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Dramatic Publishing

FRIDA LIBRE



Musical

**Book and Lyrics by
Karen Zacarías**

**Music by
Deborah Wicks La Puma**

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Commissioned and toured by
La Jolla Playhouse.



FRIDA LIBRE

Musical. Book and lyrics by Karen Zacarías. Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. Cast: 2m., 2w., extras as desired. Alex may seem like a quiet, shy boy, but he secretly holds big ideas inside his head. He wants to be a *luchador* (wrestler) and defeat bad guys in the ring. His life changes when he meets brave and colorful Frida, an unusual girl who dreams of being a doctor so she can help people. Forced to do a science project together on butterflies and metamorphosis, the pair discovers how true friendship can help you overcome fear and transform your dreams into reality. Inspired by the childhood of legendary Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, *Frida Libre* is an uplifting story full of physical acting (actors become trees, trains and sinks) featuring delightful songs that explore the meaning of friendship, bravery and transformation. *Flexible staging. Optional accompaniment CD available. Approximate running time: 50 minutes. Code: FE7.*

Cover: La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, Calif., production
featuring (l-r) Steve Limones and Camden Gonzalez.
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Frida Libre

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KAREN ZACARÍAS

Music by
DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA



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Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

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The Graham Agency
311 W. 43rd St., Suite 1103
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Frida Libre premiered at La Jolla Playhouse in California. The production was featured in the La Jolla POP Tour from January to April 2011.

CAST

Frida Camden Gonzales
Alex Steve Limones
Actor 1 (Maestro/Super Luchador/Ensemble)..... Steven Lone
Actor 2 (Frida Libre/Ensemble)..... Rae Kelsey Henderson

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director..... Rosemary Newcott
Artistic Director..... Christopher Ashley
Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg
Scenic Design Ian Wallace
Costume Design Thomas Charles LeGalley
Dramaturg..... Shirley Fishman
Movement Consultant Anjanette Maraya-Ramey
Technical Director..... Chris Kennedy
Scenic Change Sarah Arakaki
Property Master Ryan Lewis
Costume Supervisor Ingrid Helton
Stage Manager..... Hannah Ryan
Los Angeles Casting..... Michael Donovan
Local Casting..... Marike Fitzgerald
Production Assistant..... Jerusha Liu
Youth Advisor Noah Wilson
Production Manager Sara Danford
Project Director & Producer..... Stephen McCormick

Frida Libre

CHARACTERS

(Cast: 2m., 2w., extras as desired.)

ALEX: a shy, quiet boy with lots of imagination.

FRIDA: a colorful girl with lots of imagination.

MAESTRO: the teacher.

SUPER LUCHADOR: a wrestler, Alex's imaginary self.

FRIDA LIBRE: resembles the Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo. She is Frida's imaginary self.

ACTORS: at least one male and one female who move the play along by morphing and transforming into various roles, objects and set pieces. They also become MAESTRO, SUPER LUCHADOR and FRIDA LIBRE.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Details are provided at the end of the script for properties.

SETTING

The play transforms into various settings of Mexico City:

A doctor's office.

A very important mathematics and science school.

A street setting with a sidewalk, a trolley and a tree.

La Casa Azul: a blue house or doorway.

An outside area, a jungle.

A wrestling ring.

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Frida Libre

(#1: “Paint Me a Picture”)

AT RISE: *ALEX* walks in through the doorway and *ACTORS* hand him a white doctor’s coat and a stethoscope.

ALEX (as an adult). Good morning. My name is Alejandro Gomez ... and I am a doctor. I am here to do a little check up on all of you. Don’t worry; this won’t hurt ... too much. First, I have some questions for you.

(*Maybe the ACTORS take notes on clipboard charts.*)

ALEX (cont’d).

LAST NIGHT,
DID ANY OF YOU DREAM
WHEN YOU WERE ASLEEP?
LAST NIGHT,
PERHAPS A DREAM THAT FADED
OR ONE YOU STILL KEEP?
LET’S SEE!

If you did, can you raise your hand? Good. Now—
TODAY,
DID ANY OF YOU DREAM
WHILE YOU WERE AWAKE?
DURING THE DAY?
PERHAPS YOU HAVE A DAYDREAM
YOU CAN’T SHAKE?
I SEE.

When I was a kid, I was very quiet and shy at school.
Raise your hand if you are shy! Well, I was so quiet and

so shy that I never ever raised my hand. But I'd get in trouble anyway because I daydreamed all the time. Do any of you do that? Aren't those daydreams hard to describe in words sometimes?

(Perhaps the ACTORS start to draw.)

ALEX *(cont'd)*.

IT'S VERY INTERESTING.
PAINT ME A PICTURE
DO YOU TOUCH THE STARS?
DREAM GIANT CHOC'LATE BARS?
AND STRAWBERRY JAM JARS?
I DO.
I DO!

