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Subject: Frida

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 24 May 2004 08:01:11 GMT

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I watched the movie "Frida" yesterday, and I enjoyed it on several levels. I picked it up on the suggestion of a friend, and at first thought it would be kind of a "chick flick." It was. But it was interesting, emotional and beautiful. Lots of colors and visuals, emotions, sexuality and passion. It's the kind of chick flick that guys dig too. After watching the movie, I was intrigued both with the movie's subject Frida Kahlo and with Salma Hayek, the actress who portrayed her and who championed the making of the film. Both are very interesting personalities, and beautiful women too. Ironically, some critics have said that the movie somehow trivialized Frida Kahlo's work and ideals and that it focused too much into her personal and sexual life. But I felt that it did just the right thing, giving you a sense of who she was by imparting a feeling, which is surely the driving force behind an artist. It serves to make you want to learn more, and in doing so, makes best use of the film's two hours to paint a picture of a life. It certainly made me want more, and I think that says a lot about the film. Salma Hayek won't turn this into a spoiler for those of you that haven't seen the movie. But I will tell you a few things that I thought were interesting. Apparently, Salma Hayek spent seven years championing the idea of this film before it was made. This is her film as much as anyone's. The film was as controversial as it's subject, and created quite a buzz in Hollywood. Madonna and Jennifer Lopez were said to have had an interest in making this film, but Hayek's involvement does seem much more natural. She even has an uncanny resemblance to Frida, which makes the film even more involving. Probably the most compelling thing is that Frida is portrayed as being so interesting and with such passion and warmth, that even if your views are completely opposed to hers, you can't help but love her and all the people around her. You are presented with a bisexual, communist feminist so beautiful and compelling that Nixon would have adored her and stayed to watch the whole film, surely wanting to see it again.

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Subject: Re: Frida

Posted by [Joe Keeton](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2004 06:18:09 GMT

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Right on Wayne - I can't remember if I suggested you see it - but what an amazing film. I too, thought it was going to be a total chick flick but was pleasantly surprised. The film was such an open portrayal of life's pain and trials - wasn't the end quote by Frida so potent and refreshingly honest? I particularly enjoyed and appreciated the non-judgmental depiction of her sexuality and addictions. It was real, which like you said, was a definite reflection of Salma and her artistic vision - something that only made her only that much more beautiful. Also, the cinematography was brilliant - taking her true to life paintings and transposing them into the film - almost animating them but with a tad of still life art - intriguing to say the least

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Subject: Re: Frida

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2004 15:14:00 GMT

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Hi Joe,I did pick up this movie on your suggestion. I had seen it for months in the rental stores and never picked it up. But when you told me about it, I thought I'd give it a try. After watching it, I found myself wanting to find out more about Frida Kahlo and her art, and also about Salma Hayek and the history of making the film. I think that is telling, when a film makes you want more.Wayne

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Subject: Re: Frida

Posted by [Joe Keeton](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2004 16:49:41 GMT

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Thought you might enjoy this quote from Frida - "I drank to drown my pain, but the damned pain learned how to swim, and now I am overwhelmed by this decent and good behavior." and just before she died, "I hope the leaving is joyful and I hope never to return". Another interesting fact, when mourners gathered to watch her cremation, Frida gave her fans one last frightening goodbye. As the cries of her admirers filled the room, the sudden blast of heat from the open incinerator doors blew her body bolt upright. Her hair, now on fire from the flames, blazed around her head like a halo. Frida's lips appeared to break into a seductive grin just as the doors closed shut.And on that note...

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Subject: Re: Frida

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2004 17:36:31 GMT

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I remember those quotes. I loved the one about the pain learning to swim. Funny and pointed. But I didn't like the one about leaving being joyful. It made me sad, and I always hope for a better way. I know her story was tragic as well as heroic and beautiful. But I prefer to focus on the latter, better parts.I also read the description of her public cremation. Creepy but cool.Speaking of death rituals, I think you already know this but maybe not. Did you know that the Zoroastrians place their dead in the open? They do not want the dead body to corrupt the earth or fire, so they expose it instead. Birds and animals eat the flesh.Sounds freaky but it kinda makes sense if you think about it. Millions of people packed full of formaldehyde and planted can't be good. Feed Old Yeller instead.

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