

NINA 1968 Concept

Nina 1968 is a coming-of-age story about the life of a young woman who is embarking on a career as a high-school chemistry teacher in Marin County, California. The story covers her first year of teaching, 1968. The story traces her challenges and setbacks, her moments of self-discovery and self-doubt, and her personal growth as her traditional values and perceptions clash headlong with the reality of the emerging new world around her.

1968 was a tipping-point year in our country, our culture, and our lives. So the story is not just about Nina's coming of age, but also about *our* coming of age – the coming of age of a new generation, a new society, and a new world view. While Nina focuses on the routine details of her daily life, the world around her is in upheaval.

1968 is one year after The Summer of Love in San Francisco, the burgeoning of the peace movement, the hippie culture, and political activism.

Martin Luther King is assassinated. Bobby Kennedy is assassinated. Vietnam is brought home to our televisions every night. The My Lai Massacre occurs. The Pulitzer Prize is won for a photo of the Vietnamese National Police Chief shooting a Viet Cong officer in the head.

Joan Baez marries David Harris. *Hair* premieres on Broadway. The Republicans nominate Richard Nixon. The American Independent Party nominates George Wallace. The Democrats nominate Hubert Humphrey – and protestors riot in the streets, causing a national uproar over their harsh treatment at the hands (and batons) of the Chicago Police.

Meanwhile, Johnny Cash performs in Folsom Prison. Simon & Garfunkel release *The Graduate* Original Soundtrack. The Beatles visit the Maharishi in India, and then release *The Beatles* ("The White Album"). They also release *Hey, Jude* as a single. Cream and lead guitarist Eric Clapton play their last concert. Janis Joplin breaks off from Big Brother and the Holding Company.

The Planet of the Apes makes us rethink our future, *Rosemary's Baby* makes us rethink our routine lives, *Night of the Living Dead* makes us rethink death, and *2001: A Space Odyssey* makes us rethink not only movies themselves but also our very existence.

In *Nina 1968*, Nina's story is a microcosm of our story; it's a story about one person, but it's also a story about all of us. Through Nina's eyes we see our world; through her experiences, we relive ours. The sights, the sounds, the music, the movies, the people, the politics, the passion – 1968 was the nexus for a confluence of forces that killed our innocence, bred our cynicism, and cast the arc of our future. It was the one year that changed Nina so she could never go home again and changed our world so we could never go back again.