I really like chocolate. Do any of you like chocolate?

Hmmm ...

AND NOW
DO ANY OF YOU DREAM
ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE GROWN?
SOMEHOW
CAN YOU IMAGINE LIFE
WHEN YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR OWN?
YOU SEE
IT'S VERY INTERESTING.
PAINT ME A PICTURE.
ARE YOU SUPER STRONG?
A MASTER OF PING-PONG?
DO YOU WRESTLE TIGERS,
SING OP'RAS OF LOVE?
WHAT DO YOU DREAM OF?

DO YOU DREAM OF PIGS
OR DRAGONS OR MAGICAL KITES?
MOUNTAINS OF BOOKS

OR OF ROCKETS IN FLIGHT?
DO YOU DREAM OF AN INT'RESTING LIFE
WHERE THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO?
REALLY?
ME TOO!

That is fascinating. You are a special group. I can see that.
BEFORE I MAKE MY DIAGNOSIS,
CAN YOU ALL STICK OUT YOUR TONGUES AND
GO AHHH?

Ah, I see. That explains so, so much.
MY DIAGNOSIS!
ACTIVE DREAMERS HERE!

SOME DAY
WITH ALL OF THOSE DREAMS
INSIDE OF YOU
SOME WAY
WHAT WILL YOU DO
TO MAKE THEM COME TRUE?
I SAY!
YOU'RE VERY INTERESTING!
PAINT ME A PICTURE
OF YOUR PREOCCUPATIONS,
YOUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE,
TOMORROW TODAY,
THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG WAY
TO ANSWER

JUST PAINT ME A PICTURE OF YOU.

ACTORS.

HOW CAN YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE?

ALEX.

PAINT ME A PICTURE OF YOU.

ACTORS.

HOW WILL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE?

ALEX.

PAINT ME A PICTURE.

How many of you think your dreams can come true?
Wow! That's interesting. I will tell you ... dreams can come true in very wonderful and unexpected ways—especially when you share them with another person. What I am about to tell you is kind of a really true story. It really happened to me, many years ago ...

(#1a: “Picture Transition”)

(ACTORS remove ALEX's doctor coat and hand him something a kid would wear. ALEX transforms into a kid.)

ACTORS.

PAINT ME A PICTURE

ALEX. My name is Alex. I am a boy growing up in Mexico City. I go to a very important math and science school but I have a hard time paying attention. I worry about lots of things and I get scared. I daydream about being somebody who spits on fear and laughs at danger. A wrestler! *(Does a big wrestler stance and voice.)* Super Luchador! *(Deflates.)* One day, a strange girl with braids and a long skirt limps into my class ... This girl is colorful. This girl is loud. This girl is not shy.

(#2: “Arriba Frida”)

ALEX (*cont'd*). This girl's name is Frida.

(ACTORS reveal FRIDA, maybe like a magic trick from under a red cloth [echo of the jar moment], open a door or a curtain.)

FRIDA.

ARRIBA, FRIDA!
I CAN DO IT.
I'LL PUT ONE FOOT
BEFORE THE OTHER.

ARRIBA, FRIDA!
NOTHING TO IT.
I'LL WORK HARD
UNTIL THEY DISCOVER
THAT EVEN IF SOME CAN REST,
I ALWAYS DO MY BEST.
I CAN CLIMB HIGH AS THE SKY!
'CAUSE IN THERE MY DREAMS BEGIN,
AND I'LL FIGHT UNTIL I WIN.
SOMEDAY I'LL SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES!

ARRIBA, FRIDA!
DON'T LOOK BACK NOW.
WATCH AS I CONQUER THE WORLD.
ARRIBA, FRIDA!
ALMOST THERE NOW.
I CAN BE BRAVER,
AND BOLDER,
AND STRONGER!
I WILL NOT WAVER,
JUST ONE MOMENT LONGER

AND I'M
HERE!

Hola!

(#2a: “Maestro’s Entrance”)

(ACTOR morphs into MAESTRO, maybe with a mustache and flair. He is tall and imposing ... maybe even on a rolling ladder.)

MAESTRO. You will call me: Maestro.

ALEX *(to audience)*. My teacher. Scary. I try to do everything so Maestro won't notice me. I sit as far away as I can.

(ALEX takes a small chair and puts it as far away as she can. FRIDA puts out her hand. MAESTRO looks at it and ignores it.)

FRIDA. Hola, Maestro.

MAESTRO. So class, we have a new pupil. As you can see, she is the first girl admitted to this school ... Bienvenida ... What is your name?

FRIDA. Mi nombre es Frida, Maestro.

MAESTRO. Your name is Fritos?

FRIDA. Fri-da.

MAESTRO. A yes, Fritos. As the only girl in class, you might feel lost and confused and scared.

