

THE 17TH ANNUAL

CUBA CARIBE FESTIVAL

OF DANCE & MUSIC



ALAYO DANCE COMPANY : ALAFIA DANCE ENSEMBLE : LOS LUPEÑOS DE SAN JOSÉ
AGUA DOCE DANCE : CUICACALLI : EMILIO HERNANDEZ GONZALEZ : DJ WALT DIGZ
LA UNIÓN MATANCERA : BATEY TAMBÓ : DR.YVONNE DANIEL : EMBODIMENT PROJECT

MARCH 31 – APRIL 10, 2023

WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Ramón Ramos Alayo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jamaica Itule Simmons

PRODUCTION & DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT Hilary Davidson

GRAPHIC DESIGN Jamaica Itule Simmons & Yu Jun Chen

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.

CUBACARIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Draizen, Sarah Crowell, Natalia Lawrence, Isaac Kos-Read, Mena Ramos, Patricia West, Jamaica Itule Simmons & Ramón Ramos Alayo.



Photo by Andy Mogg

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

It is hard to believe that 2023 marks our 20th year since CubaCaribe started and our 17th Annual Festival of Dance and Music.

After the last few years in a global pandemic, the isolation and gradual reuniting have taken many forms. Dance, music, and art proved more important than ever, enabling a way to communally gather, to be part of something larger than ourselves, and a way to express emotional struggles and joys. For this year's Festival, we are reflecting on our individual and shared experiences and resilience, and recognizing the importance of physically coming together. Art and art making serves as freedom for individuals, cultures and communities. This is true now and has been true throughout history.

I want to thank our amazing CubaCaribe community--especially the powerful artists who are culture bearers and innovators in a society where this art form is often undervalued and underrepresented. I want to thank our audiences, volunteers, technicians, donors, board members and funders who made this festival become a reality.

A special thank you to board chairs Amy Draizen & Sarah Crowell, and assistant extraordinaire Hilary Davidson.

Con amor,

Jamaica Itule Simmons

CubaCaribe Presents:

Mouth of a Shark

2023 World Premiere

Artistic Direction & Choreography by Ramón Ramos Alayo

Featuring Alayo Dance Company and guests

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Daniel Weierman

VIDEO DESIGN & EDITING Reinier Charon Morales

PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER Zoe Klein

FILM TECH Chi Chi Okonmah

MUSIC Live: Elegua by Einar Leliebre Nuñez. Recorded: "Lechuza" by Courtney's Other Neighbors (Guy Brenner, Olivia Beeb Dempster, Becky Buckbuck Rogot), "Undulating Beast" by Ben Frost, "Lawd How Come Me Heah?" by Sharon D Henderson sung by Nakachi Clark-Kasimu, "Tocororo" by Courtney's Other Neighbors, "Savannah Beat" by African Drums and Soukouss, "Four Women" by Nina Simone, Laura Izibor, Ledisi & Simone, "Lost" by Tony Ann.

SPOKEN WORD "HOME": BY WARSAN SHIRE, COPYRIGHT 2022 © FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE COLLECTION 'BLESS THE DAUGHTER RAISED BY A VOICE IN HER HEAD' BY RANDOM HOUSE IN THE US IN 2022. Spoken by Nakachi Clark-Kasimu

DANCERS Fredrika Keefer, Adonis Damian Martin Quiñones, Delvis Savigne Friñon, Marco Palomino, Alejandro Perez, Thalía Cueto Ramirez, Maylin McDonald Gómez, Jordan Wanderer. Elegua: Hilary Snider, Julianna Cressman, Mela Amaiya & Pablo Berriel Duquezne.

PROGRAM NOTES : Alayo started this piece in January 2020 in his birthplace of Santiago, Cuba working with young professional dancers from Danza del Caribe, the company he danced with before immigrating to the U.S. Alayo partnered with these artists who were out of work during the pandemic to reflect on their shared and diverse experiences as dancers living in Cuba. He also collaborated with Reinier Charon of El Templo Productions to document and create the films woven throughout.

The piece was also inspired in part by the words in the poem,
"Home" by Warsan Shire,

No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark...

... no one would leave home unless home chased you to the shore.

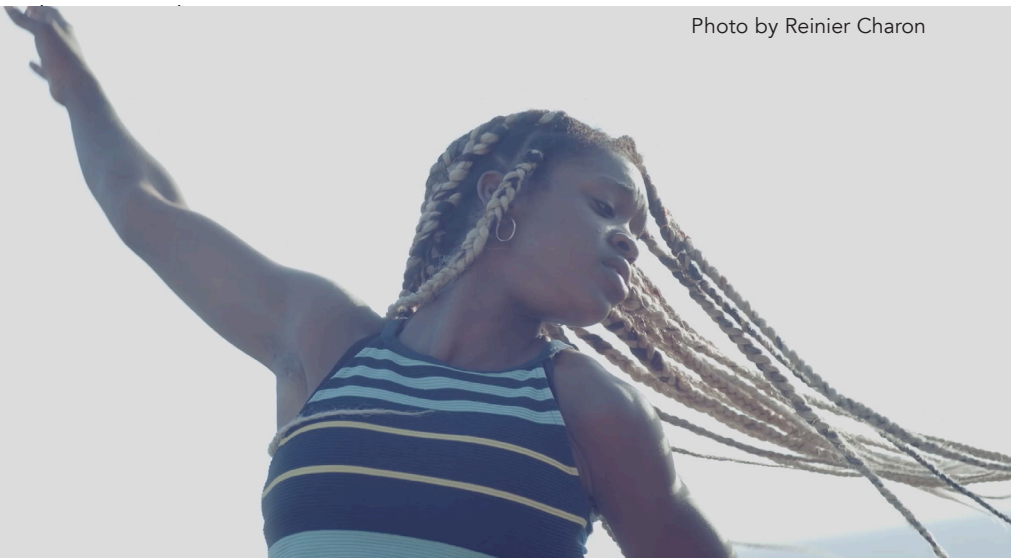
No one would leave home until home is a voice in your ear saying- *leave, run, now. I don't know what I've become...*

