

THE 10th ANNUAL
Festival Of Dance & Music

CUBA CARIBE FESTIVAL

APRIL 05 - APRIL 27, 2014
WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG



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.

CUBA CARIBE FESTIVAL

Artistic Director Ramón Ramos Alayo

Executive Director Jamaica Itule Simmons

Producers Moran Hirsch, Kyleigh Nevis, Aida Salazar

Graphic Design Jamaica Itule Simmons




A Note from the Executive Director:

I am very delighted to share that 2014 marks our tenth anniversary producing the Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music! Our theme this year is Moving Forward, as we honor the roots of the Caribbean and its Diaspora but also look to the future and to creating new cultural experiences for our audiences that push boundaries with the expansion of what is considered folkloric and contemporary in an evolution forward. The festival has been highly acclaimed for being the only festival to present both contemporary and folkloric culture expression, religion, history, folklorica and politics of the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora. CubaCaribe continues to build and support a thriving community of artists and audiences in the Bay Area. As such we have, over the last 10 years, worked with more than 200 artists locally, nationally and internationally. We continue to strive to achieve our mission and improve upon our setbacks and triumphs. We can only continue to do our work with the participation and generosity of people like you. Thank You for being here and supporting CubaCaribe in the past and present, especially all of the dancers, musicians, artists, volunteers, technicians and donors involved who are the driving force behind this annual event.

Warmly,
Jamaica Itule Simmons

Photo by Patrick Hickey



Moving Forward

Fri - Sun, Apr 11-13, 2014 : Dance Mission Theater

Production Team:

Lighting Design Harry Rubeck

Sound Operator Kristofer Hall

Las Puras

Riki Bum:

Created in 2013

Determined to push the envelope and challenge stereotypes, this year Las Puras is breaking away from traditional Cuban dance styles, going urban and bringing on the funk with a little bit of Reggaeton! The piece was selected to underscore our company's core mission- to encourage women of all ages and dance backgrounds to enjoy and express themselves through movement.

Choreography: Yismari Ramos Tellez

Music: Riki Bum Bum by Osmani Garcia

Costume Design: Yismari Ramos Tellez

Dancers: Alma Sanchez, Cypress Molfino, Iris Ring, Ivana Pereira-Ambrose
Lee Callahan, Natalia Lawrence, Robin Fahr

Las Que Son Son

Anhelo:

Created in 2014

Anhelo is a tribute to la Rumba Cubana-- its beautiful lyric the yearning and continued search for loved one. This dynamic, precise and fluid piece is represented by Ms. Ramos' rich and unique Contemporary and Folkloric style.

Choreography: Yismari Ramos Tellez

Music: Y Sigo Buscando by Mayito Rivera

Costume Design: Yismari Ramos Tellez

Dancers: Martina Avalos, Yismari Ramos Tellez, Katy Yong

Cuñamacue

Intertwined Dreams / Sueños Entrelazados:

Created in 2014

This piece is a contemporary elaboration of an Afro-Peruvian Landó. The Landó is a music and dance genre. The traditional dance is said to be a matrimonial dance derived from the Brazilian Lundú, a couple's dance that arrived with the slaves from Angola whose most salient movement is the pelvic bump. Elaborating on the function of the Landó, a matrimonial ritual, this piece fuses elements of modern dance and draws upon spirituality, fertility, and the element of water for inspiration.

Choreography: Carmen Roman

Music: Pedro Rosales - Cajon, Javier Trujillo - Guitar, Marina Lavallo - Vocals,

Composer: Felipe Pumarada, Spoken text: Author: Yaccaira Salvatierra; Title: Tus Ojos y los Mios

Dancers: Aliah Dunn-Salahuddin, Eyla Moore, Carmen Roman



Alafia Dance Ensemble

1952 Saga

3 Movements 1) Free in Africa, 2) The Trade, 3) Slave Time:
World Premiere

This choreography is inspired by work dances of sugarcane and coffee harvest. The section of Omolu represents the symbolism of a time of suffering. In 1529, the first slave ship arrived in Bahia, Brazil. Estimates suggest that more than 3 million Africans reached Brazil, although precise numbers do not exist. In the early 16th century Portuguese settlers established plantations where slaves—at first Indian, then African—worked fields of sugarcane, coffee, and tobacco. By 1850 the city's

port had received an estimated 3.5 million slaves. Brazil had the largest slave population in the world, substantially larger than the United States. It wasn't until 1888, that slavery was abolished in Brazil.

Choreography: Paco Gomes

Artistic Director: Valerie Watson

Assistant Artistic Director: Mariella Morales

Music: Mark Machina

Costume Design: Paco Gomes, Mariella Morales & Clinton Park

Dancers: Mayra Cortez, Daniel Derrick, Akiko Heard, Brigitte Knight, Mariella Morales, Carmela Rocha, Sarath Sok, Shawntel Okonkwo, Tobi Thomas, Grace Torres.

