

THE 13th ANNUAL

# CUBA CARIBE FESTIVAL

OF DANCE & MUSIC

MARCH 30 - APRIL 7, 2017

MANOS DE MUJERES





**Artistic Director** Ramón Ramos Alayo

**Executive Director** Jamaica Itule Simmons

**Producer** Sonia D. Pina

**Production Assistants** Amy Draizen, Aida Salazar

**Graphic Design** Jamaica Itule Simmons

**Poster Illustration** Jake Shapiro

## **A Note from the Artistic & Executive Director:**

We are very delighted to share that 2017 marks our 13th year producing the CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music! This year's theme, *Manos De Mujeres*, will delve into the complex role of women; honoring the important work of women and their powerful hands that have and continue to sustain us. Their physical, artistic and intellectual contributions often go unrecognized and yet they often carry the weight of their communities in their hands. Women's hands, beautiful and broken, are their lifelines, their power, and their tools for tending. We honor these women whose work is never done.

CubaCaribe continues to strive to achieve our mission by promoting and supporting a thriving community of artists and audiences in the Bay Area.

We can only continue to do our work with the participation and generosity of our amazing dancers, musicians, audiences, volunteers, technicians, board members and donors.

A Special thank you to Sonia D. Pina, Tom Ehrlich, Patrick Hickey, Elizabeth Gessel, Anne Huang, Stacie Powers Cuellar, Amy Draizen, Cintia Ramaciotti, Jake Shapiro, Mary Carbonara and Aida Salazar.

Con Cariño,  
Jamaica Itule Simmons and Ramón Ramos Alayo

## Mission

CubaCaribe's mission is to preserve, promote and present the vibrant cultural and artistic traditions of the Caribbean and its Diaspora. Founded 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.

## Organizational History

CubaCaribe was co-founded in 2003 by visual artist/dancer Jamaica Itule and dancer/choreographer Ramón Ramos Alayo in order to tap into the large talent pool represented by the significant community of Cuban and Caribbean artists who live and practice in the Bay Area. 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' leadership.

## Vision

Our vision for CubaCaribe is to become a long-lasting Bay Area arts institution, expanding the number and variety of programs, forging partnerships with arts and other local organizations and reaching more communities. We will continue to meet the changing needs of the Bay Area's Cuban and Caribbean Diaspora arts community.

## Contact Information

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Jamaica Itule Simmons, Executive Director  
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San Francisco, CA 94110  
info@cubacaribe.org  
www.cubacaribe.org

## PERFORMANCES

Sat - Sun Apr 1-2 8pm, 2017 : Brava Theater

### Amor Do Samba

#### **Under Pressure: Asi hicieron Las mujeres diamantes**

World Premier created in 2017

This piece unveils the matrilineal inspiration behind Amor do Samba through Peruvian and Brazilian immigration chronicles of love, power, poverty, and passion in the Andes and Amazon of Peru. In pursuit of opportunity and ultimately equality, this is a tale of four generations of women.

**Choreography:** Tanilee Amor & Eleana Coll

**Music:** (live) Yuritza Jared (vocals, guitar, percussion), Jesus Martinez (vocals, percussion), Danilo Portugal (vocals), Clark Seal (congas) Rana Moussa (percussion), Rosa Santos (vocals, guitar), Luis Cruzado (guitar), Javier Nunton (cajon). Vocalists- Yuritza Jared, Danilo Portugal, Jesus Martinez, and Rosa Santos. Spoken word- Tanilee Amor.

**Dancers:** Tanilee Amor, Jennifer Perez, Sandra Navarro, Anastasia Gorson, Rosa Mar, Eleanna Coll, Luis Muro, Weslei Guimarmaraes.

### Cunamacué

#### **Mis Manos**

World Premier created in 2016-2017

Cunamacué will present a music and dance piece rooted in Afro-Peruvian movement vocabulary in collaboration with composer and vocalist Marina Lavalle and the band Proyecto Lando. The piece is a contemporary elaboration of the Festejo rhythm honoring women, their hands, and the work they do.

**Choreography:** Carmen Román

**Music:** (live) Pedro Rosales (Cajón), Alberto Palomino (Congas), Darren Smith (Baritone Saxophone), Evelio Roque (Tenor Saxophone), David Rodriguez

(Cowbell), Javier Trujillo (Guitar), Jose Soto (Bass). Vocalists & Spoken Text - Marina Lavallo and Yaccaira Salvatierra.