FRIDA. No. I'm not scared. Of anything. Nada. Ever ... Maestro.

MAESTRO. Qué—qué?

ALEX. Oh-oh. I can see Maestro does not like that response.

MAESTRO. Fritos, you are not scared? Of anything?
Well—

(#2b: “Daydream”)

MAESTRO (*cont’d, slow motion*). Blah blah blah blah blah
blah.

ALEX. She’s not scared of anything? Just like ... just like ...
(*Starts to daydream. Stands on his chair and flexes his
muscles. In a wrestler voice and stance.*) SUPER LU-

CHADOR. I spit on fear. I laugh at danger. Nothing
scares Super Luchador. I save lives!

MAESTRO (*screams*). Alex!

ALEX (*caught in the stance, he snaps out of it*). Sí, Maestro.

MAESTRO. You will write “I will not dream in class!”
10,000 times.

ALEX. Sí, Señor.

FRIDA. Ten thousand times?

MAESTRO. All he does is daydream. Alex has never raised
his hand in class—ever.

FRIDA (*intrigued*). Really! How interesting.

MAESTRO. New girl and ... only girl.

FRIDA. Sí?

MAESTRO. You are aware this is a science and math school?

FRIDA. Sí, Maestro.

MAESTRO. And that you are the first girl admitted to this
school?

FRIDA. Sí, Señor.

MAESTRO. Let’s make sure you aren’t also the first girl
expelled from this school.

FRIDA. I can’t be expelled! I have goals. I am going to help
people. I will save lives. I am going to be a doctor.

MAESTRO. *As I was saying*—we need to find this new and only girl a science partner.

ALEX. Please don't pair me with the new girl. Please don't pair me with the *only* girl. Please don't pair me with the girl.

MAESTRO. There are 24 boys in this class. One of you must be brave enough to take on the burden of this new and only girl.

ALEX (*to audience*). Nobody put up their hand.

FRIDA. Nobody?

ACTOR. Nobody.

MAESTRO. I will have to force someone to partner with her.

ALEX (*to audience*). All the class crossed their arms and looked at their feet. And I looked at this girl with a limp ... standing straight and all alone facing a new school full of strangers. And I saw something strong in her eyes. And I did something I've never done before. (*Raises his hand, says loudly to MAESTRO.*) I will be her partner.

MAESTRO. Qué—qué?

FRIDA. I think he volunteered to be my partner!

MAESTRO. Well, what an unexpected surprise. And what a funny pair. The colorful loud girl and the quiet daydreaming boy. This will be an interesting experiment. I expect you to do the science project together. I expect a long 10-page written report on—

(#2c: “Metamorphosis Flair”)

MAESTRO (*cont'd, flair.*) “Metamorphosis.”

FRIDA. Meta?

ALEX. What?

FRIDA & ALEX. Qué—qué?

MAESTRO. Metamorphosis. And you must work together ... or both of you will be ... very unhappy with the consequences. (*Wicked laugh.*)

(#2d: “Maestro’s Exit”)

(*School bell. MAESTRO exits with a flair.*)

FRIDA. The other boys are going to tease you for this.

ALEX. I know.

FRIDA. And our report is going to have to be better than everybody else’s.

ALEX. I know.

FRIDA. And Maestro is going to have an extra eye on you and me.

ALEX. I know!

FRIDA. Then why did you volunteer to be my partner?

ALEX. I ... don’t ... know! (*Beat.*) What have I done? You’re new!

(#3: “Partners”)

ALEX (*cont’d*). And you are a girl! The new and only girl in the whole school! And now I am your partner!

OH NO.

WHY DID I RAISE MY HAND

AND FALL INTO THIS?

ME! QUIET, SHY

LIKE I BARELY EXIST

NOW STANDING UP FOR A STRANGE GIRL,

CAN I HANDLE THE RISK?

SCIENCE PARTNERS!

A SENTENCE SO CRUEL

PARTNERS!
WORST PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOL.
STUCK TO A GIRL
WITH LONG SKIRTS AND PIG TAILS.
NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF,
I COULD WAIT.
WHY ME?

FRIDA. Alejandro.

ALEX.
WHY ME?

FRIDA. Alex!

ALEX.
WHY ME.

FRIDA. I can do things on my own. You do not need to be my friend, you know.

ALEX. You're right! We don't have to be friends ...

FRIDA. And we don't have to be partners.

ALEX. Oh, yes we do. You heard Maestro. We have to work together.

FRIDA. Listen, partner.

I WILL NOT
BE THE FIRST GIRL
AT THIS SCHOOL
TO BE KICKED OUT
BECAUSE YOU ARE A FOOL.
AND I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE
KICKED OUT YOURSELF, CORPUSCULE!

ALEX. Corpuscule?