INTERMISSION

Alayo Dance Company

Siempre Corriendo/Always Running:

Created in 2009

"It was inspired by a time in my life when I was running from one place to another literally and emotionally. When I would listen to music, I would think about how we, as dancers, don't have stable lives and we live constantly moving."

Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Music: Alex Heffes

Costume Design: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Adonis Damián Martín Quiñones, Delvis Savigne Friñón, José Carlos Alarcón Chacón

Photo by James Knox



Embodiment Project

Dare to Love:

Created in 2013

Dare to Love uproots traditional notions of gender, intimacy, and manhood

through high-energy street dance, spoken word, theater and live music written and composed by Valerie Troutt. An episodic collage, the narrator and dancers propel and weave their individual stories through their movement, grounded in street dance and made cohesive through modern dance and physical theater.

Choreography: Nicole Klaymoon

Music: Valerie Troutt

Costume Design: Noelle Durante

Dancers: Jena McRea, Xanthia van Ewijk, Rama Mahesh Hall, Sheila Russell, Nick Brentley, Jon Cambell, Nicole Klaymoon, and Tiffany Austin.

Photo by Kegan Marling



Duniya Dance & Drum Company

Badala and Tiriba

Premier of Badala, Tiriba created in 2013

Tiriba is from the west coast of Guinea, in the Boke and Boffa regions. Traditionally the dance is from the Landuma and Baga ethnic groups. Tiriba was the name given to one particular dancer, then became a dance for mothers and daughters. Since then, the rhythm has become popular at festivals.

Choreography: Joti Singh and Alseny Soumah

Music: Bongo Sidibe, Mory Fofana, Jeff Pierre, Jamil Diop, Rob Usher

Dancers: Gail Burks, Olivia Eng, Jon Lee, Reina Heinz, Maura Whelehan, Aimee Zawitz

Photo by Tom Elrich



Family Matinee Sunday April 13, 2014 3 pm
Dance Mission Theater

Muriel Johnson

The Clever Woman and The Pumpkin

Adapted Traditional Folktale from India

An old woman hikes through the forest up a steep hill to go visit her daughter and encounters hungry animals along the way who want to eat her. She escapes being eaten by promising them that they can eat her later upon her return. What will she do?

Conceicao Damasceno's Borboletas Dance Troupe

Hoje e Dia de Nossa Senhora / Keni Je & Samba Da Roda:

Created in 2014

Afro-Brazilian chant and dance as an offering to Yemanja, the Yoruba goddess of the ocean. ne of the oldest samba expressions that originated in Bahia, Brazil. Danced in a circle, a samba de roda signifies celebration at its purest.

Choreography: Natalie Boskin, Tainah Harvey Damasceno, Nadia Brunner Velasquez and Ashlee George.

Music: Traditional, Baiana by Sambadá

Costume Design: Conceicao Damasceno

Dancers: Mateus Collazos, Aya Datterra, Zarina Dixon, Giana Gunier, Paola Gunier, Azucena Itule Ramos, Ximena Montes, Anika Morris, Elizabeth Patusco, Diego Rodriguez, Sirena Saldivar, Avelina Santos, Joao Santos, J'Nyah Santos Barreto, Maceo Torriente.

Swing Kids

Acrobatic Rock & Roll:

World Premier

Acrobatic rock & roll is very athletic and fast dance originated from lindy hop.

Choreography: Nikolay Shaposhnikov

Music: Say Hey The Chipmunks & Chipettes (feat. Nomadic) by Michael Franti, Carl Rogers Young

Dancers: Erica Chu, Andrew Fern, Joey Fern, Margaret Fern, Eostre Mejia, Natalie Moya, Daniil Shaposhnikov, Sonya Shaposhnikova, Stanislav Shaposhnikov.

Faces SF

PASSAGES:

World Premier

This piece is based on Afro-Brazilian folklore (Candomble) and dance. It depicts the rites of passage that many cultures observe.

Choreography: Juan Pazmino

Music: Victor Y Yuen/William Catazaro

Dancers: Jordyn Morrell, Taleyah Slater, Michelle Walker, Assia Ward, Aaliyah Yahsir

Dimensions Extensions

Suite Solo

Created in 2014

Choreography: Micaiah Bell, Marianna Hester, Dejanae Williams

Music: Latch by Sam Smith

Dancers: Micaiah Bell, Marianna Hester, Dejanae Williams

Loco Bloco's Pocos Locos

Loco en el Coco

World Premier

The piece reflects the history and is in celebration of Loco Bloco's 20th year. We honor the different beats Loco Bloco has created and recreated for La Misión. The Poco Loco dancers and drummers will bring you fresh new choreography and rhythms to inspire.

