



Winter as Frida Kahlo

NOAH BROS. MOVIE HOUSE PRESENTS "WINTER AS FRIDA KAHLO" CHEYENNE RAE HERNANDEZ SIMON PALOMARES DANIEL SCHEPISI
STEFANIA SERNA MUSIC BY NINO COTONE COSTUMES BY TERRY TUBBS PRODUCTION DESIGN BY YUN-FAN ZHANG HAIR AND MAKEUP BY SIMONE CLARKE
VISUAL EFFECTS BY JANINA BUENASEDA CINEMATOGRAPHY BY KONRAD MCCARTHY SOUND BY CALEB LINDNER EDITED BY ARNAUD THOMAS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAN NOAH JEHU KEDRON
WRITTEN BY BRAMWELL NOAH DIRECTED BY THE NOAH BROS.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

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Cast

Cheyenne Rae Hernandez ... CRISTINA/FRIDA KAHLO
Simon Palomares ... DIEGO
Daniel Schepisi ... THE BOSTONIAN
Stefania Serna ... THE MARIACHI SINGER
Luna Halo Mendes ... LITTLE GIRL KAHLO
Noray M. Neberay ... MR. STILSON
Franco Leo ... MR. GOLDMAN
Katie Archibald ... MADRE ORO
Janet Christofi ... MRS. HENEQUEN
Nicola Butler ... TOMASA

Directed by

Dan Noah and Bramwell Noah

Written by

Bramwell Noah

Music by

Nino Cotone

Cinematography by

Konrad McCarthy

Visual Effects by

Janina Buenaseda

Sound by

Caleb Lindner

Costumes by

Terry Tubbs

Hair & Makeup by

Simone Clarke

Production Design by

Yunfan Zhang

Winter as
Frida Kahlo

FRIDA FACT:

Frida Kahlo painted 55 known self portraits.
Over a quarter of her entire output.



LOGLINE:

The year is 1935. Frida Kahlo's husband has just begun an affair with her younger sister.
A sister that had been her closest friend.

SYNOPSIS:

'Winter as Frida Kahlo' brings together the life and work of a painter who changed art forever.

The story begins with her sister Cristina and Frida Kahlo's ex-husband Diego (they were twice married) on the day of Frida's funeral. Diego is in a philosophical mood about growing old. But the emotion of the day has brought back something else for Cristina. The old guilt over her affair with Diego has come back to haunt her. The grief takes us back to the day it began.

The memory is of where Cristina and Diego would meet in secret. But we're also suddenly introduced to a stranger. Someone who just happens to be passing by. He's dressed in a very sharp suit and has the kindest of smiles. He's on his way to a bus stop, but it looks like he has a long wait. He takes out a book. It must be a very good book, because once he starts he can't put it down. Until he hears music in the distance that is.

The music is a Mariachi singer busking in the street. She's performing to an audience of just one - and that one is our stranger. Their eyes meet. Her voice is full of power and passion. He doesn't understand a word of what she's singing, but he knows he never wants the song to end.

When the music stops we return to the present. Diego isn't lying about getting old. Washing his face is hard. Crushing his tablets is hard. Now it's his turn for the memories to flood back in.

He's suddenly standing in front of Frida in the middle of the night. She hasn't slept and they've been fighting all day. Frida is demanding he ends the affair. She wants her sister back. But she's not going to beg. Her hurt and anger burns right through his act. She throws him out and slams the door in his face.

A few seconds later there is a knock at the door. She takes a deep breathe. But it's not Diego she finds standing there. It's someone else. Someone who shouldn't be there. Someone she's never met. The past and present of two sisters and an unfaithful husband are suddenly in the same place at the same time.

FRIDA FACT:

Frida Kahlo's childhood dream was to become a doctor. Childhood polio and a catastrophic traffic accident as a teenager would see her in and out of hospitals for the rest of her life.

Winter as Frida Kahlo

The Production

'Winter as Frida Kahlo' was born when Cheyenne Rae Hernandez crossed paths with the Noah brothers while filming a TV pilot. The story might well be left at that, were it not for the fact that the subject of Frida Kahlo came up. Specifically a play Bramwell Noah had written some years earlier called 'Winter as Frida Kahlo'.

