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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*Pictured(L-R): Tahjane Singleton of Alafia Dance Ensemble of Alafia Dance Ensemble and Denmis Bain Savigne of Alayo Dance Company; Photo by Andy Mogg*

**CUBACARIBE PRESENTS  
14TH ANNUAL CUBACARIBE FESTIVAL OF DANCE AND MUSIC  
*The Movements of Migration***

**Two weeks of performance celebrating the vibrant cultural and artistic traditions  
of the Caribbean and its Diaspora.**

**June 15-28 in San Francisco and Oakland**

**Tickets: \$12-\$30**

**Box Office: <https://cubacaribefestival2018.eventbrite.com>**

**or 415-340-2340**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA - April 4, 2018 -- The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual CubaCaribe Festival, June 15-28 will feature two weeks of Caribbean dance, music and theater at three different Bay Area venues, Laney College in Oakland, and Brava Theater and Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. CubaCaribe is highly acclaimed for being the only festival to present popular, contemporary and folkloric cultural expression, religion, history, and politics of**

the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora. Unified by the theme, ***The Movements of Migration***, this year festival artists will perform works examining migration throughout the Caribbean diaspora.

“The history of humanity is one of movement, of migrations in search of necessities like food, refuge, safety, a better climate and survival. Today we see the migrations of people complicated with differing ideologies of borders, nationhood and belonging” says Artistic Director Ramón Ramos Alayo. “In the Caribbean diaspora, migrations were in response to slavery and gave birth to new cultures, customs and artistic expressions, including some of the greatest master works the world has known. This hybrid, mixed and syncretized sensibility is at the heart of Caribbean culture.”

### **WEEKEND ONE - ALAYO DANCE COMPANY**

**Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16 at 7 pm,, and Sunday, June 17 at 4 pm**

**Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center at Laney College in Oakland**

Alayo Dance Company will perform the World Premiere of *Calle*, co-choreographed by Ramos and Jamaica Itule, featuring seven dancers and live music, and exploring the gap between “high art” and “street art,” concert dance and dances that happen in the street or *calle*. When Alayo moved to the Bay Area, he was struck by the way Oakland street dances – such as hip-hop, specifically turfing and break dancing – were also celebrated as cultural treasures and yet simultaneously overlooked, much like Rumba, the national dance of Cuba which was started by marginalized Afro-Cubans.

*Calle* will take place in the street outside of the Odell Theater on the campus of Laney College, now a diverse community college that started as a trade school and sits on land once used occupied by a public housing project for hundreds of World War II Kaiser Shipyard workers.

Alayo Dance Company will also perform *Goodbye* (which premiered in 2016) and *Manos de Mujeres Cubanas* (world premiere) which delves into the complex role of Cuban women today and celebrates how their powerful hands -- literally and metaphorically -- continue to sustain us.

The dancers of Alayo Dance Company are Adonis Martin Quiñones, Delvis Savigne Friñon, Alexander Vargas, Marshall J. Amey, Margot Hodenfield, Zoe Klein, Fredrika Keefer, Jacinta Vlach, Emanuel Alejandro Colombo and Denmis Bain Savigne. They are joined by special guest dancer Johnny5 Lopez of Turflnc.

## **WEEKEND TWO - MIXED PROGRAM**

**Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23 at 8 pm**

### **The Brava Theater in San Francisco**

Performing on this program are Aguas Da Bahia (Director, Tania Santiago), The Cali Dance (Director, Yismari Tellez Ramos), El Wah Movement Dance Theater (Director, Collete Eloi), Nicaragua Danza, Hijos de Maiz (Director, Luis Leon), Alafia Dance Ensemble (Director, Mariella Morales), Dimensions Dance Theater (Director, Deborah Vaughn) and Dandha da Hora & Yabás Dance Co., Cheza Nami Foundation, Musicians-SambaDá (Director, Dandha Da Hora).

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

The special events throughout the festival, round out the programming with not-to-miss discussions, practice and intellectual opportunities to explore the Diaspora further. These special events include:

### **Film Screening, Theater Showing and Discussion**

***Flows: A series of short films by YAKfilms illustrating the beauty and art of "street" hip-hop dance.***

**Discussion to follow with YAKfilms Co-Founder Yoram Savion**

**Wednesday June 20, 7pm; \$12-15**

**Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105**

Yoram Savion is a filmmaker and co-founder of YAKfilms, a multimedia company dedicated to filming movement-based art. For over 10 years, YAKfilms has traveled the world to reveal unique dance talent in diverse urban landscapes. They promote innovative filming techniques using the latest gear that will fit in a backpack yet deliver the highest image quality possible.