Choreography: Jessica Recinos and Manolo Davila

Music: Loco Bloco

Dancers: Manolo Davila & Jessica Recinos, Brenda, Javianna, Joshua Kaily, Nayelli, Sydney, Zada, Zahira, Zuri

Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco

Let's Dance!

Created in 2011

Latin jazz classics and original compositions by youth ages 10-18

About the Performing Companies:

Alafia Dance Ensemble was founded 15 years ago by Valerie Watson, and is based out of the City College of San Francisco (CCSF) dance program. Watson has been affiliated with CCSF for over 40 years, where she studied Haitian dance as a student. Alafia performs at local schools, benefits & fundraisers.

Conceicao Damasceno's Borboletas Dance Troupe

Under the direction of renowned Brazilian dancer and choreographer, Conceição Damasceno, Butterflies or Borboletas (in Portuguese) is the resident children's dance company at Brasarte. The children who participate come from the local community to take classes throughout the year. Butterflies have performed at the annual Carnaval Ball, the annual Yemanjá Arts Festivals, SF Carnaval, Lava Gem and various community festivals. Brasarte is one of the few arts and cultural organizations in the SF Bay Area with a focus specifically on preserving the traditional dances and music of Brazil by offering events, classes and activities for people of all ages. www.brasarte.com.

Cunamacué is an Afro-Peruvian music and dance company based in Oakland, California. Our 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 to express its themes. The company has performed locally and in Peru collaborating with local and international artists to create original compositions in both music and dance. Visit website for Afro-Peruvian classes. www.cunamacue.org

Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble (DEPE),

the pre-professional youth ensemble of Dimensions Dance Theater, has developed an outstanding reputation for their work. Members are trained in jazz, contemporary, Haitian, ballet and traditional African movement through Dimensions' Rites of Passage program, and serve as arts ambassadors through community performances. The group has performed and studied in Orlando, Los Angeles, at Congolese Dance Camp, Washington D.C., New York, and Guinea, West Africa. Participation in the group is by audition only. Please visit us on the web at: www.dimensionsdance.org

Duniya Dance and Drum Company cultivates respect for traditional forms, fosters cultural exchange, effects social justice and engages in community building. They perform and teach traditional and innovative performance pieces from Guinea, West Africa and Punjab, India. Duniya has created evening-length works, supported by the Creative Work Fund and the San Francisco Arts Commission, including "Half and Halves," about the Punjabi-Mexican communities of California, and "The Madness of the Elephant," a West African dance and music story about Guinea's first president, Sekou Toure. Every year directors Joti Singh and Bongo Sidibe lead a trip to Guinea for students to study the traditional dance and music. They recently opened the Duniya Center for Arts and Education in Conakry, Guinea. www.duniyadance.com.

Embodiment Project is a street dance theater company founded by Nicole Klaymoon and based in San Francisco. Quickly gaining critical acclaim, EP seamlessly intersects high-energy street dance, live song, choreo-poetry, theater, and interactive video. Live vocal ensemble, MoonCandy is led by EP's musical director and singer/songwriter, Valerie Troutt. EP humanizes the stories ignored by mainstream culture and serves as unifying call for political and social change. EP recently received critical support including ODC's Rainin Opportunity Award and the Zellerbach Family Foundation grant. Dance magazine contributing editor Rita Felciano called EP one of the Bay Area's, "ten companies and artists who challenged expectations and unveiled surprises...in 2012." EP performed in the collaborative mixed media production Block By Block, directed by Sean San Jose, as part of the artist fellowship series at the de Young Museum in San Francisco. EP performed at numerous festivals including, Marc Bamuthi Joseph's Left Coast Leaning Festival, The Crucible Fire Arts Festival, Dance Brigade's Manifest-ival for Social Change, ODC's Walking the Distance Festival, Krissy Keefer's Voluspa: A Ghost Dance For 2012, and three consecutive years in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Green Show (OR). EP recently performed 5th home season show at the ODC Theater and is an artist-in-residence dance company at San Francisco institutions Red Poppy Art House and Dance Mission Theater. EP is recognized for their educational outreach, community arts practices, and ground breaking cross-cultural collaborations in Kenya, Africa. www.embodimentproject.org

FacesSF Performing Arts was created 20 years ago by Juan Pazmino to provide the youth not only the opportunity to learn to dance and perform, but obtain the resources to help them overcome obstacles they encounter now and in the future. They act as goodwill

ambassadors to many communities of all ages in the Bay Area. Juan Pazmino's extensive and eclectic training of ballet, modern, jazz, and Afro-Brazilian dance has enabled him to dance the works of Alonzo King, Robert Moses, Liz Fain, Anne Bluethenthal, Yehuda Maor, Evelyn Thomas, Robert Henry Johnson and Paco Gomes.