It was a piece that featured a tour de force lead role with one actress playing both sisters. The play had been an instant success. It had even toured as part of an international exhibition of works by Frida Kahlo that had been brought together for the very first time.

The stage play had been an authentically theatrical experience. For the all new cinematic take, Bramwell Noah set out to completely and totally reimagine the fantasia approach of his original work. A host of new characters and the paintings themselves would now heighten the journey. But Frida Kahlo would naturally still be at the centre of it all.

Dan and Bramwell Noah are Australian film directors and screenwriters.

They opened their movie making account with the short human rights drama 'Massacre of the Innocents'. Their debut feature 'According to Ben Adams' (2016) tapped into a supernatural vein with the story of what happens when the devil in a bad mood meets a gentle madman claiming to be Jesus.

'I, Timon' (2017) saw the brothers take a period turn to bring Shakespeare's "Timon of Athens" to the big screen for the very first time. Both releases enjoyed major festival runs with international award recognition in almost all categories (including multiple special jury award prizes).

Their next two features further established the brother's reputation for keeping audiences guessing. 'Something To Do With Death' (2018) was a genuinely original take on the gangster genre. While 'Song without Words' (2022) presented an almost wordless sci-fi fairytale about what it means to be human by examining what happens when people are anything but.

FRIDA FACT:

Frida Kahlo adored animals. At various times she shared her home with monkeys, deer, dogs and bird varieties. They were also a favourite subject in many of her paintings.

Winter as Frida Kahlo

The Cast



Cheyenne Rae Hernandez

CRISTINA/FRIDA KAHLO

Cheyenne Rae Hernandez was born and raised in El Paso, Texas to Mexican parents (indigenous Tepehuán on her mother's side). She began her acting career while still in the army (serving as a combat medic). Her early roles were in television before her breakthrough appearance as "Gata" (alongside Shia LaBeouf) in the David Ayer action thriller 'The Tax Collector'. She relocated to Australia just before the pandemic and kept busy on the indie scene before landing the dual role of Frida and Cristina Kahlo.

Simon Palomares

DIEGO RIVERA

Simon Palomares is an Australian comedian and actor of Spanish descent. He has worked in theatre and television as a pioneering creator, director and performer in popularising inclusivity and representation (in such shows as "Acropolis Now").

He has also continued to perform stand-up comedy across the globe in both English and Spanish. His training as an actor has included stints at the renowned Juan Carlos Corazza School in Madrid.

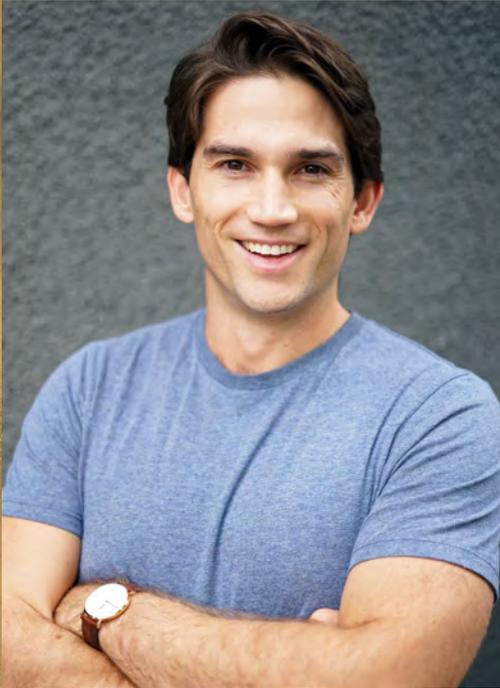


Winter as Frida Kahlo

FRIDA FACT:

Frida Kahlo was largely a self taught artist. But one of her few teachers was also her very first - her father Guillermo Kahlo.

The Cast



Daniel Schepisi

THE BOSTONIAN

Daniel Schepisi is the nephew of legendary Australian director Fred Schepisi. A longtime Noah Bros. collaborator, he commenced his acting career during a break from a PhD in mathematics. He got his start in television commercials while undertaking extended study as a performer. He made his presence felt very quickly on the big screen ('According to Ben Adams', 'No Two Snowflakes'), but has also maintained a focus on work for the stage in both scripted ('50 Words') and emergent narrative pieces.

