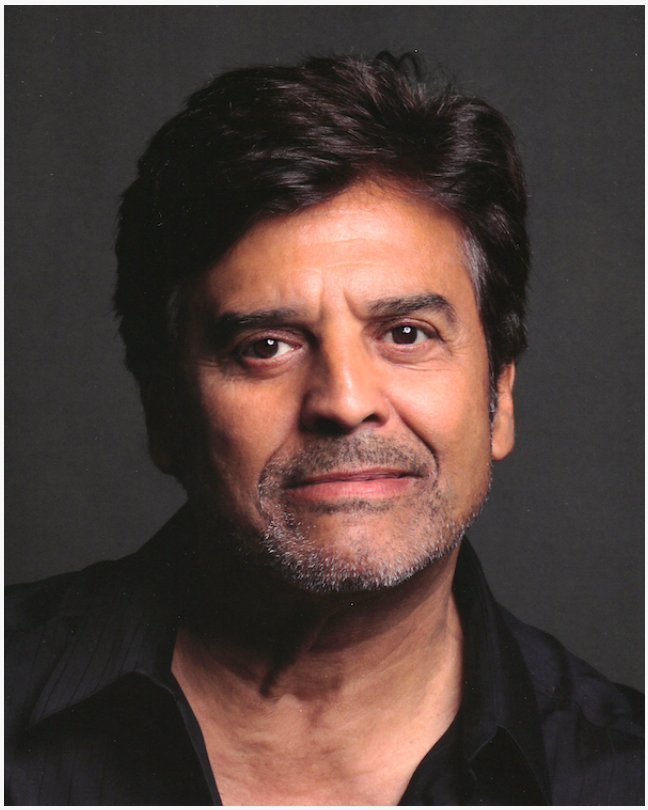
The Fall 2026 issue also celebrates Estrada's lasting connection to Los Angeles. He recalled arriving in Southern California in the early 1970s, seeing the palm trees surrounding the airport, and falling in love with the city. He later purchased his Studio City home in 1979.

"I love L.A.," Estrada said. "It's a great melting pot. I meet all sorts of people from all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds, and it's pretty cool."

The holiday issue will also recognize Estrada's long association with the Hollywood Christmas Parade. During the interview, he shared that this holiday season marks his 16th year co-hosting the Los Angeles tradition, which supports the Marine Toys for Tots program and brings performers, community groups, celebrities, and classic entertainment vehicles to Hollywood Boulevard.



Erik Estrada "Ponch" Poncherello CHiPs

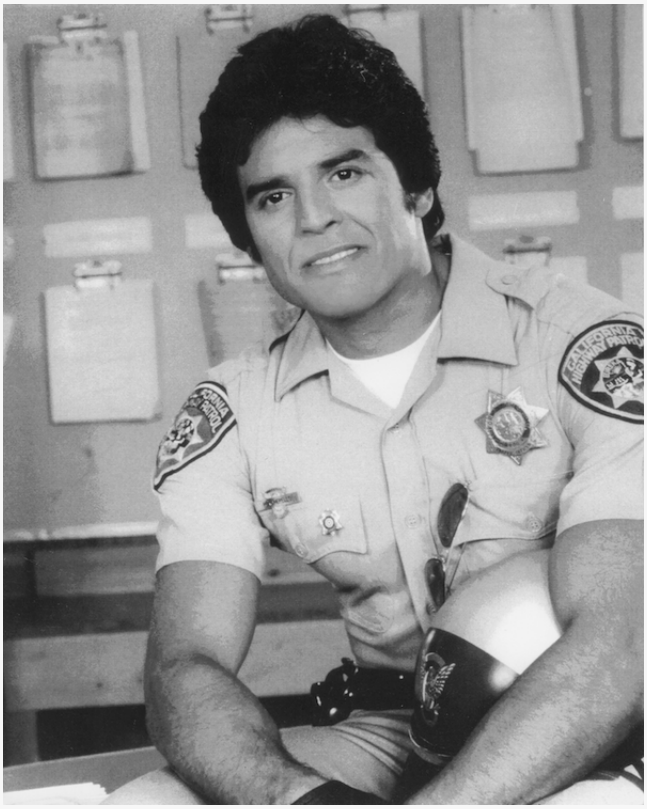


Erik Estrada

Experience the full Fall 2026 issue of Ageless Living LA Magazine with complimentary VIP digital access. Discover Erik Estrada's cover story, exclusive features, expert insights, and the people shaping the future of wellness, longevity, culture, and elevated living. Claim your free VIP digital copy today and step inside the issue.

The cover conversation moves beyond career milestones to explore longevity, emotional health, discipline, and the relationships that sustain a meaningful life. Estrada encourages aspiring actors to exercise, develop positive habits, and remain close to people who support their growth.

"You can want to be anything you want to be," Estrada said. "All you have to do is be motivated. Make sure you have a passion for it and that it fills you up; it fills your heart up, your soul up to go and chase it."



Erik Estrada

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Ageless Living LA Magazine

Short said Estrada's story aligns with the magazine's commitment to celebrating individuals who continue evolving while using their experience and influence to create meaningful impact.

"Erik's life reminds us that longevity is not only about how long we remain visible," Short said. "It is about continuing to grow, serve, love, and contribute. His most recognizable role may have made him famous, but his loyalty to family, representation, and public service reveals the man behind the smile."

Ageless Living LA's Fall 2026 issue will be available beginning September 21 and will remain the magazine's seasonal edition through December 20, 2026.

Erik Estrada is an actor and law enforcement professional best known for portraying Officer Frank "Ponch" Poncherello on the television series CHiPs. His career has included film, American television, Spanish-language television, public service, and advocacy focused on protecting children.

Ageless Living Magazine is a luxury lifestyle, wellness, and longevity publication serving Los Angeles, Manhattan, and South Florida through seasonal editorial features focused on culture, health, travel, beauty, leadership, and purposeful living.

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