Las Puras Dance Company moves beyond boundaries of age, space and place, Las Puras is a diverse group of women whose dance is representative of the cultural legacy and traditions of Cuba. Led by artistic director Yismari Ramos Tellez, the company is known for its technical authenticity and range of repertoire from Son to Jazz, from Rumba to Reggaeton. Las Puras takes pride in sharing the gift of their dance. www.facebook.com/laspuras

Las Que Son Son was founded in 2006. It is a San Francisco based, all-women Dance Company performing a broad repertoire of Cuban dance genres ranging from contemporary popular to traditional folkloric. LQSS dancers have studied with prominent Cuban, Haitian, and Brazilian dance instructors of the SF Bay Area, and are trained in such dance forms as ballet, and modern. The company's performances include SF Ethnic Dance Festival (2008, 2009, 2012); CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music (2007-2013); SF Salsa Rueda Festival (2009-2014); and numerous club events and private soirees. www.lasquesonson.com

Loco Bloco was founded in 1994 by artists and activist of color as a response to the ever growing funding cuts of arts programs in schools. Loco Bloco's goal then and now it to provide low-income, minority and immigrant families access to professional level arts education as a means to support the advancement and empowerment of Bay Area youth. For the past 20 years, thousands of Bay Area youth, ages 3-25, have participated in after school classes, summer camps, international exchanges/tours, and our annual self-produced events and community performances. Artistic directors are Pedro Gomez and Giuliana Blasi. www.locobloco.org

The Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco is a performing group of talented musicians ages 10 to 18. Their repertoire features Latin jazz classics and original compositions at a level that has landed them gigs at the San Jose Jazz Festival, the KCSM Jazz Festival, KGO Radio, Yerba Buena Gardens, SF Museum of Modern Art, Paramount's Great America and the world-renown jazz club, Yoshi's. The LJYE has shared the stage with legendary performers such as Cachao; Chuchito Valdes; Poncho Sanchez and Clare

Fischer; and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra. The LJYE mission is to preserve the traditions of Latin jazz and Afro-Cuban music by teaching it to youth and to create role models for aspiring student musicians. The LJYE was chosen as one of the top youth bands in Northern California in the 2004 YouthQuake competition and won First Place (Youth Music) in Carnaval SF in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006. The Ensemble is honored to be Youth Artists-in-Residence at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Gardens Festival since 2005. The group has recorded two CDs, featuring the great Cuban percussionist, Armando Peraza. Musical Director John Calloway; Managing Director Arturo Riera, and Co-Director Sylvia Ramirez. www.ljye.com

Muriel Johnson, as a parent and veteran pre-school teacher, began telling folk tales to her own children and students. Now she enjoys sharing personal and traditional tales with all ages. Muriel's warm, gentle presence connects immediately with the audience as she transforms herself into different characters. Her voice, movements, expressions and loving spirit will resonate with anyone listening. She has performed across California at many public libraries, museums, Storytelling festivals and countless elementary schools.

Swing Kids is lead by Irina Semenova who received her first dance training when she was 12. She actively performed, competed and taught children in Russia. Since relocating to the US, California in 2007 she has been taking Tap, Ballet, and Modern dance classes from various Bay Area dance teachers. She participated also in New York summer intensive programs (2011, 2012) at "Broadway Dance Center", "Steps", and "Alvin Ailey". She taught Swing dance in East Bay Dance Center (2009 – 2010), Alameda Ruby Bridges Elementary school (2012-2013), The Beat(2013). Their choreographer is Nikolay Shaposhnikov who is a dance instructor with 18 year experience. He taught sport style dances and acrobatics at several schools in Moscow, Russia. His Swing dance students were prizewinners in the Russian championships 10 – 14 yr. and adult category and Ukraine open championships (adults category). Since relocating to the US, California in 2007 he teaches Swing dance at East Bay Dance Center and Alameda Ruby Bridges Elementary school.



Photo by Jason Samy

Alayo, Aguas & Arenas
Thu - Sat, Apr 17-19, 2014 : Laney College Theater

Aguas de Bahía

Movendo com Capoeira

Created in 2011

This piece intertwines Capoeira, one of Brazil's most enduring cultural symbols rooted in the historical and political struggles of the African Diaspora, with modern movement. Weaving together Afro-Brazilian folk dance, pure Capoeira, Maculele, Contemporary, and live drumming, the work creates a full portrait of the strength and beauty of Brazilian art and culture.