Stefania Serna

THE MARIACHI SINGER

Stefania Serna is a Salsa and Mariachi specialist active as a singer/songwriter. She has performed extensively as a vocalist in her native Colombia and internationally as a soloist (in band and show ensembles) for over two decades. More recently she has focussed chiefly on composition and branched out as producer to showcase the roots and history of Salsa through dance and music.



Winter as Frida Kahlo

FRIDA FACT:

Frida Kahlo was born in 1907. But she always claimed 1910 as her birth year to bring it in line with the start of the Mexican revolution.

The Designers



Terry Tubbs

COSTUMES

Terry Tubbs was born in Michigan and began his career in repertory theatre before moving to Hollywood to work in film and television. His design specialty is period gowns and costumes ranging from Shakespeare through to the classics. The same approach to thorough character study has also seen him dress contemporary dress ensembles on stage and screen. 'Winter as Frida Kahlo' is his sixth collaboration with the Noah Bros.

Nino Cotone

SCORE

Nino Cotone is an Italian multi-instrumentalist and composer. A graduate of G. Verdi Conservatoire in Como in 2000, his output of over 20 full length releases reflects his wide interest in music of many genres. Most recently he has been active as a film composer and writing chamber works for his main instrument the violin. He is also a trained music therapist with a passion for working with people with severe disabilities.



Janina Buenaseda

VISUAL EFFECTS

Janina Buenaseda is a multimedia designer born and raised in Manila. She graduated magna cum laude before launching into a career as a digital artist. Her body of work has included global collaborations in most digital mediums and formats; original and reworked digital paintings, photo and video editing, 3D modelling and the full spectrum of animation. Her ability to bring creative visions to life is a distinctive aspect of her work.

FRIDA FACT:

Frida Kahlo on the cover of Vogue is one of the most iconic images of our time. What isn't as well known is that the issue in question was in fact released in 2012 - over half a century after her death.

Winter as Frida Kahlo

The Designers



Simone Clarke

HAIR & MAKEUP

Simone Clarke is an award winning designer with experience in all facets of hair and makeup art. Her international portfolio of work includes print, theatre, television, music video and film. She is also a successful entrepreneur and educator with a focus on maintaining a community connection. She is the founder of Wig Therapy Ltd; a charity dedicated to supporting cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Yunfan Zhang

PRODUCTION DESIGN

Yunfan Zhang studied performance design in Shanghai and Hong Kong before completing her Masters of Design in Melbourne. Her works draw heavily on the fundamentals of the traditional aesthetic of her native China. She is a dedicated hands on practitioner - with an eye for creating intricate reproductions that function less as props - and more as reimagined spiritual and cultural elements.



Caleb Lindner

SOUND

Caleb Lindner is a Melbourne based musician and audio engineer. His sound specialty is crafting immersive soundscapes to compliment film and music. He is in demand as a producer with a wide and diverse roster of artists. He is also a member of 'BANTA.'; a cult duo act who have doubled as festival favourites with their unique compositions, music videos and stage shows.

FRIDA FACT:

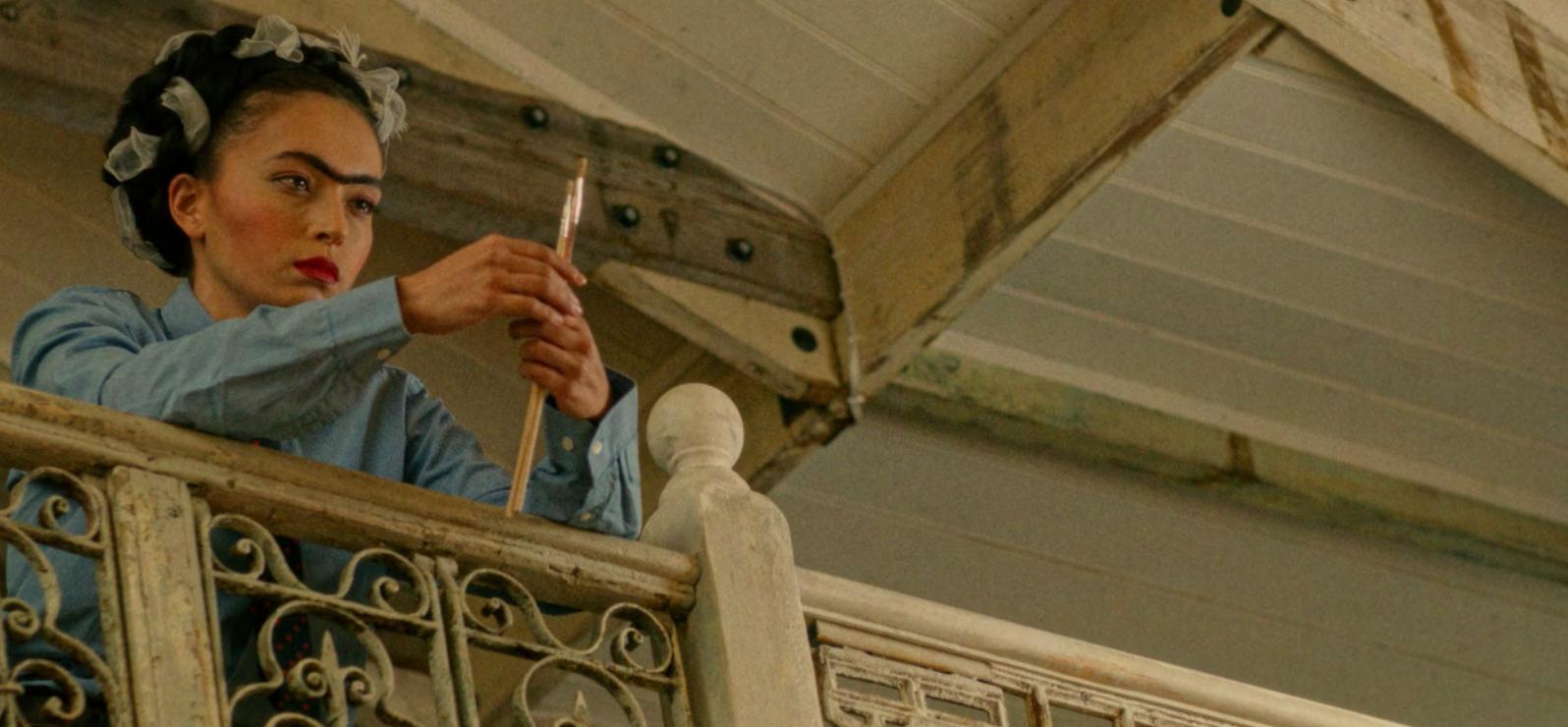
Frida Kahlo achieved success in her lifetime, but Diego Rivera was the much more famous artist. His works are today acknowledged as cultural monuments of the state by Mexico.

Winter as Frida Kahlo

'Winter as Frida Kahlo' is an original, Noah Bros. Movie House production and is not associated in any way with any other Frida Kahlo endeavor or enterprise.

*Winter as
Frida Kahlo*

Cheyenne Rae Hernandez as FRIDA KAHLO



Simon Palomares as DIEGO RIVERA



Daniel Schepisi as THE BOSTONIAN



'Winter as Frida Kahlo' - PRODUCTION STILLS





Hernandez in the dual role of Frida Kahlo and her sister Cristina. Photo Courtesy: Melb

Entertainment

A Poignant and Powerful Cinematic Love Letter to Frida Kahlo

By: Mae Cornes

“Winter as Frida Kahlo” is an upcoming biopic directed by the Noah Bros., adapted from a runaway indie hit for the stage into a visionary new film.

A Stellar Cast Brings Frida’s World to Life

Cheyenne Rae Hernandez appears in the dual role of Frida and her younger sister Cristina, with Simon Palomares as Frida’s husband, the muralist Diego Rivera. History buffs will say that Diego was the much more famous painter during their marriage—a history that also includes Diego’s devastating affair with Cristina.

“Winter as Frida Kahlo” revisits the events of the affair to frame the larger narrative of Frida’s legendary life and work.

This film will make audiences remember it long after the credits roll. One reason is the incredible cast, which Hernandez leads as Frida Kahlo. Hernandez is hypnotic as Frida, the defiant heroine who continues to reach out across the ages in her art. Still, her vulnerability makes her portrayal as Frida even more vital and real.

As if that wasn’t enough, Hernandez portrays a Cristina Kahlo who was more than just a fixture in lives much bigger than her own. She brings the audience dangerously close to feeling as much for her as anyone in this combustible love triangle.