Mouth of a Shark reflects this dual life of immigrants—it captures the emotional and physical experience, the experience of living between two worlds, the struggle to survive in their home country and the fight to survive in new country. It is the story of leaving, saying goodbye, while simultaneously saying hello and creating a new life and identity in a new world, always carrying their homeland in their heart and bodies forever. Ramos Alayo constantly melds his experience in the Bay Area with the place of his birth, Santiago de Cuba. "This is not just my story, this is the story of many."

"Quiero ofrecer mis agradecimientos primeramente a

Cubacaribe por todo el apoyo, a Jamaica porque sin ella, esté trabajo no hubiera sido posible, a todos los bailarines que me ayudaron en Cuba y que hicieron posible la creación de Mouth Of A Shark durante el tiempo de COVID, a Reiner Charon, a toda mi familia en Cuba, a mis hijos, a todos los integrantes de Alayo y los bailarines invitados por su creatividad y buena energía en el proceso coreográfico. A Dance Mission, ODC, Shawl-Anderson, a mi amigo Guy y a toda la comunidad del Bay Area por su apoyo

Photo by Reiner Charon



Bios : *Mouth of a Shark Artists*

Alayo Dance Company was founded in 2001 by Ramon Ramos Alayo and is currently the resident company of CubaCaribe. Featuring Artistic Director Alayo's innovative fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular styles, the Company's repertoire cites traditions, movements, narratives, and concepts indicative of Cuban culture and incorporates elements of modern dance. Alayo Dance Company has 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 in the Black Choreographer's Festival, The CubaCaribe Festival, and Intersection's Culture and Flow. Profiled in "Dance Across America" in National Geographic Magazine in 2006, Alayo Dance Company was one of the first American companies to perform at the 2010 Festival del Caribe at Teatro Martí, and partnered with Dance Brigade in July 2011 to perform in Havana's Teatro Mella in Cuba. Since its founding, the Company has premiered over 12 evening-length works in the Bay Area, collaborating with musicians, filmmakers and other artists to address social themes such as health and racism from an Afro-Cuban perspective.



Ramón Ramos Alayo was born in Cuba and trained at the Havana National School of Arts, where he was immersed in learning both modern and traditional styles of dance and music. He went on to receive a Masters degree in contemporary and folkloric dance and dance education there, and performed throughout Europe, Belize, and Canada as a principal dancer with several prominent Cuban dance companies,

including Danza del Caribe and Narcisco Medina Contemporary Dance Company. Since relocating to the U.S. in 1997, he has performed with Robert Henry Johnson, Kim Epifano, Sara Shelton Mann, Zaccho Dance Theatre and Robert Moses' Kin. Ramón founded Alayo Dance Company in 2002 and CubaCaribe in 2003. His work is distinctive for the way in which it combines Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuban dance, as seen in the numerous full-length dance pieces he has choreographed and produced. Ramón has been featured in National Geographic Magazine, received a prestigious Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation Emerging Choreographer's Award and SF Bay Guardian Goldie Award, was recognized as "Best Dance Dynamo" by the SF Bay

Guardian, and has been hailed by dance critic Rita Felciano as “the best Afro-Cuban dancer whose choreography stands well beyond traditional modes.” His piece Goodbye was named one of the best premieres in 2016 in Dance Europe Magazine.

Dancers:

Delvis Savigne Frinon is a gifted dancer and teacher from Cuba who specializes in modern, contemporary, and folklore genres. He received his training from the School of Art, Jose Maria Heredia, in Santiago de Cuba. He began his professional dance career with Danza Teatro del Caribe, under the direction of Eduardo Rivero Walker, which led to international performances in such countries as Spain and Jamaica. He also danced with the National Dance Company of Jamaica. In recent years, he has performed with numerous San Francisco Bay Area dance companies, including Alayo Dance Company with Ramon Ramos Alayo, the Dance Brigade with Krissy Keefer, Zaccho Dance Theatre with Joanna Haigood, and the Robert Moses’ Kin Dance Company. He currently lives and works in Miami, Florida.



Marco Palomino is a performer, choreographer, director, and movement educator, who has dedicated 18 years of his life to versatile dance. He has focused on modern dance, training at the International Dance School of Havana. Marco received a BFA from The University of Arts of Cuba in 2021. He has performed in Europe and around the world dancing with Rosario Cárdenas Dance Company (2012-2016), Ballet Rakatán (2016-2017), Ballet Revolución (2017-2020) and most recently with Carlos Acosta’s company, Acostadanza (2019-2022). He created his own dance academy, LaCueva, based in Havana, Cuba, centered in development the natural and authentic expression. He recently relocated to Los Angeles, where he is focused on creating, teaching, producing multimedia projects, and choreographing. Marco is enthusiastic about exploring the profound connections between the mind, body and soul, especially within the realms of spirituality, emotions, feelings and authentic expression.