**Dancers:** Stephanie Bastos, Aliyah Dunn-Salahudinn, Eyla Moore, Carmen Román, Amelia Uzategui-Bonilla.

## Los Lupeños de San José

### Comala

Created in 1980's and reworked in 2017

Comala is a small town located in the southwestern state of Colima. It is famous for its beautiful comaltecas, its tasty ponches and botanas, and the white facades of its buildings.

**Choreography:** Rafael Zamarripa & Samuel Cortez

**Music:** (live) Mariachi Primo- Alexis Padilla (violin), Cristian Muñoz (violin), Eduardo Andrade (trumpet), Jesús Hernández (guitar), Junior Andrade (vihuela), Kevin Torres (violin), Rodolfo Torres (violin), Silverio Andrade (guitarrón), Tony Andrade (trumpet)

**Dancers:** Madeline Aguirre, Angela Arvizu Szymusiak, Mario Avalos, Sharlene Garibay Luna, Steven Gastelum, Christina Gil, Lidia Madrigal, Arturo Magaña, Juan Carlos Miranda, Crystal Ortiz, José Romero, Laura Santiago, Gerardo Silva, Gabrielle Torrez, Eduardo Zamora.

## INTERMISSION

## Arenas Dance Company

### Manos de mujer a la obra

World Premier created in 2016-2017

Cuban-born Susana Arena's powerful new work celebrates the spiritual and sensual nature of women's domestic labor in Caribbean societies.

**Choreography:** Susana Arenas Pedroso

**Music:** (live) Carolyn Brandy, Jules Hilson, Charlene Gumbs and Elizabeth Sayre. Vocalists- Susana Arenas Pedroso, Cora Barns, Jimmy Peña Marchena, Karen Smith and Natasha Wild.

**Costume Design:** Deborah Valoma

**Dancers:** Diana Aburto Vega, Tiffani Leigh, Luz Mena, Lucilla Nwatu, Juliana Romano, Tammy Ryan, Sonja Travick, Mitzi Ulloa, Deborah Valoma and Tola Williams.

## Almazônica Dance Collective

### Floresta Feminina

World Premier created in 2016-2017

Floresta Feminina is an Afro-Brazilian dance piece fused with samba de caboclo, which pays homage to the orixa of the hunt, Oxossi, the iconic Amazon Forest which has been stewarded by the hands of indigenous women, and the women who have kept Afro-Brazilian traditions alive for generations. Women in Brazil provide the fabric for ensuring the longevity of traditions used in Afro-Brazilian houses of worship, and this piece culminates with the female cacique (chief) guiding her followers to summon, receive, and praise the spirits of their ancestors.

**Choreography:** Felice Gomez

**Music:** (live) Mark Machina, Musical Director and Lead Drummer; Robert Lopez, Percussion; Jules Hilson, Percussion; Johnny Graves, Percussion

**Costume Design:** Felice Gomez & Tiombe Valone.

**Dancers:** Jazz-Ylaine Baptiste (cacique), Carmen Gomez, Felice Gomez, Julia Hughes (Oxossi), Mariella Morales, Tiombe Valone.

## Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble and Batala San Francisco

### Mulheres Livres

World Premier created in 2017

A collaboration between Batala San Francisco and Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble, these piece celebrates the lineage of free women, the essential knowledge of self-love passed down from elder to youth, and the intersectional community of women and their allies who share joy and hardship across cultures, languages, and generations.

**Choreography:** Latanya d. Tigner, Marianna Hester, Farida Moussouni, Sonia D. Pina and Deborah Valoma.

**Music:** (live) Wayne Hartstein (surdo 1), Alejandra Landin (repique), Mindy Ong (surdo 2), Jennifer Piehl (surdo 1), Sonia D. Pina (dobra), Fernando Souza (surdo 2), David Stoeckle (repique), Deborah Valoma (dobra), Umi Vaughan (caixa), Tola Williams (dobra). Vocalists & Spoken word- Umi Vaughan, Ayoka Yejide Stewart and Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble.

**Costume Design:** Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble

**Dancers:** Selma Apará, Emerald Evans, Ma'lia Gibson, Seynabou Kouyate, Ngalifourou Matingou, Nola Mihaly-Garvin, Tola Williams and Mariah Zancanaro.