Simon Palomares is a brash and brazen Diego Rivera, ranting and raving when needed but also revealing unexpectedly poetic turns illuminating more of the man Frida Kahlo would divorce and remarry. This daring and poetic sensibility carries over into key supporting parts played by Daniel Schepisi and Stefania Serna.



Stefania Serna as the “The Mariachi Singer”. Photo Courtesy: Melb

Serna captivates as “The Mariachi Singer,” a nameless street performer who conjures up a kind of musical magic. A real-life singer-songwriter steeped in the musical traditions of her native South America, her self-penned songs are spectacularly catchy. They work wonders to authentically bring Mexico to life and emotionally build on the heartbreak of Frida’s story.



Daniel Schepisi as “The Bostonian”. Photo Courtesy: Melb

Lastly, Daniel Schepisi, a regular Noah Bros. collaborator and nephew of Golden Globe award-winning director Fred Schepisi, completes the standout cast by playing “The Bostonian.” In a performance bound to catch the eye of casting directors, Schepisi draws the audience in as the handsome stranger in town, adding depth and power to a dramatic puzzle that “Winter as Frida Kahlo” thrillingly sets up.

Crawling Out of the Frame and Onto the Big Screen

However, if there is one other ingredient that gives this biopic a gripping lift out of the ordinary, it’s the way Frida Kahlo’s paintings are worked into the striking visual design of the film.

The filmmakers weave key works into the story of “Winter as Frida Kahlo” through a melding of animation and graphic design. *“The Frida paintings are unprecedented, so we wanted to do something that was the cinematic equivalent of standing right there in front of one,”* says Co-director Bramwell Noah. *“We wanted the movie to make you feel what it must have been like to see a Frida painting for the very first time.”*

Finding the right media artist for the job took almost as long as casting the role of Frida, but ultimately zeroing in on Filipino multimedia artist Janina Buenaseda.

Buenaseda’s lifelong passion for Frida Kahlo’s work made her the ideal choice. *“I don’t remember a time when Frida wasn’t there. Her work always moved me,”* Buenaseda reflects. *“But I was lucky to have had the chance to study her work more closely during my time as a multimedia arts student in college in Art History class. The opportunity to work on her paintings on film is beyond even the stuff of dreams.”*

For Buenaseda, the painting “Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair” resonates most deeply. It reflects Frida’s declaration of self-reliance and independence in a way she finds incredibly inspiring as a woman.

Tasked with bringing Frida’s art to cinematic life, Buenaseda says the biggest challenge was trusting herself. *“I collaborated very closely with the directors and they are as uncompromising and passionate about Frida as I am. The media element was the easy part. The hard part was making sure the finished product was in the spirit of Frida.”*

Still, Buenaseda used her ability to reflect the meaning of each painting in the most effective and memorable ways for the screen. *“Right from the start, Janina never once slipped into showing off her technique. It was like she was orchestrating your favorite song,”* says co-director Dan Noah.

With an endearing perspective on Frida Kahlo’s art and life on the screen, bolstered by powerhouse performances, “Winter as Frida Kahlo” provides an unforgettable cinematic experience.

As Buenaseda herself puts it, when reflecting on the inspiration for the bold approach to the use of paintings in the story, *“My favorite Frida fact in the whole world sums up just how much of an effortless rule breaker Frida was. She was born in 1907. But she always claimed 1910 as her birth year to bring it in line with the start of the Mexican revolution. Not even birthdays were sacred!”*

Published by: Martin De Juan

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“Winter as Frida Kahlo” Paints an Unforgettable Portrait of Love, Betrayal, and Artistic Passion

WRITTEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAE CORNES × MAY 7, 2024 ×



Cheyenne Rae Hernandez as the iconic Frida Kahlo

In the annals of art history, few figures loom as large as Frida Kahlo. Her paintings, raw and unflinching, capture the essence of love, betrayal, and the indomitable human spirit. Now, a powerful new film will bring Kahlo's extraordinary life to the big screen in a way that has never been seen before.

“Winter as Frida Kahlo,” directed by the visionary Noah Bros, is a breathtakingly bold take on the artist's life, diving deep into the love, betrayal, and resilience that defined her.

This unforgettable cinematic experience is expected to premiere on the international film festival circuit in late 2024.

