

# [***Shakira and her sons think 'Barbie' is 'emasculating'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BPC-SYJ1-DY9T-H003-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Shakira's hips don't lie and she doesn't mince words, either.

When asked about her thoughts on the [*record-smashing "****Barbie****" movie*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2023-09-12/barbie-streaming-records-broken-box-office) in a wide-ranging interview for [*Allure*](https://www.allure.com/story/shakira-cover), the singer criticized the film's approach to its feminist themes.

"My sons absolutely hated it. They felt that it was emasculating. And I agree, to a certain extent," she said.

"I'm raising two boys. I want 'em to feel powerful too [while] respecting women," she continued. "I like pop culture when it attempts to empower women without robbing men of their possibility to be men, to also protect and provide."

The Grammy winner, who shares her sons with her ex-husband, former soccer star [*Gerard Piqué*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2022-11-09/shakira-moving-to-miami-florida-gerard-pique), said men and women need to complement each other.

"I believe in giving women all the tools and the trust that we can do it all without losing our essence, without losing our femininity. I think that men have a purpose in society and women have another purpose as well. We complement each other, and that complement should not be lost."

When asked if women should have to "do it all," Shakira replied, "Why not share the load with people who deserve to carry it, who have a duty to carry it as well?"

Shakira discussed feminism at length in the interview for Allure's cover story, saying that her recent music is about "a newborn woman" and connecting with "the woman inside of you." In what seems to be a departure from her comments about "***Barbie***," she spoke about her music video for [*"Puntería"*](https://youtu.be/SHnDwYgGKkY?feature=shared) with Cardi B, in which they inhabit a planet where she says "men are happy to be dominated by women."

The singer-songwriter, whose new album, [*"Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran*](https://www.latimes.com/delos/newsletter/2024-03-28/latinx-files-shakira-las-mujeres-ya-no-lloran-cardi-b-bizarrap-rauw-alejandro-grupo-frontera-latinx-files),[*"*](https://www.latimes.com/delos/newsletter/2024-03-28/latinx-files-shakira-las-mujeres-ya-no-lloran-cardi-b-bizarrap-rauw-alejandro-grupo-frontera-latinx-files) was released in late March, is not the only public figure to [*criticize "****Barbie****.*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2023-07-26/greta-gerwig-surprised-by-conservative-backlash-to-barbie) [*"*](https://www.latimes.com/delos/newsletter/2024-03-28/latinx-files-shakira-las-mujeres-ya-no-lloran-cardi-b-bizarrap-rauw-alejandro-grupo-frontera-latinx-files) Still, the film's [*commercial success*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2023-09-12/barbie-streaming-records-broken-box-office) speaks to its wide reach and resonance.

In a February interview with [*The Times*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/awards/story/2024-02-05/greta-gerwig-margot-robbie-barbie-oscar-nominations), director Greta Gerwig revealed why she wanted the struggle of the Kens to be rounded out just as much as the ***Barbies***' turmoil.

"We take his plight seriously. We take every part of what he goes through seriously, even to the point of he gets an [*anthem*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/awards/story/2024-03-10/oscars-2024-ryan-gosling-performance-barbie-im-just-ken), and he is on his own journey of self-discovery. And I think one thing that Ryan [Gosling] brought to it was a degree of empathy," Gerwig said. "There's not a villain in the movie, and there's no one who is not deserving of our sympathy or our empathy."

In the same interview, "***Barbie***'s" star and producer, Margot Robbie, said the overwhelmingly positive response to the film is gratifying.

"We set out to make a film that would break through cultural norms, bring audiences together and entertain and engage them on a profoundly emotional level," Robbie said. "To have been able to do that at this scale and magnitude and have this film resonate the way it did is truly beyond our wildest imaginations and our greatest reward."

This story originally appeared in [*Los Angeles Times*](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2024-04-01/shakira-barbie-emasculating-sons-hated-it).

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