**Matinee Performance**  
**Sun, Apr 2, 3pm 2017 : Brava Theater**

## Quenepas (Bomba & Plena Music & Dance of Puerto Rico)

### **Inspirados: de Boriken a la Bahia**

World Premier created in 2017

Quenepas will dance and sing to the beat of the barril Bomba drums. They will also present Plena music, played on hand drums called panderos, that tell stories of Puerto Rico.

**Choreography:** Shefali Shah and Hector Lugo

**Music:** (live) Mari Luna- Barril, Diego Barragan- Barril, Eliseo "Cheo" Lopez- Barril, Zyan Taj Jacka- Barril, Avelina Santos- Cuas, Maraca, Majella Luna- Cuas, Barril, Maraca. Vocalists- Liris Robles, Avelina Santos, Zyan Taj Jacka, Zarian Sol Jacka, Joao Santos, Sofia Lopez, Mario Barragan, Hanna Rahimian, Cyrus Rahimian, Sirena Saldivar, Cheo Lopez, Diego Barragan, Majella Luna, Azucena Itule Ramos, Ximena Montes

**Dancers:** Mario Barragan, Diego Barragan, Hanna Harrelson, Cyrus Harrelson, Azucena Itule Ramos, Zarian Sol Jacka, Zyan Taj Jacka, Sofia Lopez, Eliseo "Cheo" Lopez, Mari Luna, Majella Luna, Ximena Montes, Liris Robles, Sirena Saldivar, Avelina Santos, Joao Santos.

## Maracatu Pacífico

### **Mulheres no Maracatu: Do Terreno ao Sagrado (Women in Maracatu: From the Practical to the Sacred)**

World Premier created in 2017

**Choreography:** Elisa Chaves, Ashlee George, Vera Passos and Georgia Young

**Music:** (live) Paz de la Calzada - gongue, Stesha Kahan - caixa, Jules Hilson - caixa, Tania Abdul - alfaia, Katie McClung - alfaia, Carin McKay - alfaia, Cynthia Patterson - alfaia, Mieko Yeh - alfaia/abê, Evelyn de Mello - abê, Clery Vilacrez - abê, Paola Zanol - abê, Michelle Aguero-Grinfeld - abê, Elisa Chaves - abê,

Maria Padilha - abê, Priscilla Portes - abê, Karma Smart - abê. Vocalists- Yara Sousa Freund Reid, Priscilla Portes, and Cindy Lou Pearson.

**Costume Design:** Cindy Lou Pearson and Conceição Damasceno

**Dancers:** Elisa Chaves - catirina, Georgia Esteves - catirina, Amora Freire - catirina, Ashlee George - Iansã, D'nae Henderson - lavadeira/baiana, Stella Ng - lavadeira/baiana, Maria Padilha - dama do paço, Maria Perez - lavadeira/catirina, Kevin Riley - umbrella bearer, Rose Rothfeder - lavadeira/baiana, Cleopatra Saber - flag bearer, Judith Sakhri - catirina, Karma Smart - lavadeira/rainha, Fernando Souza - rei, Andrea Valverde - catirina, Kamailia Williams - Oxum

## Cuicacalli Dance Company

### **Raices Sin Limites**

Created in 2012, reworked in 2017

Raices Sin Limites is a piece inspired by the African Diaspora and how the hands of the African culture shaped our Latino American countries traditions.

**Choreography:** Jesus Cortes

**Music:** (recorded) Bobby Macferrin, Quetzal.

**Dancers:** Inkza Angeles, Kiera Collin, Jesus Cortes, Nina Gonzalez, Elaine Hernandez, Karina Padilla.

## Bolivia Corazón de América

### **Death of Slavery**

Created in 2015

Death of Slavery is an Afro-Bolivian take on the African slave trade specifically in Potosi, Bolivia. The piece gives an insight to the work and resistance of slaves, while introducing the theme of death.

**Choreography:** Isidro Fajardo

**Music:** (recorded) Los Masis (first song), Fortaleza (second song)

**Costume Design:** Susana Salinas

**Dancers:** Denisse Aguilar, Felisa Amaya, María Amaya, Diana Avila, Yaret Bello, Paola Claros, Saúl Díaz, Alejandro Duran, Vianney Enriquez, Isidro Fajardo, Matthew Lockmer, Rachael Lockmer, Brenda Martinez, Rubi Sarmiento.

## Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble and Batała San Francisco

### **Mulheres Livres**

World Premier created in 2017



A collaboration between Batala San Francisco and Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble, this piece celebrates the lineage of free women, the essential knowledge of self-love passed down from elder to youth, and the intersectional community of women and their allies who share joy and hardship across cultures, languages, and generations.

**Choreography:** Latanya d. Tigner, Marianna Hester, Farida Moussouni, Sonia D. Pina and Deborah Valoma.

**Music:** (live) Wayne Hartstein (surdo 1), Alejandra Landin (repique), Mindy Ong (surdo 2), Jennifer Piehl (surdo 1), Sonia D. Pina (dobra), Fernando Souza (surdo 2), David Stoeckle (repique), Deborah Valoma (dobra), Umi Vaughan (caixa), Tola Williams (dobra). Vocalists & Spoken word- Umi Vaughan, Ayoka Yejide Stewart and Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble.

**Costume Design:** Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble

**Dancers:** Selma Apará, Emerald Evans, Ma'lia Gibson, Seynabou Kouyate, Ngalifourou Matingou, Nola Mihaly-Garvin, Tola Williams and Mariah Zancanaro.

## CREW

**Lighting Design** Cathie Anderson

**Stage Manager** Chijundu Okonmah

**Sound Engineer** Oscar Autie

**Stage Hand** Adeyemi Demetrius

Photo by Angie Silvy



## Artist and Company Bios:

### **Almazônica**

Almazônica is a new dance collective which promotes the rich cultural roots of Brazilian dance and music through performances, classes and community events.

**Felice Gomez** has been studying Afro-Brazilian culture and arts, including capoeira, samba and folkloric dances since 1998 in both the Bay Area and Brazil. Felice has studied most significantly under her mentor, Tania Santiago. She has performed with Tania's Aguas Dance Company for almost 15 years. Felice has also performed with Paco Gomes & Dancers, Ginga Brasil/Damasceno Dance Collective, Las Que Son Son, Amor do Samba, Capacitor Modern Dance, Olo-dum for their San Francisco show, and as a guest for Alayo Dance Company's Cuban cabaret show, "Explosion Cubana."

### **Amor Do Samba**

Amor do Samba Entertainment is a San Francisco based samba dance and music ensemble dedicated to promoting Afro-Latin culture through the performing arts. Celebrating samba, sights and sounds on stage, we uniquely specialize in Brazilian themed productions & events. Amor do Samba curates latin themed entertainment for the tech sector (Google, Yahoo, Genentech), and sporting events (Superbowl City, Stanford Stadium). We bring high - energy samba dance shows with live percussionists and bands and are the dance company who has performed for diplomats representing over 23 countries, including the Brazilian consulate.

**Tanilee Amor** is founder and artistic director of Amor Do Samba, a samba dance entertainment company established in 2011 and performing across the Americas and Africa. Tanilee studied dance at UCLA (Cum Laude) with a specialization in Afro - Latin dance and art as a social change agent. She continued her dance studies in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Belize and has dedicated a life time to the performing arts, first and foremost as a student, dancer, costume designer, and choreographer, as well as behind the scenes in arts administration and management for the UCLA Center for Performing Arts, San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival and Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts.

### **Arenas Dance Company**

Arenas Dance Company is an all-female ensemble of dancers and percussionists directed by Susana Arenas Pedroso. The ensemble

has performed at the Black Choreographers Festival, the Cuba Caribe Festival, Salsa Rueda Festival, Yemanjá Festival, Stanford Jazz Festival, Ethnic Dance Festival and San José Jazz Festival., and at venues such as Yerba Buena, Herbst Theater, Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, Chico State, The Great American Music Hall, and La Peña Cultural Center. In 2005 it produced the evening length show Yo Soy Cuba (I am Cuba) in San Francisco. By popular demand the music and dance extravaganza was remounted in 2006 for four encore performances.