Choreography: Tania Santiago

Music: Mark Machina, Tosh Harris Santiago, Jules Hilson, Tania Santiago

Costume Design: Pilar Olabarria and Tiombe Valone

Dancers: Stella Adelman, Stephanie Bastos, Jon Campbell, Mayela Carrasco, Olivia Eng, Felice Gomez, Elias Daniel Gonzalez, R Jefferson Joseph, Vanessa Sanchez

Alayo Dance Company

Quality of Movement:

Created in 2013

This piece is based in fluid, dynamic and circular movements that represent the energy, ebb and flow of water in the human body.

Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Music: Christopher Young, Marco Beltrami, Pete Anthony, Belinda Broughton

Costume Design: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Dancers: José Carlos Alarcón Chacòn, Ashley Crockett, Delvis Savigne Friñòn, Fredrika Keefer, Zoé Klein, Adonis Damián Martín Quiñones.

Arenas Dance Company

Olomidara:

World Premier

Olomidara is a tribute to Yemaya, the orisha or diety of the sea. The Ocean Mother, Yemaya literally translates to “mother of the fish.” We look to her in both her calm and tumultuous states. We find strength in her maternal power.

Choreography: Susana Arenas Pedroso

Music: Elizabeth Sayre, Carolyn Brandy, Jules Hilson, Michelle Martinez, Morgan Simon

Costume Design: Regina Tolbert

Dancers: Stella Adelman, Ton Yun (Tony) Fang, Luz Mena, Tika Morgan, Lucila Nwatu, Tanya Orellana, Tammy Ryan, Vanessa Sanchez, Elizabeth Soberanes, Regina Tolbert, Susana Arenas.



Photo by Patrick Hickey

Alayo Dance Company

On Top Of The Beat/Sobre El Tiempo:

Created in 2012

Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Music: James Horner

Costume Design: Eduardo Rivero

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company

INTERMISSION

Alayo Dance Company

House Of Water:

World Premier

Sweet Day

Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Music: H. Harden

Costume Design: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Alayo Too

When It Rains, It Pours:

Choreography: Nelson Reyes

Music: Ruben Gonzalez / Graeme Koehne

Costume Design: Eduardo Sosa

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company

Beautiful Day in The Ocean:

Choreography: Nelson Reyes

Music: Vitamin string quartet / Rene Aubry

Costume Design: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Alayo Too

Swimming Away:

Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Music: Guy Brenner and Max Richter

Costume Design: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company

Photo by Patrick Hickey



Production Team:

Lighting Designer Matthew DiGambia

Sound Operator Jim Cave

Set Design Ruben Thome & Raul Thome

Seemstress María Velasquez

Alayo Dance Company: José Carlos Alarcón Chacòn, Ashley Crockett, Delvis Savigne Friñòn, Fredrika Keefer, Zoé Klein, Yeni Lucero Adonis Damián Martín Quiñones, Victor Talledos.

Alayo Too: Corrine Inabinet, Lena Koenig, Caryn Lucido, Hope McManus, Debra Ruben, Rebeca Sanchez, Mariana Rose Thorn, Amy Tirion.

Catering in the lobby provided by Caña

Caña San Francisco's refined approach to Cuban cuisine is paired with an eclectic wine list and selection of creative signature cocktails, using house-made genuine cane syrup, which reflects the vision and energy of Cuban culture.

About the Performing Companies:

Alayo Dance Company

Alayo Dance Company was founded in 2001 by Ramón Ramos Alayo. Ramos Alayo articulates his creative vision through a synthesis of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuban dance. Alayo is the resident company of CubaCaribe. Alayo has grown an audience far more diverse than most Bay Area modern dance circuits, attracting devotees of both contemporary and folkloric arts. It is known for tackling difficult issues such as slavery, racism and cancer, and since its inception has produced nine evening-length productions that have received both critical and popular acclaim. They have performed throughout the San Francisco Bay Area at venues such as Theater Artaud, ODC Theater, Dance Mission Theater, Herbst Theater, Laney Theater, Sonoma Country Wine Theater, and La Peña Cultural Center, and have presented work in the Black Choreographer's Festival, The CubaCaribe Festival, and Intersection's Culture and Flow. In 2010 Alayo was one of the first American companies to ever perform at the Annual Festival del Caribe at Teatro Martí. Alayo also performed at Teatro Mella in Havana, Cuba in July 2011. Alayo Dance Company was featured in the article "Dance Across America" in National Geographic Magazine in 2006. www.alayodance.biovo.com.mx/index.html

