MICAËLA OESTE KIRSTEN CHAMBERS

# FREYDÍS AND GUDRID





## FREYDÍS AND GUDRID

Running Time

Directed By

Written and Composed By

Produced By

Production Company

Edited by

Cinematographer

Production Design

115 minutes

Jeffrey Leiser

Jeffrey Leiser

Jeffrey Leiser

Set Theory Productions

Jeffrey Leiser

Sam Krueger

Jennilee Aromando



## **LOGLINE**

Two viking-age women have a reckoning.

## **SYNOPSIS**

A group of merchants and vikings navigate dramatic events both within and without in this epic musical based on the Icelandic Vinland sagas. As secrets are exposed, two women (Freydís and Gudrid) have a reckoning.

## **ORIGINS**

My love of the Icelandic sagas dates back to 2003, when I first picked up the Penguin compilation. My brother and I had just returned from our first trip to Iceland, following the fresh wound of a loss. We found some respite on that volcanic island, but also in reflection of our northern ancestors. Having internalized the sagas for over ten years, I finally began work on an operatic adaptation in 2017. Only 8 months later, I had written and composed a complete draft, but the pendulum swung hard and I suffered an anxiety-induced breakdown. After shelving the project for almost two years, I received healing and hired Andrés Soto to help me arrange a final draft that made sense for live recording. The 2020 film-adaptation process took 9 months, and we recorded and filmed Freydís and Gudrid at a Brooklyn film stage in under a week. Finally, DP Sam Krueger captured backgrounds and final touches with star Micaëla Oeste in August 2021. The extensive compositing stage took two years, and we just wrapped in September 2023. - Jeffrey







#### Micaëla Oeste as Gudrid

Micaëla Oeste regularly appears at many of the worlds largest venues in both concert and opera. She is currently a soloist for André Rieu's worldwide stadium tour. She has performed for the Strauss Symphony of America, LA Opera, Washington National Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, and Chicago Opera Theater among many others.

#### Kirsten Chambers as Freydís

Kirsten Chambers has sung the title role of *Salome* at the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Hong Kong, and Florida Grand Opera. Her Carnegie Hall debut was Maria in Richard Strauss' *Friedenstag* with the American Symphony Orchestra. At the Metropolitan Opera, she has covered leading roles like Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde* and Marie in *Wozzeck*.

#### WRITER/DIRECTOR, <u>Jeffrey Leiser</u>

Jeffrey Leiser is an American producer, director, writer, composer, and editor. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2019 with a selection from *Freydís and Gudrid*. He was a 2018 Composer-in-Residence at the Guild Hall of East Hampton and is a three-time Cultural Fellow (American Scandinavian Society/Foundation/Association).

His music was featured at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 'Dreamlands' exhibition. He won a gold medal, best score, at the Park City Film Music Festival. He has released 12 albums of original music/scores. His symphony The Summit was broadcast by Classic FM and Radio Nacional de España and received positive reviews from Gramophone Magazine and I Care If You Listen. Fun fact: he worked in the restoration department at The Criterion Collection for 6 years.



#### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Sam Krueger

Samuel won an Emmy for the PBS Documentary Orchard House: Home of Little Women (2018). He is also known for his camera department work on Little Women, Knives Out, and The Equalizer.

#### PRODUCTION DESIGN, Jennilee Aromando

Jennilee is a NYC based Designer. She specializes in Broadcast TV, off-Broadway, & Experiential Event Design. As a 3D Sketch Artist, she has worked on numerous award winning projects with Jack Morton Worldwide for NBC, NFL, CBS, CNN, FOX, & ESPN.

#### ORCHESTRATOR/ARRANGER, Andrés Soto

Andrés Soto is a Costa Rican composer based in Los Angeles with an active career in film and concert music, including numerous concert works and original music (NBCUniversal).







## CAST

Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir	Micaëla Oeste	Hekja	Rocky Duval
Freydís Eiríksdóttir	Kirsten Chambers	Thjodhild	Michelle Jennings
Karlsefni	Bray Wilkins	Snorri	Flavius Druhora
Thorvard	Daniel Klein	First Nations Elder	Luis Ramos
Leif Erikson	Samuel Druhora	First Nations Woman	Rachel Yazzie
Eric the Red	Bryan Glenn Davis	First Nations Woman	Leo Kubota
Haki	Raymon Geis	First Nations Woman	Benaieren Kane

## **CREDITS**

Directed by Jeffrey Leiser

Written by Jeffrey Leiser

Produced by Jeffrey Leiser

Music by Jeffrey Leiser

Director of Photography Samuel Krueger

Production Designer Jennilee Aromando

Editor Jeffrey Leiser

Key Costumer Lindy Fox

Costumer Keturah Thorpe

Hair & Make-up Designer Giannina Gutierrez

Musical Director Keith Chambers

Orchestral Arranger Andrés Soto

Property Master	Joseph Aromando	
Production Sound Mixer	Myles Rodenhouse	
1st Assistant Camera	Joshua F. Leonard	
2nd Assistant Camera	Mark Pauley	
Grip	Joshua F. Leonard	
Gaffer	Mark Pauley	
Digital Colorist	Samuel Krueger	
Floor Runner	Laura Leiser	
Special Props	Robert Dukelow	
Piano	Karl Larson	
Concertmaster	Stephan Fillare	
Violin 2	Adam von Housen	
Viola	Alexia DelGiudice Bigari	
Violoncello	James Mark Pedersen	
Contrabass	Deborah Spohnheimer	
Flute, Alto Flute	Chrissy Fong	
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet	Ian Tyson	
Bassoon	Tylor Thomas	
French Horn	Blair Hamrick	
Trumpet in C	Clyde Daley	
Trombone, Harmonium	S. Aden Brooks	
Percussion	Edwin Gonzales	

Sound Editing and Sound Design Cultural Advisor - First Nations Cultural Advisor - Old Norse 3D Modeling VFX Artists Recording Conductor Score Arrangements Score Recorded At Insurance Rehearsals Filmed Art Film Stock:

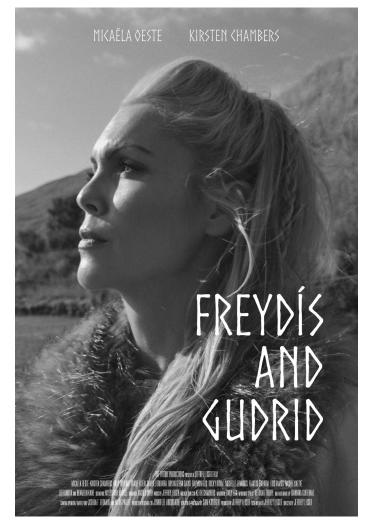
Jeffrey Leiser Craig L. Falcon Friðrik Erlingsson Jennilee Aromando Samuel Krueger Jeffrey Leiser

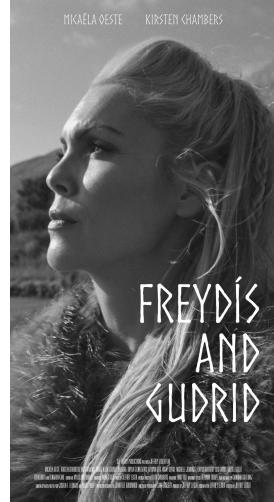
Keith Chambers Andrés Soto

**Douglass Street Studios** Film Insurance Co. Alchemical Studios Be Electric Studios

Film Supply, Getty Images,

Shutterstock









## More Stills Can Be Downloaded At

https://www.albinofawn.com/project/freydis-and-gudrid/