**Susana Arenas Pedroso** Born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Susana Arenas Pedroso began her career in dance at age twelve, studying at La Casa de Cultura de Matanzas and at Cojunto Folklórico Nacional in Havana. She danced professionally for seventeen years in Cuba with popular, folkloric and theatrical performing groups, including Tierra Virgen, Alafia Ire, Oche Olorun, Oriki, Clave y Guaguancó, Oba Wemilere, Rumberos de Cuba, and Raíces Profundas. Since her arrival in the United States in 1998, Susana has performed and choreographed numerous pieces that have been exhibited throughout the United States, Austria, Mexico, Morocco, Martinique, Cuba and Hong Kong with companies such as Omo Ache, Omo Oddara, Ban Rarra, Ire Ile, Alayo Dance Company, Las Que Son Son and Obini Ashe. In 1999 Ms Pedroso founded her own dance companies, Saudunga Cubana, which specialized in Cuban Popular dance, and Olorun, which specialized in Cuban Folkloric dance. In 2004 Ms Pedroso joined the two troupes into one, establishing Arenas Dance Company, an all-female ensemble that has developed an expertise in folkloric and popular Cuban rhythms and traditions.

## **Gladys “Bobi” Céspedes**

is an acclaimed folkloric singer, dancer, percussionist, recording artist, theatrical director, storyteller, priestess and Iyanifa, accomplished historian, lecturer, and cultural arts teacher. She sings in three languages: English, Spanish, and Lucumi, the mother tongue of the descendants of the Yorubas of West Africa in Cuba. She makes and plays a variety of authentic folkloric percussion instruments, including the Chekere. She was the youngest of 14 children into a musical family on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba. In 1959 she moved to New York City where she continued to study with such notable artists as Sylvia del Villar, the world-renowned African-Puerto Rican vocalist and West African folklorist Baba Denizulu. She directed and performed in several Afro-Cuban troupes in the New York Area. In 1981, Bobi, her brother Luis and nephew Guillermo formed the original son trio, called Trio Céspedes. Trio Céspedes later grew into

Conjunto Cespedes. Bobi has performed nationally and internationally at Bill Graham's World Beat Festival, the BAM Festival in Barcelona, the Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D. C., SOBs and Joe's Pub in NYC. Bobi has opened for countless acts, including Tito Puente, Ruben Blades and El Gran Combo. She also worked with Mickey Hart's Planet Drum and Bembe Orisha and Since 2003 Bobi has led her own band, and recorded two albums Rezos on 6 Degree Records, and Patakin on VL Sounds. In the rich field of Cuban music, Bobi Céspedes stands out as a gem and can rightfully be considered one of our national cultural treasures.

## **Bolivia Corazón de América**

Bolivia Corazón de America was founded in 2000 by Susana Salinas, an immigrant from Bolivia, with a mission to give Bolivian American children a place to learn about their culture. Today the company includes dancers of all backgrounds. The company educates audiences through innovative high-quality professional performances. Bolivia Corazón de América often recreates dances by taking innovative approaches to ancient and rare forms.

**Isidro Fajardo** Isidro Fajardo is an immigrant from Mexico. His work with the company spans the last ten years. Not having much formal training, the work created for Bolivia Corazón de America is based on independent research about Bolivia's culture, customs, and traditions. Isidro attended UC Santa Cruz for his undergraduate degree and received a minor in dance. Isidro has choreographed multiple works, many of which have been part of the renowned San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, the Chinese Touring Festival in Beijing, World City in Los Angeles, and other cultural and community events.

## **Cuicacalli Dance Company**

Cuicacalli meaning 'House of Culture' in Nahuatl language, is a dance company based in San Francisco, California, founded and directed by Mexican native, Jesus Jacob Cortes. Inspired by cultural traditions and their development to the modern days, Cuicacalli develops choreographies to revive traditions, social and environmental situations, or simply give a look to the daily life with an abstract motion. Cuicacalli is a multi disciplinary dance company that fuse various styles into a unique story of their own. By including dance styles such as Indigenous, Folkloric, Contemporary, Cuicacalli hopes to expose, sustain, and expand traditional and modern dancing with a new lens.