Ramón Ramos Alayo is a dancer, teacher, choreographer and the founder and artistic director of the Alayo Dance Company and CubaCaribe. Ramos was selected by the Cuban government to study dance in Santiago de Cuba at age eleven. In 1990 he earned a masters degree in contemporary and folkloric dance and dance education from the Havana's National School of Art. He was the principal dancer with Danza del Caribe, Narciso Medina Contemporary Dance Company and performed in Cuba, Europe, Canada, Belize and the U.S. Since moving to California in 1997, he has performed with some of the most respected choreographers in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Robert Henry Johnson, Kim Epifano, Sara Shelton Mann, Joanna Haigood/Zaccho Dance and Robert Moses' Kin. Ramon currently teaches Cuban popular dance, Afro-Cuban modern dance and children's movement at several local dance studios and schools, and is artistic director of Alayo Dance Company and CubaCaribe. He has choreographed and produced twelve full-length dance performances: Anoraña de Una Epoca (1999); Mis Sueños, Mis Ideas (2003, 2004); A Piece of White Cloth (2004, 2005); La Madre (2005); After Rain (2006); Three Threes & Traces (2007); Blood+Sugar (2008); Bound Together (2009), Migrations (2010), Grief (2011), Oil and Water (2012) and El Discipulo (2013). Ramos has received support for his work from San Francisco Arts Commission, Theater Bay Area, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, California Arts Council, Zellerbach Family Foundation, LEF Foundation, Walter and Elise Haas Fund and the prestigious Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation's "Emerging Choreographer

Award” Ramos was also a winner of a Bay Guardian Goldie (2010).

José Carlos Alarcón Chacòn: was born in Santiago Cuba on September 25 1991. He is a graduate from the Manuel Muñoz Cedeño Profesional Academy of dance with a degree in Contemporary and Folkloric Dance. He is a very versatile dancer with Teatro de la Danza del Caribe. He has danced with Kim Epiphano, Dance Brigade, Berkeley Ballet Theater and this is his second season with Alayo.

Ashley Crockett: was born and raised in the Bay Area, She started training at the age of 3 at a local studio and around the age of 11 I joined a competition studio and experienced competing with their hip-hop, jazz, tap, and lyrical teams, while still taking ballet classes. She was a member of Berkeley Ballet Theater Youth Company. She recently graduated from UC Irvine with a B.F.A in Dance Performance, plus adding a minor in Business Management. This is her first season with Alayo Dance Company.

Delvis Savigne Friñòn: was born in Santiago Cuba on November 20,1989. He is a graduate of the Josè Maria Heredia Heredia Academy of Art with a degree in Contemporary and Folkloric Cuban Dance. He was evaluated by the national court and gained the place of soloist for his advanced technique. He has traveled to perform and teach in Jamaica and at the World Fair in Zaragoza Spain. He has danced with Kim Epiphano, Dance Brigade, Arenas Dance Copmany, Nicole Nicole Kalymoon’s Embodiment Project. This is his second season with Alayo.

Zoë Klein: is an international performer, teacher, acrobat, aerialist, production manager, and light designer from Brooklyn, NY. Zoë has toured 28 countries over 6 continents striving to inspire audiences through seemingly impossible athletic movement and personal expression. Eight years co-directing Paradizo Dance brought: NBA NY Knicks halftime shows, International Salsa Congresses, 1st place titles in national cabaret competitions, So You Think You Can Dance, and Top Semi-Finals on America’s Got Talent. Since moving to San Francisco in 2009 for Master Lu Yi’s acrobatic coaching, Zoë dances for Epiphany Dance Productions and Alayo. She books circus acts for private events, teaches Acrobatic Dance at Zaccho Studios, and is Tech Director at CounterPULSE.. This is her first season with Alayo.

Fredrika Keefer: started her dance training at the age of four years old. She graduated from School of the Arts High School in San Francisco and began dancing professionally with Dance Birgade and Alayo Dance Company. She has performed and taught dance and

taiko drumming In New York, Cuba, St. Maartins, Egypt, and Lebanon. This is her fourth season dancing with Alayo Dance Company.

Yeni Lucero: Was born in the small town of Chalchuapa, El Salvador. Coming to the Bay Area later in life, she began her training in West African dance at the age of 15 with Mama Naomi Washington and Papa Zack Diouf. She was trained at San Francisco State University, in which she obtained a BA in Dance and Choreography. She also had the opportunity to extend her training at the Alvin Ailey School during the summer of 2006. She has performed work by Diamanou Coura/ West African Dance Company, Paco Gomes, Annie Rosenthal, Jacinta Vlach, Robert Moses' Kin, and Ron K. Brown. Yeni has also taught Hip-Hop, West African Funk, Afro-Contemporary/Jazz, and dance fitness to all ages throughout the bay area. Lucero was invited to Mozambique Africa in May of 2013 to teach contemporary technique and choreography to local dance professionals and choreographers. She was honored to have trained and choreographed work on the National Dance Company. Currently Lucero teaches at the Flying Annex in Oakland and Head Royce ASP program. Lucero embraces her talents and gifts and humbly give thanks to all her master teachers and family, but foremost the Most High. visit www.yenilucero.com for class-schedule and videos. This is her first season with Alayo Dance Company.