Fredrika Keefer is a Hip Hop, Ballet, Contemporary, and Traditional Japanese Taiko drumming teacher. She is currently the Grrrl Brigade Director, Dance Mission's Studio Manager, and a member of Dance Brigade and Alayo Dance Company. Born and raised in San Francisco's Mission district, Fredrika started her dance training at age 5. When she was 14 years old, she started her hip-hop dance training. Since then, she has worked with choreographers such as Kim Epifano, Anne Bluethenthal, Allan Frias, Christy Funch, Krissy Keefer, and Ramon Ramos Alayo, just to name a few. Fredrika's broad experiences have brought her to travel to teach and perform nationally and internationally (Ukiah, Oregon, New York, Africa, Cuba, Lebanon, Egypt, and St. Maarten).



Adonis Damian Martin Quiñones studied in the Art Dance Academy José María Heredia in Santiago de Cuba, earning a degree in Modern & Contemporary Dance. Adonis joined Danza Teatro del Caribe in 2008 under the Direction of Eduardo Rivero Walker and became a soloist in 2010. In Santiago de Cuba, he also performed with

Locomotion, an audiovisual and interactive dance company. In the Bay Area since 2013, he has danced for Joanna Haigood's Zaccho Dance Theater, Dance Brigade, KAMBARA+DANCERS, SoulSkin, Tandy Beal & Company, Alayo Dance Company, Kim Epifano, Raisa Simpson, and Dance Theater of San Francisco (DTSF). He was nominated for an IZZIE (Isadora Duncan Dance Award), for Outstanding Achievement in Performance-Ensemble in Defection-Deflection-Devotion, featured in Dance Brigade's 40th anniversary concert at YBCA.

Maylin McDonald Gómez was born on April 23, 1995. She studied at the vocational art school "José María Heredia Heredia and graduated as a professional dancer. She has worked as a teacher of contemporary modern dance technique, as well as he trained part as a dancer in the companies "Danza teatro del caribe" and the show company "loc@mocion, she participated in international events as a member of the dance group "Habana Tropical" in Porto, Portugal.





Thalia Cueto Ramirez was born on September 17, 1999 in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Since she was young she was drawn to dancing. In fourth grade she joined the children's company "Sueños de Ángeles" and a few months tried out for art school. After successfully passing the exam, she joined the Vocational Art School "Pedro Raul Sanchez" in September 2009. In this she participated in various festival activities and was recognized as an outstanding student. In 2014 she completed the level pass for the National School of Dance and graduated in 2018. She worked at the FREE DANCE COMPANY dancing rhythm fusion.

Alejandro Perez is a first generation Mexican-American from Los Angeles, California. He was first introduced to dance at of 12. He joined a street dance crew in which he use to compete and showcase internationally. Alejandro's passion continued to unfold as he enrolled at Hamilton Performing Arts High School to begin refining his techniques. He is a recipient of scholarships at UCLA,

Jacob's Pillow Ballet Summer Programs 85th Anniversary GALA, & Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program. Alejandro just completed a 3 week residency in the world renowned Orsolina28 in Moncalvo, Italy dancing under the direction of Mike Tyus. He has also performed with ISHIDA, DawsonDances, ZiRu Dance, and several other companies through the United States. Alejandro has set works on the LINES Ballet Training Program, Summer Program, Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) and the California summer school for the arts. He is a dancer, choreographer and movement Director.



Jordan Wanderer is a dancer and educator based in the Bay Area. A graduate of Mills College with BAs in Dance and Cell and Molecular Biology, she is currently a teaching artist and administrator for the LINES Ballet Educational programs. She has performed with Garrett + Moulton Productions, Molissa Fenley, project agora, Molly Matutat, Cat Call Choir, and Robert Moses' Kin, among others.

Nakachi Clark-Kasimu (she/they/fam) is a poet, singer, death doula and aspiring bodhisattva based in Richmond, CA. Formerly a public and private school teacher, Nakachi is a proud Black Teacher Project Fellow (cohort 2) and holds a master's degree in Special Education.



CubaCaribe Presents:

Reunión/Gathering

Artistic Direction by Ramón Ramos Alayo

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Harry Rubeck

STAGE MANAGER Ramón Ramos Alayo & Chi Chi Okonmah

PROGRAM NOTES : This program features original choreography rooted in the Caribbean and its Diaspora based on the theme of gathering, which can be either a noun or a verb, something we actively do or is done.