**Jesus Cortes** Jesús "JACOH" Cortés, began his training in Mexican folk dance when he was 6 years old under the direction of his great

uncle Juan Natoli. In 2000, he started dancing with Ballet Folklórico de Mexico de Amalia Hernandez in the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City after he was trained as a Deer Dancer under the direction of Lucas Zarate Lobato. He was a soloist in the role of The Deer Dance “La Danza Del Venado” for Ballet Folklórico de Mexico de Amalia Hernandez he has toured in Mexico, Europe and the US. Currently, he lives in San Francisco and works as an artist in residence with the SFUSD. He is a lead teacher and choreographer for Dancing Earth and is Founder and Artistic Director of Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza (meaning house of culture in nahuatl dialect). In 2012 Mr. Cortes premiere Cuicacalli Dance Company. In the last 4th years he has developed three works: “Raices sin limites” (Endless roots) “500 Years of Resistance” and “Cicatrices” (Scars).

## **Cunamacué**

Cunamacué, an Oakland based music and dance company whose mission is to promote the continuity of Afro-Peruvian culture representing it not as a point in time but as a living, vibrant and evolving form whose music and dance can be used as a means of expression. Adapting to its new environment, the San Francisco Bay Area, Cunamacué uses Afro-Peruvian movement vocabulary as well as movements inspired by modern dance and dances of the African Diaspora.

Cunamacué has performed locally and in Peru having had the pleasure to collaborate with local and international artists to create original compositions in both music and dance.

**Carmen Román** was raised both in Lima, Peru, and in the Bay Area. She is a dancer, choreographer, educator, filmmaker, and emerging scholar. Carmen is the founder and Artistic Director of Cunamacué, an Oakland based music and dance company dedicated to the promotion and continuity of Afro-Peruvian culture. Her choreographies have been presented both locally and internationally. Her first film, Herencia de Un Pueblo, was awarded Best Documentary and Best Cinematography at the San Francisco Dance Film Festival. Carmen has published Dance research in the African Performance Review. She recently completed a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship in Dance to Peru where she conducted research on Afro-Peruvian Dance through performance, observation, teaching, and living in the community.

## **Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble & Batala San Francisco**

DEPE continues Dimensions Dance Theater’s artistic legacy of presenting the African American experience through the dance, music and

songs of the African diaspora. Led by dancer/choreographer Latanya D. Tigner, dancers are trained in jazz, modern, hip hop, Haitian, ballet and African movement. Since 1994, they have served the community through various performances throughout the bay area and beyond.

**Latanya D. Tigner**, choreographer, has performed professionally with Dimensions Dance Theater since 1986, and has studied and toured nationally and internationally. She holds a B.A. in Physical Education/Dance, a M.A. in Arts Administration, directs Dimensions' youth company, and currently teaches dance at Contra Costa College and UC Berkeley.

Beginning in 2013 BSF began collaborating with Rite of Passage (ROP)/Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble (DEPE)—an educational outreach program serving youth aged 8–18 years. Eight youth dancers will join Batalá SF drummers to perform our collaborate piece,

**Batala San Francisco** Batalá San Francisco is a community band that plays samba reggae, an Afro-Brazilian genre of music developed in Bahia, Brazil. Founded in 2012, it is comprised of forty drummers and has quickly developed a reputation for excellence.

**Sonia D. Pina**, Musical Director, Batalá San Francisco, Born in Havana, Cuba, she is daughter of a professional musician and studied at music conservatories starting at a young age. After immigrating to the U.S., she continued to study percussion. She's currently the Festival Producer for CubaCaribe, and the Production Assistant for World Arts West.

**Deborah Valoma**, Artistic Director/Co-Founder, Batalá San Francisco, is an artist, professor, and chair of the Textiles Program at California College of the Arts. She is a trained dancer with over ten years of experience with Bay Area ethnic dance companies. She is responsible for all visual arts for Batala, for teaching choreography and refining movement and styling.

## Los Lupeños de San José

Founded in 1969 by visionaries Susan Cashion and Ramón Morones, Los Lupeños de San José is recognized as one of the earliest Mexican folk dance companies in California. Los Lupeños is known for its artistry, history, traditions, innovation, and endurance. Los Lupeños artists are passionate about learning and executing their art form, representing their culture, and being a positive force within the California dance community. As a program of the Cashion Cultural Legacy since 2014, Los Lupeños is re-establishing itself at the forefront of the folklórico dance genre under the artistic direction of choreographer Samuel Cortez.