A Dual Role for a Complex Relationship

At the heart of “Winter as Frida Kahlo” is the relationship between Frida Kahlo and her younger sister Cristina, with both sisters played in a tour-de-force dual role by rising star Cheyenne Rae Hernandez.

Born and raised in El Paso to Mexican parents, Hernandez brings authenticity and depth to the characters, which is both captivating and heartbreaking.

Co-directors Dan and Bramwell Noah found it crucial to have one actress play both sisters. “It was never going to be easy until it was,” Dan Noah says. “Cheyenne read the script and simply became Frida. And then, when you weren't looking, she transformed into Cristina, too.”



Hernandez takes on a dual role in “Winter as Frida Kahlo”

The dual role lets the film explore the complex dynamics between the sisters in a completely unique way. While Cristina was Frida's closest confidant, she also engaged in an affair with Frida's husband, Diego Rivera, a betrayal that left deep scars on the artist's psyche.

Meanwhile, Simon Palomares delivers a striking portrayal of Diego Rivera, a man who is, by turns, childish, manipulative, hilarious, and egotistical, but above all, a man we can understand as the great love of Frida Kahlo's life.

Painting a Life in Vivid Color

Visually, “Winter as Frida Kahlo” promises to be a feast for the eyes by drawing heavily from Kahlo's own artwork.

Costume designer Terry Tubbs set out to create a world that feels like a painting coming to life without leaving the very human story out of the picture.

“I didn't want to just copy the Frida look. It was important to exemplify the person she was behind the headlines and do justice to Frida's incredible legacy,” says Tubbs. “Every frame of the film is infused with the colors, textures, and symbols that made her work so powerful and enduring.”

The result is a film that doesn't just tell Kahlo's story but immerses the audience in her world. Yunfan Zhang's art direction brilliantly brings alive everything from the vibrant streets of Mexico City to the lush gardens of her beloved Casa Azul. “Winter as Frida Kahlo” is a sensory journey that captures the essence of the artist's life and work.

A Hollywood Touch with an Enigmatic Role

Adding to the film's star power is Daniel Schepisi (nephew of legendary director Fred Schepisi) in the enigmatic role of “The Bostonian.” Schepisi is extraordinary as a haunting spiritual guide to Frida, a mysterious figure who appears at key moments in her life to offer wisdom and perspective.

“The story is unbelievably moving, but it also had me seriously laughing out loud,” says Schepisi. “The Frida you think you know is all there. In fact, she grabs you by the throat. You just can't look away.”



Daniel Schepisi as “The Bostonian”

As “Winter as Frida Kahlo” prepares to debut on the film festival circuit, anticipation is building for what is set to be a landmark film. In a time when biopics of everyone from rock stars to royalty are all the rage, it feels fitting that the artist who pioneered the art of self-representation should finally get the cinematic treatment she deserves.

With its daring vision, stunning visuals, and powerhouse performances, “Winter as Frida Kahlo” is poised to be a film that will provoke exciting discussions for years to come.

Explore the film's [official website](#) for a more intimate look at Kahlo's iconic story brought to life.

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Cheyenne Rae Hernandez and Daniel Schepisi Stun in Powerful New Biopic "Winter as Frida Kahlo"

Plentisoff - TGAM - [Plentisoff](#) - Mon May 13, 9:24AM CDT

In a remarkable retelling that brings the tumultuous life of Frida Kahlo to the silver screen, Cheyenne Rae Hernandez, Simon Palomares, and Daniel Schepisi deliver unforgettable performances in the new biopic "Winter as Frida Kahlo."

Melbourne, Australia - May 13, 2024 —



"Winter as Frida Kahlo," directed by the Noah Bros.

In a remarkable retelling that brings the tumultuous life of Frida Kahlo to the silver screen, Cheyenne Rae Hernandez, Simon Palomares, and Daniel Schepisi deliver unforgettable performances in the new biopic "Winter as Frida Kahlo."

Directed by the acclaimed Noah brothers, "Winter as Frida Kahlo" dives into the complex interplay of love, art, and betrayal that marked the Mexican artist's life and is now set to explode onto the international film festival circuit.