Uma Flecha So

Agua Doce Dance

Son Jarocho Contemporáneo "Emprendiendo El Vuelo"

Cuicacalli Ballet Folklórico

There's a lemon tree growing inside her belly

Embodiment Project

Bambula! De Borinquen a la Bahia, La Bomba es Vida

Batey Tambó

----- Intermission -----

Forças da Natureza

Alafia Dance Ensemble

Odde Niwe Tafá Tafá

La Unión Matancera

Boda de Pueblo en Sinaloa

Los Lupeños de San José



Photo by Jayasimha Nugghalli

Uma Flecha So

Agua Doce Dance, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY: Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva

COSTUME DESIGN: Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mark Machina. MUSICIANS: Karen Smith, Mark Machina, Juan Sebastian Aleman, Carl Barone

DANCERS: Pearl Chaiyarat, Rachele Chenowith, Noelle Correia, Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva, Clairey Evangelo, Emery Grace, Aniya Hamblin, Lauren Hood, Grace Hurley

PROGRAM NOTES:

Loosely based on a legend (Bahia based) from Ifé about Oxossi the hunter. The village people were gathering to celebrate an abundant harvest. Confusion and despair commence as a large animal was sent over by a tribe of outcasts who were not welcome, cursing the village. Every hunter in the land was summoned by the King, yet they were all unsuccessful in their attempts to kill the beast. Oxotokanxoxô or who we now know as Oxossi, known as the hunter of one arrow, was summoned after many failed attempts by the other hunters. Oxossi was an only son, his mother prayed for the success of his arrow to be precise and true to lift the curse from the village.

Son Jarocho Contemporáneo "Emprendiendo El Vuelo"

Cuicacalli Ballet Folklórico, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY: Jesús Jacoh Cortés

COSTUME DESIGN: Jairo Garcia

MUSIC: Sonex

DANCERS: Jessica Palomino, Fernanda Mercado, Mariah Evans, Tiffany Miranda, Alondra Paniagua, Keilah Boteo, Rebeca Becerra, Favio Nogales, Luis Ramirez, Leopoldo Paniagua, Daniel Bautista, Jesús Cortés

PROGRAM NOTES:

“Emprendiendo el Vuelo” / “Undertaking the Flight” is a work that reflects the evolution of traditional Son Jarocho music and dance. The music, by the recognized band Sonex from Xalapa, Veracruz, is a fusion of traditional and modern sounds. Jesús Cortés, director and choreographer of Cuicacalli, has created this piece complimenting the new and exciting musical composition by Sonex. The choreography presents powerful zapateado Jarocho (foot work from Veracruz) and includes Afro Peruvian body percussion as well as contemporary dance. The dance also uses rebozos and partnering work that tells the story of the songs performed. The Title of the works are: Intro “Madre Natura”, First Dance “La Guacamaya”, Second Dance “Pajaro Cú”

There's a lemon tree growing inside her belly

Embodiment Project, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY: Nicole Klaymoon in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC: “Crucifixion” by Marian Anderson, “Mshubo” by Black Motion, Ihashi Elimhlope

RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH: Nina Simone

SOUND EDITS BY: Nicole Klaymoon

DANCERS: Makhissa Sano and Nicole Klaymoon

PROGRAM NOTES:

May this dance serve as thanks, praise and honor to the spirit of Marian Anderson, Nina Simone, and Pina Bausch.

Bambula! De Borinquen a la Bahia, La Bomba es Vida

Batey Tambó, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION: Denise Solís

CHOREOGRAPHY: Julia Caridad Cepeda

COSTUME DESIGN: Julia Caridad Cepeda

MUSICIANS: Iliá Correa, Felicita “Lissy” Pedroza, Jordan Haar, Wanda Cuesta Kruda, Sofia Besosa, Hector Luis Rivera

DIRECTORS: Denise Solís (Co-Director, Batey Tambó), Julia Caridad Cepeda (Co-Director, Batey Tambó)

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS: Jamilah Sanchez, Jaay Davis, Ansarys Andino, Meilynn Piatt, Leslie Quintanilla

PROGRAM NOTES:

Our piece features some original and traditional Bomba compositions in honor of Bomba as a tool to remember, to connect, and lift up how we maintain our connections to our homelands. We will have a short set of Bomba songs featuring a choreographed piece (by Julia Caridad Cepeda) and some improvised dancing (el reto del bailador(a) con el subidor/a) in the Batey de Bomba.

Intermission / Intermedio

Forças da Natureza

Alafia Dance Ensemble, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION: Mariella Morales

CHOREOGRAPHY: Mariella Morales, Rosangela Sylvestre, Julia Hughes

COSTUME DESIGN: Mariella Morales

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Mark Machina

ACCOMPANIMENT: Carl Barone, Sebastian Aleman, Baba Duru

VOCALS: Karen Smith



Photo by Alvaro Batista

DANCERS: Mela Amaiya, Adrian Arredondo, Anna Paula Bernardes, Elisita Castanon-Hill, Akilah McCullum, Zaida McMahan, Mariella Morales, Lisa Ogiwara

PROGRAM NOTES:

Brazil's African ancestors, the Yoruba from Nigeria and Benin, lived by a belief system that held nature as their high power, understanding the necessity to respect and honor the sacred relationship between nature's elements and human beings. In Brazil, this system developed into the spiritual practice of Candomblé where by orixas or deities, are recognized as divine forces of nature. (Linda Yudin)

Odde Niwe Tafá Tafá

La Unión Matancera, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION: Rene Sergranes

CHOREOGRAPHY: Omar Alfonso

MUSIC: Jose Luis Elejalde, Lesbel Acosta, Luigi, Carlos Medina

DANCERS: Omar Alfonso, Osalay Gonzales, Katy Hernandez, Cantantes, Rene Sergranes, Jenifer Soto, Diosdado, Josi Santiago

PROGRAM NOTES:

Esta coreografía trata sobre el cazador del monte al lanzar su flecha, dicho cazador su nombre es ochosi hay se ven sus movimientos para cazar dentro del monte y las majestuosidad de dicho rey.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Boda de Pueblo en Sinaloa

Los Lupeños de San José, 2023

ARTISTIC DIRECTION: Samuel Cortez

CHOREOGRAPHY: Yahir Padilla

COSTUME DESIGN: Yahir Padilla

MUSIC: Traditional music from Sinaloa: “India Bonita” “Mi gusto es” “Alejandra” “Popurrí Mestizo” (El palo verde, El niño perdido, El tecolotito) “Matarile” “Toro Viejo”

DANCERS: Abigail Fernández, Andrea Rocha Trejo, Angela Arvizu Szymusiak, Angélica Ramírez, Benjamin Leale, Christina Gil, Crystal Ortiz, Delia Rebeca Nájera Pando, Dominic Ortiz, Eduardo Zamora Castellanos, Erick Reyes, Gabriella Martínez, Janet Rojas, Jasmin Velazquez, Jonathan Ortiz, Jorge Güitrón, Juan Díaz, Karen Gomez, Karina Castro, Mario Avalos, Montserrat Rocha Trejo, Noah Kihmm, Sonia Gomez, Steven Gastelum, Tristan Steele

PROGRAM NOTES:

This choreography was inspired by the traditional wedding celebrations in rural areas of the state of Sinaloa, México. These gatherings showcase many of our traditions and stories that connect us deeply with our identity.

Reunión Artists:

Água Doce Dance

Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva founded Água Doce Dance in 2015 and serves as artistic director and choreographer for the contemporary Brazilian dance company. Living in Brazil for five years, Stephanie immersed herself in the vibrant rhythms, movements, language, dance, music and art culture of Salvador Brazil, training with Rosangela Silvestre, Mestre King, Vera Passos, Paco Gomes, Nildinha Fonseca, Joaquim, Agosto Omolu, Lino and Bale Folklorico da Bahia and dancing professionally under the direction of Anderson Rodrigo, Nem Brito and Norma Santana. Under her direction, the company portrays a unique style of Silvestre Technique and contemporary dance blended with elements of traditional Afro-Brazilian movements and rhythms. Through her choreography, she seeks to create a thought-provoking dialogue of intercultural communication with the community and inspire a deeper connection to the self through the discovery and essence of a cultural embodied movement history. Locally as a choreographer, Stephanie has received numerous grants from the Santa Cruz Arts Council and Irwin Art Fund. She produced Tracing Diasporas in Santa Cruz in both 2017 and 2018, a festival featuring dance artists from Brazil and the Diaspora; and her work has been presented at the 2019 Tannery Winter Dance Concert. Stephanie has choreographed for Saint Mary's College, Santa Rosa Junior College, Cabrillo Community College, and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and taught dance at UC Santa Cruz, Saint Mary's College, Santa Rosa Junior College and numerous studios in Santa Cruz. She has been a featured choreographer for the Santa Cruz Ethnic Dance Festival, Santa Cruz Dance Week and Ebb and Flow Festival, and presents work at the annual Yemanjá Arts Festival at Brasarte. Stephanie holds an MFA in Dance and is a certified Silvestre Technique instructor.

Alafia Dance Ensemble

Founded in 1995 by City College of San Francisco dance faculty member Valerie Watson to showcase the intricate beauty and culture of Haitian dance and music, Alafia Dance Ensemble (ADE) is now under the artistic direction of San Francisco native Mariella Morales. Ms. Morales fell in love with dances of the African Diaspora while attending San Francisco School of the Arts. She went on to get a B.A. in Dance and M.S. in Kinesiology from San Francisco State University and to become a Certified Dunham Technique Instructor. Ms. Morales studied directly with Miss Katherine Dunham, attending the annual Katherine Dunham Seminar in East St. Louis from 1999-2011, and was twice awarded scholarships to participate in the New York City Board of Education Dance Institute, based on the Katherine Dunham Model. In 2004, she received a full scholarship to attend the Cultural Traditions Program at Jacob's Pillow under the direction of dancer, choreographer, and historian Jean Leon Destine, considered the "father" of professional Haitian dance. Ms. Morales has studied Sylvestre Dance Technique with choreographer, dancer and instructor Rosangela

Sylvestre in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and with Augusto Omolu, master of Orixá dances from the African Brazilian traditions of Condomble. She has taught extensively in the Bay Area, including at City College of San Francisco, Chabot College, Destiny Arts, University of San Francisco and in public schools; and in Brazil, as a guest instructor in Dunham Technique at the invitation of Federal University of Bahia and Escola de Danca da Fundacao Cultural do Estado de Bahia.

