

VARIETY

Latino Fest Offers Belated Screenings Of Mexican 'Frida'

By PAUL LENTI

Chicago — The final chapter was closed on the 1987 edition of the Chicago Latino Film Festival (held in June) with the belated Aug. 19 unspooling of an English-lingo subtitled version of the Mexican film "Frida," with two benefit screenings attended by director Paul Leduc. The 1984 film is an a biographical reflection on the life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

The special screenings, at the remodeled movie palace Music Box, were the result of an earlier mixup, when the print delivered during the festival was sans English subtitles. Even so, the Spanish-only festival showings were sold out and boasted the appearances of pic's star Ofelia Medina and actors Max Kerlow, who plays Leon Trotsky, and Zuita Kerlow, as Trotsky's wife.

New Yorker Films, which picked up the pic for U.S. release, offered the film free for advance showings as a gesture of good will. Movie is slated to begin its commercial re-

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'Frida' Screenings

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lease Sept. 4 at Chicago's Fosters Multimedia.

Colombian-born fest director Pepe Vargas took advantage of the occasion to invite helmer Leduc and his daughter Valentina, who plays the role of Frida as a child in the film, to introduce the pic and answer questions. Vargas noted the benefit netted over \$1,000 for the festival after expenses.

"The reaction to the film has proved very positive here," Leduc said, adding he is pleased the pic has been picked up for general distribution in the U.S.

New Foundation

Leduc, who resides in Mexico City, has been spending a lot of time this year in Havana working with the New Latin American Cinema Foundation, begun in 1986 and headed by Nobel Prize-winner Gabriel García Márquez.

Foundation is encouraging new Latino film projects besides running the Cuba-based Three Worlds Film and TV School. Leduc also has offered classes at the school.

He also is developing several new film projects and hopes the first, with Mexican producer Manuel Barbachano Ponce, will begin in early '88.

Second project may be a musical based on Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier's story "Concierto Barroco" (Baroque Concert) and entitled "De Donde Son los Cantantes?" (Where Are The Singers From?). The musical is to be a Cuban (Icaic)-Spanish (TVE) coprod, lensed as a 3-hour tv special and later reedited