**Samuel Cortez** Artistic Director Samuel Cortez, originally from Cela-

ya, Guanajuato, México has been teaching folklórico dance all over the United States for the last 17 years. Since January, 2015 he has led both the Performing Company of renowned Grupo Folklórico Los Lupeños de San José whose home base for rehearsals, public classes, and performances is the School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San José. Performers are volunteers and the passion for their culture keeps them dancing in the group, sometimes for more than 25 years! Los Lupeños performs traditional folk dance. Even though it is staged for performance needs, the essence of the regional traditions are preserved.

## **Maracatu Pacífico**

Maracatu Baque Virado or Maracatu Nação (Nation) is a folkloric tradition with African roots from the state of Pernambuco, Brazil. Maracatu Pacífico is a community-based performance group in Oakland, formed in late 2012 under leadership of Eric Hoffman as an evolution of Maracatu Luta (2006-2012) with an emphasis on community and personal development through study and performance. As a diverse group united by passion for these rhythms, players learn traditional Maracatu instruments and dancers perform traditional movements. Their repertoire draws from traditional Maracatu Nações and more modern, non-traditional groups like Maracatu Badia and Maracatu Nação Pernambuco. They gratefully acknowledge these groups and their mestres for keeping this rich, powerful culture alive. Maracatu Pacífico strives to maintain the utmost respect for this culture, and members continually work to deepen and improve their representation.

**Elisa Chaves** Native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has danced and studied Maracatu since 2008. She is passionate about it and its interconnection of dance, music, and spirituality, and its meaning for Afro-Brazilian traditions. In addition, she is also a tango dancer and has a degree in contemporary dance through the Angel Vianna School of Dance in Rio de Janeiro. Elisa has taught dance regularly in the Bay Area since she moved to the US in 2013. When Elisa is not dancing, she works with children and families as a social worker in a non-profit in SF.

**Eric Hoffman** moved from the East Coast to California in 2001, began studying Brazilian dance and percussion in 2002, playing with Jorge Alabe's Grupo Samba Rio since its' inception. After studying in Brazil and with Brazilian teachers touring the US, Eric started directing Maracatu Pacífico in late 2012 with the goal of fostering and sharing the maracatu tradition here in the Bay area. He does computer programming for a hospital in Boston when he's not behind a drum or whistle.



## Special Festival Events:

### **RECEPTION & PANEL DISCUSSION: Movers and Shakers: Bay Area Women Making a Difference in the Arts**

THURSDAY March 30, 7:00pm

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

\$10-15

A panel discussion with Shefali Shah, Krissy Keefer, Isabel Yrigoyen, Deborah Vaughan, Susana Arenas Pedroso and Sandra García Rivera. Women powerfully contribute to our local SF Bay Area arts community. Learn about their inspirations, challenges, opportunities and experiences leading social change.

Moderated by Aimee Suzara.

### **FILM SCREENING: Anacaona: The Buena Vista Sisters' Club**

THURSDAY APRIL 6 7:00 pm

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

\$10-15

Directed by Manfred Schafer and Ingrid Kummels  
Description: This informative and entertaining documentary charts the extraordinary story of Anacaona, a glamorous all-girl orchestra that stormed to success in 1930s Cuba and became the toast of Old Havana. Founded by Cuchito



Castro (and eventually comprised of her ten sisters), this internationally renowned group took their exotic “son cubano” rhythms across the world before sadly fading into obscurity after the Cuban Revolution.

Introduction by Sonia D. Pina

**LECTURE/DEMO & RECEPTION: Bobi Céspedes - Manos Divinas: Female Orisha in the Lucumí Spiritual Tradition**

FRIDAY April 7, 7:00pm

Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

\$10-15

Acclaimed singer and folklorist, Bobi Céspedes, will lead us to a deeper understanding of the divine feminine forces (Orishas) in the Lucumí (Cuban-Yoruba) pantheon using song, storytelling and lecture. Through chants sung in a call and response pattern, the community can join in giving praise to Obatala, Yemaya, Oshun and other female Orishas. As Lucumí priestess and respected elder, musician and bandleader, Bobi Céspedes has earned a place among the most preeminent artists and cultural arts educators in the Bay Area.



Photo by Kingmond Young

## Support:

This project has been made possible in part by support from:

California Arts Council

San Francisco Grants for the Arts

San Francisco Arts Commission

Zellerbach Family Foundation

Alliance For California Traditional Arts

Fleishhacker Foundation



In-kind Donations : Trader Joe's, Wine on Piedmont, Oliver McCrum Wines, Lagunitas Brewing Company

Community Partner : Earshot Entertainment & Añejo Productions

## Donate:

Join **Friends of CubaCaribe** Today!