Adonis Damián Martín Quiñones: was born in Contramaestre, a province of Santiago Cuba on June 17, 1990. He is a graduate from José María Heredia Heredia Dance Academy entitled with a degree in Modern Dance. He is a soloist for the Teatro de la Danza del Caribe. He also performs with Locomotion, an audiovisual and interactive dance company. He has danced with Kim Epiphano, Dance Brigade, Berkeley Ballet Theater and this is his second season with Alayo.

Victor Talledos: began his dance career at Conservatorio de Danza in Mexico city, graduated from Escuela Superior de Musica y Danza de Monterrey Monterrey, Mexico. He has performed for Proyectos en Movimiento dance company and Ballet Moderno de Mexico Las Bestias. In 2008 he moved to NYC to join the Ailey School for an intensive dance training program. Joined J. Chen project. In San Francisco he has worked for Robert Moses' Kin, Copious Dance Theater, Labayen Dance SF, Alayo Dance Company, The Anata Project. As a choreographer Victor has shown his work at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, Dance New Amsterdam for the Latin Choreographers Festival in NYC, The Garage art space in SF. He has been a guest choreographer for Labayen Dance SF and Emote Dance Theater. He has taught at Alonzo King Lines Ballet San Francisco Dance Center, ODC Dance

Commons and Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in Berkeley, Lone Star Ballet in Amarillo Texas and Westlake School for the Performing Arts in Daly City and workshops in Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico. This is his second season dancing with Alayo Dance Company.

Aguas Da Bahia

Aguas Dance Company was created in 1998 by Tania Santiago with a mission to share the rich, invigorating and spiritually vibrant cultural dance and drumming traditions of Central and Northeastern Brazil. The company presents lesser-known dances from the deep well of Brazilian art and culture, showcasing a panorama of original choreographies from traditional Orixá and folkloric dances to the hip urban dance of "samba reggae." www.facebook.com/aguasdance-company

Tania Santiago was born and raised in Salvador, Bahia, she has taught, danced, and choreographed for some of the most well-known companies in Brazil, most notably Olodum, the world renowned Bloco Afro. In 1999, Tania founded Aguas Dance Company in SF and through it has worked to honor and preserve the deep roots of traditional Afro-Brazilian dance.

Arenas Dance Company

Arenas Dance Company is a Cuban folkloric and popular dance company directed by Cuban-born Susana Arenas Pedroso. Arenas Dance Company has performed throughout the country. Local performances have included the Ethnic Dance Festival (2006, 2007), CubaCaribe Festival (2005, 2006, 2012, 2013) and the Black Choreographers Festival (2012). The company has also performed at various colleges and universities including Chico State, Stanford, UC Davis and UC Berkeley. arenasdancecompany.wordpress.com

Susana Arenas Pedroso began studying dance at the age of 12 at the Casa de la Cultura in Matanzas, Cuba. Arenas began dancing professionally in 1991 and performed with both Terra Virgen and Alafia Ire. In 1994 she joined the world renowned Compania Folkloric Riaces Profundas as a soloist. Pedroso currently teaches throughout the Bay Area, including Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco and The Beat in Berkeley. After settling in the Bay Area, she merged her two former companies (Olorun and Sandunga Cubana) into Arenas Dance Company (2004), a company with a commitment to sharing Cuban culture in an accessible form for a wide audience. She will be teaching this summer at Kosmos Camp.



Special Festival Events

BOMBA & TUMBA FRANCESA DANCE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2014 3:15-5:15 PM

at Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco w/live drumming
Shefali Shah and Jose "Cheo" Rojas Ramirez find out why it is said that
Puerto Rico and Cuba are the wings of the same bird.

BOBI CÉSPEDES LECTURE/DEMO

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2014 7:00PM

at the Museum of African Diaspora in San Francisco
The Yoruba Tradition In The Diaspora, Lucumi Migration to the USA.
A lecture/demonstration by Gladys Cespedes. "The presentation will
begin with Oriki to elegua, Ogun and Ochosi, sang by me and accompa-
nied by Chekere. I will talk about the development of the Lucumi tradi-
tion and Religion in the United States, in particular, making reference to
other Yoruba derived traditions present in the US in general. Historical
and traditional facts and general philosophical views of the Yoruba/
Lucumi, and the ancestors will also be discussed."

