



**The 29th San Francisco International
Film Festival**
March 19-30, 1986

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, Opera Plaza Cinemas,
Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley and other locations.



Frida

(*Frida: Naturreza Viva*)

Mexico, 1985, 107 mins.

In Spanish with English subtitles

André Breton called her "a bomb disguised as a butterfly." Frida Kahlo is one of Mexico's greatest painters, and surely one of the great women painters of all time. Married to Diego Rivera, an intimate of Trotsky-in-exile, Kahlo was a participant in Mexico's most committed and passionate period of cultural and political expression. The victim of a childhood spinal injury and countless operations, Kahlo translated to her canvases an interior world of constant physical pain and emotional anguish. Echoing the style of the muralists Kahlo knew so well, director Paul Leduc has created in *Frida* a mosaic-like portrait in which past and present, memories and dream images, the personal and the political combine to evoke the life of one of the most courageous artists of our time. As Frida Kahlo, Ofelia Medina brings an astounding physical resemblance to her role as well as consummate acting skills.

—Tom Luddy

Directed by Paul Leduc. Produced by Manuel Barbachano. Written by Alejandro Luna. Photo: Angel Gódel. Cast: Ofelia Medina, Juan José Guerrero, Salvador Sánchez. Production Co.: Cines Films Mundiales, Mexico City. Print Source: Azteca Films, L.A.



A Great Wall

U.S., 1985, 102 mins.

In English and Mandarin with English subtitles

The title takes its lead from Richard Nixon's famous one-liner on his first visit to China's most familiar landmark, "The great wall is a great wall." This is a clue to the wit and wry humor of this charming and utterly disarming first feature by Chinese-American director Peter Wang. Essentially a co-production between Chinese and American filmmakers, *A Great Wall* observes the reunion of a Chinese-American family from San Francisco with their relatives in Beijing after a 30-year separation. Sharply noting the comical aspects of cross-generational as well as cross-cultural conflicts, this charming film is especially revealing in its sequences dealing with the interplay of Chinese youths enamored with Western Culture and Americans looking for the traditional China. Well-paced and well-photographed, *A Great Wall* is more than a comedy in its observations on eternal human concerns.

—Tilloride Festival

A Great Wall marks Peter Wang's debut as a dramatic feature film director. A founding member of the Asian Living Theatre in San Francisco, his film roles have included Wayne Wang's *Chan Is Missing* and Allan Fong's *Ab Ying* (SFIFF 1984).

Directed by Peter Wang. Produced by Shirley Sun. Exec Prods.: Wu Yangchuan, Zhen Yujun, E.N. Wen. Written by Peter Wang, Shirley Sun. Photo: Peter Stein, Robert Primes. Music: David Liang, Ge Gao. Cast: Peter Wang, Sharon Inui, Kelvin Han Lee. Production Co.: W&S. Print Source: Orion Classics, NY.



Gwen

(*Gwen, le livre de sable*)

France, 1985, 67 mins.

In French with English subtitles

The richly detailed animation of this Annecy Grand Prize winner is very much in the tradition of Laguionie's mentor, Paul Grimault whose masterpiece, *The King and Mr. Bird*, thrilled viewers at our 1984 Festival.

Gwen takes place in some unspecified,



desolate future. Nomadic tribes have created their myths, but the young Gwen comes to challenge these, and to lead the aged Roseline on a pilgrimage across the dunes to examine the "City of the Dead" more closely. Elliptical, elusive, hard to pin down, *Gwen* is nevertheless utterly ravishing to the eye.

—Clare Kitson, LFF

Directed by Jean-François Laguionie. Animation: Claude Loret, Hervé Heidrich, Francine Léger, Claude Rocher, Nicole Dufour. Production Co.: Les Films de la Democelle/Les Films A2 in association with the Ministry of Culture. Print Source: Gaiumont, Paris.

L P R O G R A M

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

1:00	OP2	TBA
1:30	OP1	The Blind Director
4:00	OP2	Pigs
4:30	OP1	Dust
5:30	ARC	Nuts in May (See pg. 4)
7:00	PAL	Zina
7:00	OP2	Unfinished Business
7:30	OP1	Empty Quarter
7:30	ARC	Meantime (See pg. 4)
9:00	PAL	Alpine Fire
9:00	OP2	Fran
9:25	ARC	Grown Ups (See pg. 4)
9:30	OP1	Tupac Amaru

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

1:00	OP2	Unfinished Business
1:30	OP1	Empty Quarter
3:00	OP2	Fran
3:30	OP1	Tupac Amaru
7:00	PAL	Babel Opera
7:00	OP1	For Kayako
7:00	ARC	Half Life
7:15	OP2	Herschel and the Music of the Stars
9:00	PAL	Salvador
9:15	OP1	TBA
9:15	ARC	Shanghai Blues
9:30	OP2	Zbigniew Rybczynski: Animation and Music Videos

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

1:00	OP2	Zbigniew Rybczynski: Animation and Music Videos
1:30	OP1	For Kayako
3:00	OP2	Golden Gate Winners/TBA
3:30	OP1	TBA
6:00	ARC	Blue Mountains
6:30	PAL	Something Like Yoshiwara
6:30	YRK	The Tables Turned
7:00	OP2	Golden Gate Winners/TBA
7:30	OP1	TBA
8:00	ARC	Voyage to Cythera
8:30	PAL	Beauty and the Beast
8:30	YRK	Frida
9:15	OP2	Top Golden Gate Award Winners
9:30	OP1	Improper Conduct (See pg. 2)
10:15		Party at Galeria de la Raza for Paul Le Duc's 'Frida' (See pg. 28)

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

9:00am	OP1	SEMINAR: IFF's "How We Did It" (See pg. 27)
12:00pm	OP2	Seven Minutes in Heaven (See pg. 27)
1:00pm	WOR	TBA
1:30pm	OP1	SEMINAR: IFF's "Distrib. & Marketing" (See pg. 27)
7:00	WOR	Vagabonde
7:00	ARC	The Blind Director
7:30	PAL	She's Gotta Have It
9:30	WOR	No Surrender
9:35	ARC	Tangos: Exile of Gardel
10:00	PAL	The City and the Dogs

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

10:00am	OP1	SEMINAR: Chinese Films/Western Audiences (See pg. 27)
1:00pm	PAL	"An Afternoon with Agnes Varda" (See pg. 2)
2:00	WOR	Hong Kong 1941
3:30	ARC	Gwen
4:00	WOR	Taipei Story
4:30	PAL	The Women of Summer & All American High
7:00	PAL	Turtle Diary
7:00	ARC	Frida
7:30	WOR	Portuguese Farewell
9:30	PAL	Tangos: Exile of Gardel
9:30	ARC	City and the Dogs
9:45	WOR	My Beautiful Laundrette
12:00	CLAY	SNEAK PREVIEW—World Premiere of a new concert film directed by and starring a major music artist.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

1:00	CAS	Blackmail and Col. Blimp (See pg. 3)
1:00	PAL	A Summer at Grandpa's
2:00	WOR	Belizaire the Cajun
4:00	PAL	"Jazz By The Bay"
4:30	WOR	Letter to Brezhnev
7:00	PAL	A Great Wall
7:00	WOR	TBA
7:00	ARC	Babel Opera
8:50	ARC	Zina
9:00	WOR	TBA
9:30	PAL	Absolute Beginners