As a member of Friends you join us in preserving and promoting Caribbean dance, music, visual art and culture in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**We gratefully welcome all donations, large or small. All donations are fully tax-deductible under our 501(c)3.** For more information contact us at [jamaica@cubacaribe.org](mailto:jamaica@cubacaribe.org)

# CUBA CARIBE FESTIVAL

**CubaCaribe** :Preserving and promoting Caribbean Arts & Culture  
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# summer arts 2017

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- More than 80% of our students receive scholarships!
- Plus 19 other classes in the visual, literary, media, and performing arts.

## Drum Talk

Artwork by  
Pablo Soto Campoamor

Coordinated by  
Dr. Umi Vaughan

**JULY 10 TO  
JULY 23, 2017**



## Rhythms from Cuba & Brazil

TO APPLY GO TO  
**CSUSUMMERARTS.ORG**  
562.951.4060      Applications Available After January 5, 2017

Percussion class with instructors

**& JOHN SANTOS  
& MARIO PAM**

Learn from and play with master artists: Grammy Award-nominated percussionist and bandleader John Santos and Mario Pam, from the famous percussion group Ilê Aiyê, direct from Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. Perform a range of music styles including sacred rhythms of Candomblé and Santería, samba, baião, maracatú, bembé, rumba, Mozambique, and more!

# Music and Dance in Cuba

**June 24 - July 8, 2017 - one week or two!**

**Santiago June 24 - July 1**

*Salsa & Rueda classes with Yanek Revilla/Sabor DKY*

**Havana July 1 - 8**

*Salsa & Folkloric Dance with Ban Rarrá & Raíces Profundas  
Music on all instruments at Havana's National Music School*



*PlazaCUBA has over 20 years experience  
and intimate connections with the most  
influential artists and performers in Cuba today.*

© Mary Kent

**December 2017: Havana Jazz Festival Tour**  
**March 2018: Dance & Percussion in Cuba**



**PlazaCUBA.com**  
**info@plazacuba.com**  
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Photo by Michael Baxter



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# Selena

## Screening & After-Party



Saturday, April 8  
3pm & 7:30pm

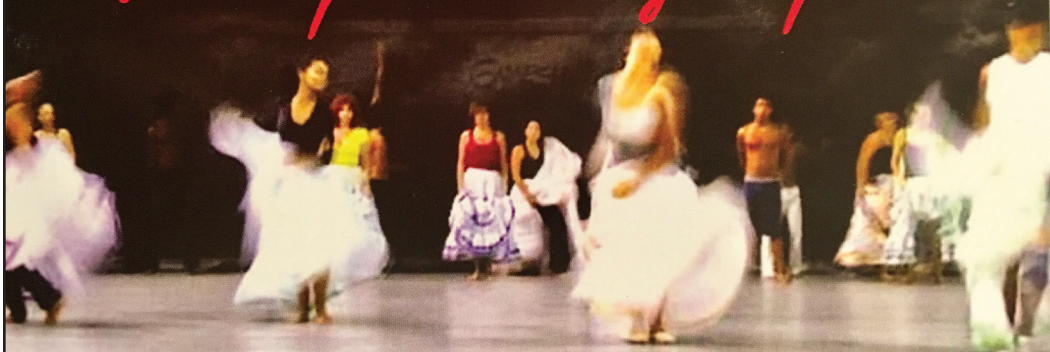
After-party with  
**Chulita Vinyl Club**  
following the 7:30pm  
showing!

All proceeds from  
the screenings  
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# DANCE IN CUBA

*Two upcoming trips!*



**MAY 19 – JUNE 2, 2017 / JULY 10 - JULY 24, 2017**

Two summer trips hosted by Ramon Ramos Alayo,  
Amy Draizen, Susana Arenas & Yismari Ramos Tellez

one week in Havana and one week in Santiago de Cuba

Register today!

[tri.ps/dance-in-cuba-may17](http://tri.ps/dance-in-cuba-may17)

[tri.ps/dance-in-cuba-july17](http://tri.ps/dance-in-cuba-july17)



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