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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Frida and Diego musical premieres at City College of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., November 15, 2002 — The Music and Theatre Arts Departments of City College of San Francisco (CCSF) will present the premiere of a new musical about the stormy and freewheeling relationship of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, one of Mexico's most celebrated couples.

Titled *Frida and Diego*, the musical is directed by Jose Luis Leiva. "In this new musical, the authors delve into the lives of this couple, their love and obsession with each other, their dedication to their work and the many 'distractions' that gave Diego and Frida the opportunity to 'explore' life with other people. The lively music is reminiscent of the music of their times, and the play is populated by their contemporaries, including Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Leon Trotsky, Pablo Picasso and others," says Leiva.

"Frida was an artist who freely expressed her enormous self-love by painting time and time again her own portrait, representing the many drastic changes with which life encumbered her not only physically, but also emotionally and mentally," adds director Leiva. "Diego was indeed larger than life, at over six feet and weighing more than 300 pounds, in comparison to Frida, a petite and slim 5'3"."

Michael Shahani is the Musical Director of the new show, and Dean Loumbas is the Choreographer. Leiva and Shahani are longtime City College of San Francisco instructors and have collaborated previously on the CCSF musical presentations of *Man of La Mancha* and *West Side Story*.

The authors of *Frida and Diego* are Keiko Takeda (Composer) and Adair Seldon (Lyricist/Librettist).

Heading a cast of 25, City College student Teresita Soto portrays Frida Kahlo, and Diego Garcia plays Diego Rivera.

Frida and Diego will be presented December 13-14, and 20 and 21 at 8 P.M., and December 15 at 2 P.M. in the Diego Rivera Theatre, 50 Phelan Avenue (at Judson). Tickets are \$15 general and \$10 students and seniors. For tickets and further information, please call (415) 239-3100.