Batey Tambó

Batey Tambó is an Oakland- and San Francisco-based, women of color-led cultural group grounded in the centuries-old musical tradition of Afro-Indigenous Puerto Rican Bomba. Batey Tambó Director and Founder Denise Solís founded one of the first ever all-female Bomba ensembles, Las Bomberas de la Bahia, and more recently co-founded and co-led Taller Bombalele. A student of Bomba since 2001, Solís continues to learn from maestres and elders from Puerto Rico and the Diaspora; she is one of the first women to play the Subidor (lead drum) in the tradition of Bomba. Co-Director Julia Caridad Cepeda is from the esteemed Cepeda Family, which has carried this tradition for more than eight generations. Artistically known as Julia Danse, Julia Caridad Cepeda has been dancing Bomba for more than 40 years, as a student as part of her family Bomba tradition and as a Bomba dance teacher for most of her life. She co-founded and co-led Taller Bombalele Bomba classes with Solís after moving to the Bay Area from Puerto Rico in 2013. Julia Danse currently teaches Bomba Dance classes at Rythmix Cultural Works in Alameda, along with Denise Solís, who teaches the Bomba Percussion Classes under Taller Bombalele. They teach Bomba Cangrejera in the tradition and with the blessing of their elders in La Familia Cepeda. Batey Tambó's mission is to facilitate a discussion through teaching and sharing space for Bomba (Batey's), intervening discussion and practice on racial, gendered, geopolitical contexts by offering an opportunity for dialogue about capitalism and colonization through Bomba. As an embodied musical tradition, Bomba is the result of the transatlantic slave trade and a tool for survival practiced by freed Africans (Cimarrones) in alliance with Taínos in Puerto Rico to communicate, pray, to agitate and organize revolts. Batey Tambó continues in that service of healing and liberation by facilitating spaces through the music and dance tradition of Bomba, offering classes, workshops and performances honoring the complex histories and experiences in our diverse Latinx Diaspora as Batey Tambo. La Bomba es Vida.

Cuicacalli

Cuicacalli (House of Culture) is a year-round youth dance program and performing company, based at Brava Theater in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District, the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. Founded in 2008

by renowned international performer Jesus “Jacob” Cortes, Cuicacalli is an international, cross-cultural, dance-arts educational institution, providing Indigenous, Ballet Folklórico, and Contemporary Dance programs. Cuicacalli values its mission to serve the diverse community of San Francisco with dedication towards excellent instruction, performances, and community programs for intergenerational students, artists, teachers, and audiences of all backgrounds. It continues to build relationships through dance, while expanding and celebrating the cultural traditions of the Americas. Cuicacalli’s teaching instills life skills such as self-expression, confidence, discipline, focus, leadership, teamwork, and positive attitude to create responsible agents of change and influential pillars in our community. It offers training and exposure to versatile dance styles and promotes appreciation for the vibrant cultural rhythms that are the pulse of the Mission District. Cuicacalli strongly holds its values to treat all its participants equally, respectfully and with dignity. Cuicacalli does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or disability.

Embodiment Project

Embodiment Project (EP) is a Bay Area performing arts organization that began as a street dance theater company. Our purpose is to uplift the ancestral and primordial power of dance as an act of resistance, collective healing, and social transformation. Since its inception in 2008, Founding Artistic Director Nicole Klaymoon has staged 12 original evening-length multidisciplinary dance productions, including *Music of the Actualized Child*, and *Chalk Outlines*, which won an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Valerie Troutt’s original music. Dance magazine contributing editor Rita Felciano called EP one of the Bay Area’s “ten companies and artists who challenged expectations and unveiled surprises”. EP produced Rennie Harris’ 18th Annual Illadelph Legends Hip Hop Festival in 2015 and Get Free Festival in 2018 and 2022, both week-long, multi-city street dance intensives rooted in the cultural preservation of Black social dance traditions. EP’s dance films *The Wind Telephone* and *Chrysalis* were sponsored by the SF Dance Film Festival’s Co-Lab and National Center for Choreography Akron and selected by several film festivals, including MARFA Film Festival, Bucharest INTL Dance Film Festival and Barcelona’s Choreoscope Dance Film Festival, Screen Dance International. www.embodimentproject.org

Los Lupeños de San José

Founded in 1969, Los Lupeños de San José is recognized as one of the earliest Mexican folk dance companies in California, known for its artistry, history, traditions, innovation, and originality. A program of the Cashion Cultural Legacy since 2014, Los Lupeños is one of three dance programs there, along with Los Lupeños Juvenil and Los Lupeños Academy. Over the years, Los Lupeños has collaborated with sjDANCEco, Sangam Arts, CubaCaribe, World Arts West, Red Thistle Dancers and others. In 2015, Samuel Cortez was named artistic director

and choreographer, responsible for artistic planning and oversight of both Los Lupeños de San José and Los Lupeños Juvenil. An LGBTQ+ Mexican immigrant, Cortez began his traditional dance background in his home state of Guanajuato, México, where he rose to the role of Assistant Director at Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad de Guanajuato, before moving to Colima to study at the Instituto Universitario de Bellas Artes under celebrated artist and choreographer Rafael Zamarripa. Cortez brought a wealth of knowledge and experience as a dancer, director, researcher, award-winning choreographer, workshop instructor, and costume designer to the Fashion Cultural Legacy in 2015, after running his own dance company, Mexican Dance Ensemble, in Chicago for 14 years. A graduate of the Executive in Arts and Culture Strategy program, Cortez is a member of the International Dance Council, the Asociación Nacional de Maestros de Danza Popular Mexicana, and the Instituto de Investigación y Difusión de la Danza Mexicana. A graduate of both the NALAC Leadership Institute and Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute, Cortez gives back by mentoring directors of other dance companies across the US, giving workshops and guest judging folklórico competitions. Cortez recently obtained his Bachelors in Danza Folklórica and is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Fine Arts at the Escuela Superior de Danza Folklórica Zitlalkiahuitl.