Set against the backdrop of 1935, the film opens with a poignant scene at Frida Kahlo's funeral, revisiting the profound impacts of her relationships on her art and personal life. Cheyenne Rae Hernandez stars in a dual role, portraying both Frida Kahlo and her sister Cristina, whose affair with Kahlo's husband, Diego Rivera, adds layers of complexity to the narrative. Her performance is guaranteed to turn heads wherever the film is shown.

Simon Palomares makes his presence felt in the role of Diego, who is always larger than life. A fresh perspective to the story is also provided by Daniel Schepisi as "The Bostonian", a character that will keep audiences guessing as he intertwines the historical with the spiritual in a performance that underlines his brilliant versatility as an actor.

The film's rich visual and auditory experience is brought to life by an award-winning team. Nino Cotone's haunting score and Janina Buenaseda's extraordinary visual effects stamp the film with a biographical depth not seen in the genre before.

"This film is not just a recount of Frida's life but a reimagining of her emotional world," said Bramwell Noah, the film's writer and co-director. "We set out to capture the essence of her pain and passion, what made Frida the Frida who continues to stare down the world today as she did her own."

The year 2024 has seen a resurgence in the popularity of biopics, with "Winter as Frida Kahlo" setting itself apart through its innovative narrative structure and emotional depth. The film's release comes when audiences are increasingly drawn to stories with historical context and personal resonance.

The film also explores Kahlo's profound connection to her Mexican heritage, which influenced her vibrant, often surreal artistic style. These elements are woven into the storyline and art design, providing a fuller picture of Kahlo as an artist and a person.

"Every scene is crafted to reflect Frida's internal and external worlds, which were as colourful as they were dark," added Bramwell Noah.

As "Winter as Frida Kahlo" prepares to hit the screens, it promises to ignite discussions about artistic expression, identity, and resilience. The film pays homage to Frida Kahlo's legacy and introduces her life's story and art to a new generation.

Noah Bros. Movie House

Noah Bros. Movie House is renowned for its innovative approach to filmmaking, blending historical narratives with contemporary insights. The company has received multiple international awards, recognizing its commitment to storytelling that challenges and captivates audiences.

Contact Info:

Name: Bramwell Noah, Director

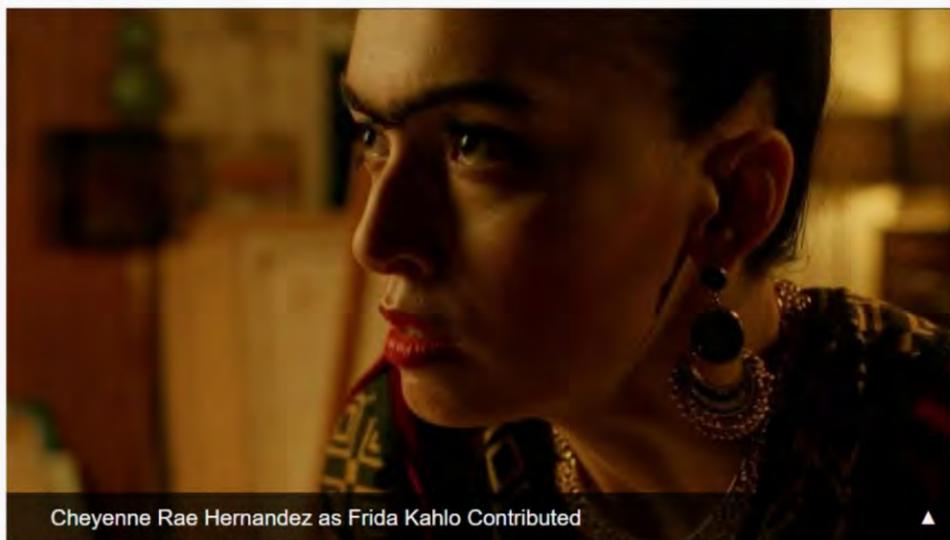
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Organization: Noah Bros. Movie House

Website: <http://winterasfridakahlo.com>

Source: Baden Bower

Hernandez and Palomares a revelation in “Winter as Frida Kahlo”



Cheyenne Rae Hernandez as Frida Kahlo Contributed ▲

Published: June 3, 2024



Summary

Frida Kahlo has been an icon to one generation after another. Her famous features have competed with her paintings for legendary status. Her very life has been an inspiration. Now a riveting new film examines the moment life came close to breaking the most unbreakable artist of them all.