Films to be screened include:

*LIQUID FLOW* by YAK, The Oakland Museum of California and PROJECTOR featuring Turf Feinz crew members Gary "No Noize" Morgan, Leon "Mann" Williams, Byron "T7" Sanders and Darrell "D-Real" Armstead; *EXQUISITE ZOMBIES* by YAK x ADOBE Project 1324 featuring Les Twins, DA, Ibuki, Wisko, Blueprint, Zoo, Zamounda, and Buck; *Mike Song in Manila*, Philippines 2014 by YAK FILMS and Mr. CARMACK and more.

**“We Have Iré” by Paul Flores**

**Thursday June 28, 7pm; \$12-15**

**Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105**

Artist talk and excerpts of the work in progress by **Paul Flores**, *We Have Iré* – an exploration of Cuban artists, immigration and Afro-Cuban religious themes -- featuring DJ Leydis, Ramón Ramos Alayo, recorded music by Yosvani Terry and video by Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi.

Flores is a published poet, performance artist, playwright, and well known spoken word artist. His plays have been produced at Brava Theater, GALA Hispanic Theatre, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Pregones Theatre, Abrons Art Center, Taller Puertorriquena, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, InterAct Theater, DiverseWorks, Su Teatro, South Coast Rep, and many more. He is a Doris Duke Artist, a MAP Fund awardee, a Gerbode-Hewlett Theater

commission recipient, a NALAC Fund for Arts recipient, and 2011 SF Weekly Best Politically Active Hip-hop Performer. He is co-founder of Youth Speaks, and currently an adjunct professor of Theater at the University of San Francisco. His last play "On The Hill: I am Alex Nieto" (2016) dramatizes the life and death of Alex Nieto who was killed by San Francisco Police Department. His play *PLACAS* (2012) was based on testimonies of members of MS-13 in California barrios. *We Have Iré* is commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for The Arts and follows Afro-Cuban immigrant artists and their connection to Lucumí religious traditions.

### **Lecture**

***Current Conditions for Cultural Exchanges Between Cuba and U.S. with Bill Martinez***  
**Wednesday June 27, 7pm; \$12-15**

**Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105**

**Bill Martinez** is an immigration attorney who has also produced and managed cultural events in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1973. A native San Franciscan, he is a graduate of the University of San Francisco and Hastings College of the Law. He has worked in the Community Law Collective ('74-'79), New College of California School of Law ('79-'83) and the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco ('84-'93). In 1981, he co-founded the Encuentro del Canto Popular, a San Francisco-based Latin American music festival. His work with the Encuentro led him to become one of the nation's leading experts in U.S.-Cuba cultural exchanges and artists' visas. He co-founded the Latino Entertainment Partners which produced historically significant concerts of Cuban artists.

### **ABOUT CUBACARIBE**

Co-founded in 2003 by Ramos and visual artist and dancer Jamaica Itule on the principle that dance, music and visual art have the power to unite people of diverse perspectives, CubaCaribe fosters greater understanding and appreciation of Caribbean arts and culture. Since its inception, the organization has become widely known for the diversity and quality of its programming and its deep roots in the Diasporic community under Artistic Director Ramos's leadership.

CubaCaribe projects include: The Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music; resident dance company, Alayo Dance Company (featuring Ramos Alayo's innovative fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuba dance); CubaCamp, offering adult campers an intensive four days of Caribbean dance and music classes; Dance intensive trips to Cuba and Explosión Cubana Una Noche Tropical (Cuban cabaret dinner show). For more information, go to [www.cubacaribe.org](http://www.cubacaribe.org)

Funding support for CubaCaribe Festival 2018 is provided in part by San Francisco Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, California Arts Council, The Each Foundation and The Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

**CALENDAR LISTING**  
**Dance Theater, Music, Performance**

**WHAT:** CubaCaribe presents  
**14th Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music**  
*The Movements of Migrations*

**WEEKEND ONE:** CubaCaribe presents Alayo Dance Company  
Two World Premieres: *Calle* and *Manos de Mujeres Cubanas*

**WHERE:** Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center, Laney College  
900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94133

**WHEN:** Friday, June 15 at 7 pm  
Saturday, June 16 at 7:00 pm  
Sunday, June 17 at 4:00 pm

**WEEKEND TWO:** CubaCaribe Mixed Program Featuring:  
Aguas Da Bahia, The Cali Dance, I Wah Movement Dance Theater,  
Nicaragua Danza, Hijos de Maiz, Alafia Dance Ensemble, Dimensions  
Dance Theater and Dandha da Hora & Yabás Dance Co., Cheza Nami  
Foundation, Musicians-SambaDá

**WHERE:** Brava Theater  
2781 24th Street, San Francisco

**WHEN:** Friday, June 22 at 8 pm  
Saturday, June 23 at 8 pm

**BOX OFFICE:** 415-340-2340 or <https://cubacaribefestival2018.eventbrite.com>

**TICKETS:** \$25 Advance and \$30 at the Door.  
\$12 Youth under 12 and under

**FOR MORE INFO:** [www.cubacaribe.org](http://www.cubacaribe.org)

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