# THE LIFE OF AN ICON

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GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



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Destination NSW

## FRIDA KAHLO: THE LIFE OF AN ICON

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

#### The Cutaway From 4 January to 7 March

#### CAST AND CREDITS

Dancers and musicians Victor Valdes Jenny Fuentes Ares Hernandez Jenny Palomera

#### LAYERS OF REALITY

LAYERS OF REALITY is an audiovisual production company specialising in the creation of immersive content. In October 2019 it opened the IDEAL Digital Arts Centre, the first space for digital immersive experiences in southern Europe aimed at the general public. In March 2022 it opened a second space: MAD (Madrid Digital Arts) in Matadero de Madrid.

Both IDEAL and MAD have an immersive room of more than 1000 m2 with 360° projections, different spaces with interactive and artificial intelligence installations, and a room with the largest number of virtual reality devices in all of Europe. They have produced a dozen different immersive XR projects, premiering *Frida Kahlo: The Life of an Icon* in December 2021 and seeing it go on to tour internationally.

#### FRIDA KAHLO: THE ICON

Why is it that the work, spirit and story of Frida Kahlo continues to surprise and inspire us, nearly 70 years from her death? Though best known for her colourful and uncompromising self-portraits which deal with themes of identity, death and the female form, Frida Kahlo is remembered as so much more than an incredible artist. A symbol of strength in the face of tragedy in health and love; an openly bisexual feminist icon who spurned gender stereotypes; a bold champion of the original and unusual - these are just some of the remarkable traits of this enduring muse. She started painting after being grievously injured and confined to bed in a bus accident at 18, and of the 143 paintings she would complete over her lifetime, 55 were self-portraits, often incorporating symbolic representations of her physical or psychological pain. She was embraced by the fashionable Surrealist movement of the day, although she never personally identified her work with it, preferring to align herself with traditions of naïve Mexican folk art. She had many notable love affairs but none as great and definitive as her husband, the famous Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, who features frequently in her work.

While she was very famous in her lifetime, appearing in photo essays in Vogue and with many art world and celebrity friends, it wasn't until the feminist and intersectional reassessing of art history in the 1970s that she was recognised as the avantgarde ground-breaking artist she truly is.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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