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Día de los Muertos Celebrations Mark Last Two Weekends of *FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life* Exhibition at NYBG

October 24 & 25 and October 31 & November 1



The Día de los Muertos *ofrenda* in *FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life*.

Bronx, NY—For the two closing weekends of the blockbuster exhibition *FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life*, The New York Botanical Garden will be honoring the tradition of Día de los Muertos on Saturdays and Sundays, October 24 & 25 and October 31 & November 1. Visitors can view a Día de los Muertos *ofrenda*, or altar, for Frida Kahlo in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory portion of the exhibition; join a procession with larger-than-life skeletons, traditional stiltwalkers, butterflies, and La Catrina characters created by Lucrecia Novoa, and enjoy music and dance performances, including sets by Musical Artists in Residence The Villalobos Brothers.

Día de los Muertos *Ofrenda* in *FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life* Exhibition

In recognition of Día de los Muertos, the traditional Mexican celebration day honoring the departed, NYBG is creating an *ofrenda* that pays homage to Frida Kahlo for the last two weekends of the exhibition. Artist Andrea Arroyo will create the altar on the scale version of the pyramid designed by muralist Diego Rivera that still stands in the garden at the Casa Azul today. This altar will include objects associated with traditional celebrations of this important Mexican holiday, including images of Kahlo herself, and items she loved, such as marigolds and coxcomb, traditional flowers associated with the celebration, as well as some of Kahlo's favorite food items, sugar skulls, and other traditional mementos. This installation was developed in partnership with Celebrate México Now, a citywide festival of contemporary Mexican art and culture produced by CN Management.

www.mexiconowfestival.org

The following weekend programming will take place during Día de los Muertos weekends:

Live Music and Dance

Calpulli Danza Mexicana and Jarana Beat will perform the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 24 & 25. Calpulli Danza Mexicana will bring its colorful and inviting performance to the Conservatory Plaza at 12, 2, & 4 p.m. Featuring glorious costumes, contagious rhythms, and talented performers, Calpulli expands its audience's knowledge and appreciation of Mexican dance and culture. Jarana Beat will perform on the Conservatory Lawn at 1 & 3 p.m. Jarana Beat is a world music band that incorporates dance and activism. With Afro-Amerindian Mexican sounds, it offers a new interpretation that blends the origins of Mexican music with contemporary elements. The percussive footwork of dancers, the rhythms of world music blending with the regional sounds of son jarocho, son guerrerense, son huasteco, mexika, and norteña, all converge to express the unique music of the various band members' homelands.

On October 31 & November 1, Musical Artists in Residence The Villalobos Brothers will be performing with Los Chinelos at 1 & 3 p.m. A trio of virtuoso violinists, the Villalobos Brothers are renowned for blending the indigenous rhythms and melodies of their native Veracruz with the intricate harmonies of jazz and classical music. After a robust summer of sold out performances at the Garden, their final showcase at the Garden should not be missed. Accompanying The Villalobos Brothers will be Los Chinelos, a kind of traditional costumed dancer popular in many parts of Mexico. The tradition arose from the blending of indigenous and Catholic traditions, most notable Carnival, with its permission to be masked and to mock others. Chinelos satirize Europeans and European mannerisms from the colonial period up to the end of the 19th century and perform during special holidays and celebrations.

Procession with Skeletons, Monarch Butterflies, La Catrina Puppets, and Traditional Stilt Walkers

Bronx artist Lucrecia Novoa will showcase her giant papier-mache skeletons and La Catrina puppets, specially-made for the Botanical Garden, as they roam throughout the Garden and interact with visitors from 12–4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday.

Transdisciplinary artist Laura Anderson Barbata collaborates with Los Zancudos de Zaachila in stilt walking performances on October 31 & November 1 from 1–4 p.m. Los Zancudos de Zaachila, a Bridgeport-based group of Mexican stilt-dancers carries on the century-old tradition of their native Zaachila, Oaxaca. Their performance at the Garden is presented by Mexican-born Laura Anderson Barbata, a New York artist who has spent 15 years working with stilt walking communities in Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, and Brooklyn, N.Y. Join them in a procession from the Conservatory Plaza at 2:45 p.m. each day.

Mask-Making Workshops and Face Painting

Visitors will decorate their own traditional Mexican fiesta mask or make some Frida flair to wear in celebration of Día de los Muertos. From 11 a.m.–3 p.m. in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden

each Saturday and Sunday. Face painting will be available by Face Art by Melissa in the Perennial Garden each Saturday and Sunday from 1–5 p.m.

¡Cámara, Acción! Mexican Film Series

Presented in partnership with Cinema Tropical, this film series screens at 3 p.m. in Ross Hall.

Saturdays, October 24 & 31

Frida (R, 123 min.)

The Academy Award-winning film *Frida*, directed by Julie Taymor stars Salma Hayek.

Please note that *Frida* is rated R. Under 17 requires, accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Sunday, October 25

Güeros (Alonso Ruizpalacios, Mexico, 2014, 102 min.)

This “wry, visually audacious film” (Filmmaker Magazine) is set in 1999, when a year-long university strike both engaged and set adrift thousands of students in Mexico City. Left to their own devices, Sombra (Tenoch Huerta) and Santos (Leonardo Ortizgris) begin to look for strange ways to kill time. The unexpected arrival of Tomás (Sebastián Aguirre), Sombra’s kid brother, pushes the trio into a road trip in search of Epigmenio Cruz, a Mexican folk-rock hero who “made Bob Dylan cry.” Join them on their trip through Mexico City.

Sunday, November 1

Tercera Llamada / Last Call (Francisco Franco, Mexico, 2013, 92 min.)

In this comedic ensemble piece, a Mexican theater company is in rehearsals for a production of *Caligula* by Albert Camus. Things aren’t going well: the lead actress is furious with the neurotic and depressed director, the lead actor is having panic attacks, and an older actor can’t memorize his lines. It’s going to take a miracle for this play to open... Winner of multiple prizes—including the audience award—at the Guadalajara International Film Festival, *Last Call* is the kind of characterdriven comedy that recalls the early films of Almodóvar.

Pumpkin Carving Weekend with Ray Villafane

On Saturday and Sunday, October 24 & 25, watch Master Carver Ray Villafane transform giant and unusual pumpkins into a Día de los Muertos tableau. Enjoy daily Q&A sessions with his team of additional carvers.

The Garden has extended hours until 8 p.m. on Saturdays, October 24 & 31.

For more information about Día de los Muertos at NYBG, visit www.nybg.org.

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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the All-Garden Pass, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx

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