La Unión Matancera

La Unión Matancera was founded in 2021 in Los Angeles, California under the direction of Rene Sergranes Menocal, better known artistically as (Renecito el Matancero), who was the principal singer in the prestigious group, AfroCuba de Matanzas. This company has twelve members the group called Generación Rumbera, based in Los Angeles, California, is interested in promoting Afro-Cuban roots in general and especially the Matanzas tradition. This group has performed at events and universities in Los Angeles and accompanies Afro-Cuban master classes. It has been interviewed On Telemundo, and have performed at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, the Floridita bar-restaurant, and at Casa De La Música L.A. Their first album is also in the works, which bears the name of the group Unión Matancera.

Special Event Artists

DJ Walt Digz

is a veteran DJ and music collector who, along with his Añejo Productions crew, pioneered the first “all-DJ timba Cuban Salsa party” format in the Bay Area in 2002.

Reinier Charòn Morales

is a leading audiovisual producer and cinematographer born, raised in Santiago de Cuba. Charón is also a photographer, music producer, and former member of the award-winning rap group Golpe Seko. He is a Member of the Registry of the Audiovisula Creator OF ICAIC (RECAC) and CEO at El Templo Producciones, an independent audiovisual production company founded in 2009. To date, he has made hundreds of video clips, many as general director, others as photography director, editor and post-production director. Charón has made mini-documentaries, album movie shorts, documentaries and films. He has also created advertising spots and promotional campaigns for the tourism industry and private sector; and served as photography director for TV programs and directed technical coverage of shows and events. Charón was a part of the team that produced the award-winning film “BAKOSO”. He was nominated for the Lucas awards in 2017 and worked on the album video “This is Our Changui” from the 2020 Latin Grammy-nominated group Changui Guantanamo. He has worked as a photographer and videographer with various professional and Cuban and international theater, dance companies, record labels and world-famous music groups, including Los Van Van, Alexander Abreu, Pupy y Los Que Son Son, Septeto Santiaguero, and more. He recently immigrated to Miami from Santiago, Cuba.

Dr. Yvonne Daniel

Smith College Professor Emerita of Dance and Afro-American Studies, Dr. Daniel is a specialist in dance performance and circum-Caribbean societies. Her publications include *Caribbean and Atlantic Diaspora Dance: Igniting Citizenship* (2011), *Dancing Wisdom: Embodied Knowledge in Haitian Vodou, Cuban Yoruba, and Bahian Candomblé* (2005), and *Rumba: Dance and Social Change in Contemporary Cuba* (1995). Dr. Daniel has co-edited *Hot Feet and Social Change: African Dance and Diaspora Communities* (with Kariamou Welsh and Esailama Diouf, 2019), *Dancing Bahia: Essays on Afro-Brazilian Dance, Education, Memory and Race* (with Lucía Suárez and Amélia Conrado, 2018); and *Dancing on Earth*, a special edition of the *Journal of Dance, Movement & Spiritualities* (with Kimerer LaMothe and Sally Hess, 2017). Her book on sacred performance won the de la Torre Bueno prize in 2006; her book on dance citizenship won the National Libraries’ “Choice” award, 2011; and her co-edited book on Brazilian dance was awarded a Special Citation in 2019 from the Dance Studies Association for “grounding research on the interstices of artistic practice and political activism.”

Dr. Daniel has published over 50 juried and solicited articles, encyclopedia entries and chapters, and edited four documentary videos on dance and African Diaspora religions. Dr. Daniel gave the keynote address for the first dance conference given by the University of the West Indies (2014); was a provocateur for the first colloquium on the black dancing body in Sao Paulo, Brazil (2015); and gave the keynote address at Amherst College for the Symposium on African American Dance (2018). In 2013, Dr. Daniel received the Katherine Dunham Legacy Award from the Dunham Institute for continuing Ms. Dunham’s reliance on

Dance Anthropology. In 2022, she gave the keynote address for the Collegium for African Diaspora Dance (CADD) and for the Tourism Research Conference at UC Berkeley. Dr. Daniel is a Ford and a Rockefeller Fellow and has been a Visiting Scholar at Mills College and the Smithsonian Institution. In 2018, she received the scholar's award for lifetime achievement in research on black dance from the International Black Dance Association. In 2021, she received the "Phenomenal Woman" award from Mills College's Alumnae of Color Committee and in 2022, she received the Distinguished Achievement Award from Mills College at Northeastern University.

Einar Leliebre Nuñez

has been a lead musician with the esteemed company Danza del Caribe in Santiago de Cuba since 2003. He also plays and sings with Obbatuke, Grupo Barracón (by Luca Brandoli), has collaborated with Oyu Oro (led by Danys "La Mora" Perez) in New York, Manana Cuba in Cuba, England, Spain and Scotland and many more. He has participated in many national festivals such as the Olorun Festival, the Romerías de Mayo, the Jornada de la Cultura Iberoamericana, as well as national tours. He can be invited or hired to perform (singing and percussion) for events and remotely, lead percussion sections, give individual or group instruction in song and drumming, mount music with musical groups and dance productions, and construct Bata drums by hand. He is versed in the Folkloric music of Cuba, Rumba, religious music, and experimental collaborations with electronic and jazz styles. He recently immigrated to the Bay Area from Cuba.