TENGO TALENTO : FILM SCREENING

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2014 7:00 pm

at the Museum of African Diaspora in San Francisco
Cuba 2014, Directed by Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi. Q& A with Director follow-
ing film. Eli will introduce and premiere his three short films that make
up TENGO TALENTO (Cuba, 2014). They are about the new generation
of talent in Cuba. World renowned artists take to the streets to find the
next talent in their field. Travel on a journey from Havana to Santiago
searching the next stars in Jazz, Hip Hop and Rumba. Films feature
Julito Padrón, Jennyselt Galata Calvo and Yrak Saens.

CLOSING BENEFIT PARTY (& Jamaica's B-day)

SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2014 4:30-9:00 PM

at BrasArte / Casa de Cultura in Berkeley
RUMBA, DJ'S, CUBAN FOOD, BRAZILIAN DRINKS, DANCING AND
B-DAY CAKE- Come party with us and close our 10th Annual Festival!
Tickets available at door: \$16 adults, \$5 children

Thank You:

To our funders and our individual donors for this year's festival including; Serena Connelly, Kate Northcott, Scheryle Simmons, Ramona Itule, Sara Kashima, Gary Gathman and everyone who has donated in the past.



A Note from the Artistic Director:

Quiero mandar gracias a MoAD, Park Day School, Jen Grimm, Moran Hirsch, Kyleigh Nevis. Muchísimas gracias a Krissy Keefer for toda su generosidad y apoyo durante todos estas años y en particular para este proyecto, a mi amigos buenos Sydney and Rosa Williams, Guy Brenner, a mis dos hermanans Tania Santiago y Susana Arenas, y a la comunidad entera que en todos estos años nos han apoyado en todo, especialmente los vountarios, a mis dos companias de baile por ser lo mejores, a unos amigos buenisimos Aida Salazar y John Santos, y a una persona que no es solo la directora de CubaCaribe es tambien mi esposa, Jamaica Itule y a mis dos hijas.

Con cariño,
Ramón Ramos Alayo





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Explore Cuba's exciting music and dance-centric culture and learn about Afro-Cuban folklore and Salsa with famous teachers and performing groups: Ban Rarrá, Raices Profundas, Yanek and Karelia, and more!
Contact us by April 25 to join!

December 14 - 22 Jazz & Culture

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Stay at the elegant Hotel Nacional. Includes VIP jazz festival pass, excursions and people to people meetings designed to capture Havana's thriving music, dance and art scene.

Coming in March 2015

Dance Explorations in Havana



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photo by Mary Kent



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Celebrate Carnaval
Sunday May 25th 11am to 2am

San Francisco International Arts Festival, with the School of Music & Dance
and the Department of Latina/o Studies of San Francisco State University present:

Orquesta Aragón

A Cuban Musical Celebration

Sunday, April 20
6:00 PM

- **McKenna Hall**
San Francisco State University,
1600 Holloway Street
- **Box Office:**
415-338-2467
- **Ticket Sales:**
www.sfiarf.org

For more information:
415-399-9554





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Drum Talk

Artwork by
Pablo Sotocampoamor

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& MARIO PAM**

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Modern Dance Workshop in Cuba June 28 - July 13, 2014

Hosted by Ramón Ramos Alayo & Danza del Caribe

Train with the famed Danza del Caribe company from Santiago in daily modern classes for all levels. Perform in the Festival del Caribe!

After class, connect with Cuba's culture and people.

\$2,600 Double / \$2,850 Single room
Included: Round-trip air Miami to Cuba, classes, accommodations, 2 meals a day & local transportation.

\$100 discount for the first 10 to register!
Registration deadline: May 1, 2014.

Optional: Join us for a relaxing weekend in Baracoa.

More info: DancelnCuba.wordpress.com
Email us: DancelnCuba2012@gmail.com



**Dance in Havana this summer!
Hosted by Yismari & Ramón**

July 13-26, 2014

Daily classes in popular, folkloric & cabaret-style dance. All levels welcome.

Experience Carnival in Havana. Explore Cuba. Join us for a weekend in the city of Trinidad (optional).

\$2700 double room
Includes round-trip air from Miami to Cuba, classes, accommodations, local transportation & 2 meals a day.

\$100 Discount for the first 10 to register!
Registration deadline: May 15th 2014.

**Email for more info:
DanceInCuba2012@gmail.com**

**Popular Dance Workshop in Cuba
June 28 - July 13, 2014**

Hosted by Ramón Ramos Alayo & Moran Hirsch

Experience Cuba in a renowned dance & drum program.

A unique opportunity for a personal & local experience. Enjoy the happenings of Festival Del Caribe!

Enjoy daily popular & folkloric dance and drumming classes for all levels. Immerse yourself in traditional Cuban culture and the Festival del Caribe!

Pricing: See other side.

\$100 discount for the first 10 to register!
Registration deadline: May 1, 2014.

More info: DanceInCuba.wordpress.com
Email us: DanceInCuba2012@gmail.com

