

Jenna Ortega Believes She Auditioned for Zendaya's Role in Dune When She Was 15: 'Everything Was Very Secret'

[PEOPLE](#)— The actress thinks she might have almost been a Fremen before serving up frights in 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice'

[Jenna Ortega](#) thinks she may have auditioned for *Dune*.

In a new interview with [BuzzFeed](#) published on Monday, Aug. 26, the *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* actress, 21, shared why she thinks she may have been up for the 2021 role that eventually went to [Zendaya](#).

About halfway through the nearly 12-minute clip, the young star (who played with a group of dachshund puppies for the duration of the conversation) was asked what's a role that people would be surprised to hear that she auditioned for.



Jenna Ortega.BUZZFEED

"I think I auditioned for *Dune* when I was about 15," Ortega said with a smile.

She added that she was a big fan of the franchise and was "really excited" because Denis Villeneuve "is one of my favorite filmmakers."

The *You* alum admitted that although there weren't a ton of details available at the time, she's pretty sure she and the *Challengers* star, 27, were up for the same role.

"I think it was Chani. I think it was Zendaya's – but they weren't saying that. Everything was very secret," Ortega said.

It's not uncommon on some projects for an actor to not know what role or film they're auditioning for; they may be given a completely different scene or character to play.

Dune was originally released in December 1984. The David Lynch-directed film saw [Patrick Stewart](#), [Sting](#), and more as cast members. Actress Sean Young was the first to play Chani in the sci-fi drama.

The 2021 remake saw Zendaya take the reins as Chani alongside [Timothée Chalamet](#), who was cast as Paul Atreides. The pair reunited for [Dune: Part Two](#), which was released in March 2024.

The second installment brought in \$711.8 million at the box office.

Elsewhere in the BuzzFeed interview, Ortega, recalled her favorite behind-the-scenes memory from filming *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* – the follow-up to [Tim Burton](#)'s 1988 film *Beetlejuice*.

For the remake, Ortega stars as Astrid Deetz, the daughter of [Winona Ryder](#)'s Lydia.



Jenna Ortega in BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE 2024.WARNER BROS. PICTURES

“I really like the third act climax, just because we have a big scene in a church. That was so much going on. We shot it for about three weeks, everybody's in it,” she said. “It was a lot of fun to shoot, but also going to the underworld for the first time and understanding that we kinda had to walk on a tilt.”

She also admitted that she “weirdly got shy” when meeting the film's lead star [Michael Keaton](#) for the first time.

“But he's so sweet, he's so funny, he's so charming, so professional – I feel like I learned so much, even by watching

him," Ortega said. "It was really strange to see him become Beetlejuice because he was unrecognizable."

The actress continued, "It was the first time I think I had ever really seen someone completely disappear. No bit of themselves involved, so that was pretty special."

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice is set to be released in theaters on Sept. 6, 2024.