Emilio Hernandez González

was born in Cuba and is a master dancer, choreographer and teacher. He was a dancer with Ibeyis de Merceditas Valdés and Bailarín de la Compañía Pinos Nuevos, a soloist with Ballet Folklórico Orisha Oko, and dancer and choreographer with the famous Havana Folkloric dance company Raíces Profundas. He received the 2016 Ramiro Guerra Prize for best interpretation of Folkloric dance and the prize of the 2019 Nacional de Coreografía de la Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba. He has also been a judge and teacher at international festivals in Ecuador, Chile, México, France and the US. He recently immigrated to Miami from Havana, Cuba and is teaching Afro-Cuban Folklore dance classes.





Photo by Andrew Weeks

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

17th Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance & Music

Performances

Mouth of Shark Featuring Alayo Dance Company & Guests

Reunión/Gathering Featuring Agua Doce Dance, Alafia Dance Ensemble, Batey Tambó, Cuicacalli, Embodiment Project, Los Lupeños de San José and La Unión Matancera

Special Events

Q&A and Reception

Friday March 31st after show 8:45pm at ODC Theater

with choreographer Ramón Ramos Alayo and visiting filmmaker Reinier Charon of El Templo Productions

A rare chance to hear about the creative process and visit with the artists

Entrance included in show ticket

CubaCaribe 2023 Honoree

Saturday April 8th at 8pm at Dance Mission Theater

Dr. Yvonne Daniel

CubaCaribe pays tribute to the community contributions of Dr. Yvonne Daniel, Ph.D, Professor Emerita of Dance and Afro-American Studies at Smith College for her Caribbean dance research.

Entrance included in show ticket

After Party

Sunday April 9th after the show 7-11pm at Bissap Baobab

Come celebrate with the artists. Ticket Includes entrance to Baobab, performance by Emilio Hernandez González & Einar Leliebre Nuñez, dancing with DJ WALT DIGZ and one appetizer and drink

Tickets \$20 (w/ show ticket) \$26 (w/out show ticket) - www.eventbrite.com/e/reuniongathering-after-party-at-bissap-baobab-tickets-526933872397

Afro-Cuban Modern Dance Class

Saturday April 1st at 11am at ODC Theater

Afro-Cuban modern is a technique mixed with Limón, Graham and Afro-Cuban Folkloric. Featuring visiting dancer **Marco Palomino**, formally with Carlos Acosta's dance Company & Ballet Revolución and Alayo Dance Company's artistic director, **Ramón Ramos Alayo**.

Tickets \$25/advance, \$30/door

www.cubacaribe.org/festival-master-classes



Photo by unknown



Photo by El Templo Productions

Afro-Cuban Folklore Dance Classes

Thursday April 6- Monday April 10, 2023

Featuring **Emilio Hernández González**, visiting master dancer, choreographer and teacher formally with Raíces Profundas in Havana, Cuba.

Thursday April 6:

11:00am -12:30pm: Elegua and Ochun beg/int dance class @ Brasarte

8:45pm-10:15pm: Palo all levels dance class @ Brasarte

Friday April 7:

11:00am-12:30pm: Chango and Ogun all levels dance class @ Ashkenaz

4:30pm-6:00pm: Ararrá all levels dance class @ Mission Cultural Center

Saturday April 8:

10:00am-11:30am: Makuta all levels dance class @ Ashkenaz

3:00pm-4:30pm: Yemaya and Oya all levels dance class @ Brasarte

Sunday April 9:

12:00pm-1:30pm: Bailes Populares all levels dance class @ Mission Cultural

1:30pm-3:00pm: Palo int/adv dance class @ Mission Cultural Center

Monday April 10:

5:00-6:30 pm: Obatala, Ochosi and Elegua all levels dance class @ Ashkenaz

Tickets \$25/advance, \$30/door or 9 class pass \$200

www.cubacaribe.org/festival-master-classes



Photo by Fréd Aubé



Photo by unknown

CubaCaribe is supported in part by:

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A banner celebrating Cuba Caribe as a 2023 YBCA 100 Honoree. The background is a vibrant, geometric pattern of triangles in shades of purple, pink, orange, and red. On the left, the text "YBCA 100" is displayed in large, bold, black letters, with a stylized black outline of a building next to it. Below this, it says "2023 HONOREE". On the right, there is a black and white photograph of a dancer in a white, flowing costume, with her arms outstretched. Below the photo, it says "20 YEARS CUBA CARIBE" and "Performance & Community Collaboration Since 2002". At the bottom right, the text "CUBA CARIBE PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATION" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

CubaCaribe Events

CUBACARIBE CARNAVAL

MAY 2023

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PERFORM IN THE 2023 CARNAVAL SF GRAND PARADE

Choreography & Weekly Classes By

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Founder & Director of
Arenas Dance Company

Ramon Ramos-Alayo

Founder, Artistic Director, & Choreographer of
Alayo Dance Company & CubaCaribe

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CubaCaribe Events

MOVING JUNTOS
ONGOING 2023 & 2024

AFRO-CUBAN DANCE & MUSIC CLASSES

CUBACARIBE.ORG/CLASSES



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AGES 5-7 AND 7-11
SUNDAYS FEB 5 - DEC 10

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odc.dance/stateofplay

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