The growing list of famous lives getting the big screen treatment has also showcased some star turns and discoveries. The Oscars have also shone a light on the incredible talents on display. However, it's audiences that have truly soaked up the opportunity to take in the great stories and incredible performances.

“Winter as Frida Kahlo” is another example of an extraordinary life bringing together extraordinary performances. This powerful new biopic, expected to premiere on the international film circuit before the end of the year, comes full circle with a storytelling twist that's both bold and brilliant. The same actress, Cheyenne Rae Hernandez, plays Frida and her sister Cristina in the role of a lifetime.

A haunting tale of love, art, and betrayal

This haunting new account of Frida Kahlo's life and times centres around the fateful events surrounding an affair between Frida's younger sister, Cristina, and Frida's renowned muralist husband, Diego Rivera.

Simon Palomares delivers a shockingly spot-on portrayal of Diego, who could easily be the piece's villain but uses his charm and charisma to escape anything. Palomares' comedic background serves him well, as he effortlessly repurposes his impeccable timing to deliver lines with precision.

Like the rest of the outstanding cast, Palomares convincingly embodies what the real Diego might have been like. You can expect to see much more from this fine actor.

Daniel Schepisi completes the ensemble as “the Bostonian,” a character who seems to draw less from history and more from Frida Kahlo's enduring legacy. In the same way that Frida's legacy has influenced and inspired every generation since her own, the character of “the Bostonian” holds up a fantastical mirror in ways best left unspoiled — except to say that these moments are some of the most unbelievably moving in the entire film. Schepisi is incredible and one more actor to watch.

Cheyenne Rae Hernandez: Embodying the essence of Frida and Cristina

However, it's Cheyenne Rae Hernandez's dual roles as Frida and Cristina that everyone will be talking about. Cheyenne's breakthrough came in 2020 with her role as "Gata" in David Ayer's feature "The Tax Collector." There, she held her own in a world of hardened criminals and intense action.

Her appearance in the dual roles of the iconic Frida and undiscovered Cristina in “Winter as Frida Kahlo” may seem like a world away, but similarities remain.

Hernandez laughed as she recalled her lifelong familiarity with Frida, saying, "I'm Mexican! Of course, I know who Frida is!" Hernandez said she felt a deep connection to "The Two Fridas" painting, but it was Frida's words that truly resonated with her. "In a world where I've always felt awkward and out of place, I just feel like she'd get me," Hernandez explained.

Hernandez's Mexican heritage significantly impacted her relationship with Frida. "I am proud of my heritage, just as I know she was proud of hers. We come from a beautiful culture that we love sharing with the world," she said.

"Cheyenne uses intensity the way most actors use their voice," said co-director Bramwell Noah. "She can mine it at will — and can make a single word or an entire scene an exercise in who blinks first," he adds.

Bramwell also noted at the outset, "The thing about someone as iconic as Frida is the proverbial costume comes with the part. But to be believable, you need to create a flesh-and-blood character." Frida Kahlo's universal appeal made playing her a double-edged sword.

At the opposite extreme is the role of Cristina. "Now you suddenly have the challenge of bringing to life a character almost certainly unknown to the audience," said co-director Dan Noah, "And you need to do all that in the same time and place that people have paid the price of entry to see Frida."

One of the genuine revelations about Hernandez's approach to the dual role is how equally invested she was in both characters. "The picture has Frida Kahlo in the title, so sure, you'd think that's probably where Cheyenne was going to reach down deepest," said Bramwell. "She found something in both, and she almost set out to have them outplay each other, if that's the right word for it."

A cinematic portrait of an iconic artist

"Winter as Frida Kahlo" promises to be a captivating exploration of Frida Kahlo's life, with Hernandez's dual performance at its heart. As Hernandez herself expressed, "I hope that every person that watches the film will take something different away from it... I hope they can see themselves in this film and feel understood, even for just a moment."

Through its stellar cast, insightful direction, and storytelling, this biopic aims to paint a vivid and intimate portrait of one of the 20th century's most iconic and influential artists. Diving into the complexities of Frida Kahlo's relationships, artistry, and inner world, “Winter as Frida Kahlo” invites audiences to experience her life and legacy in a fresh and compelling way.

View on www.thestar.com



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