

Upcoming

The Seventh Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music. Three weeks of performances, classes, and workshops. April 15 - May 1, 2011. Visit www.cubacaribe.org for updates and more details.



Front photo: Elazar Harel
Back photo: Andy Mogg

BOUND together



Alayo Dance Company
&
Afoutayi Dance Company

December 3-5, 2010
Dance Mission Theater

Afoutayi Dance Company

Ayiti Pap Mouri!

Ayiti Pap Mouri! (Haiti will not die) weaves the political, social, historical and cultural aspects of Haiti into the story of a young woman, *Ayiti*. She was tragically hurt by three jealous women:

"Colonization," "Politics," and "Catastrophe," after she captured the love and attention of Kouzin Zaka (the *lwa*, or deity, of agriculture). A *Mambo* and a *Wonsi* (a fully-initiated member of the ritual chorus) come to rescue her by bringing her on a spiritual journey where they go to ask Papa Legba to open the gate for her and plead for justice. During this journey she meets Papa Ogou, a *lwa* of battle, who reconnects her with her African heritage. She then enters the universe of Bawon Samedi and the *guédés* where she dies and is triumphantly reborn a stronger woman.

Dancers: Djenane Saint Juste, Sandrine Malary, Aimee Zawitz, Mela Saunders, Anya Lapham, Marisa Roman, Tony Fang, Jay Danao, Jacinth Jean, Genelda Michaud, Brigitte Knight, Camille Steneck, Olga Antoshina, Elizabeth Martin, Myisha McClennon.
Musicians: Jeff L. Pierre, Chris Fong, Karen Kirschling, Joe Abela.

Singers: Florencia Pierre, Jacinth Jean, Genelda Michaud, Tadd Scott.

Music Credits: *Banm on ti limyè* by R. Buteau and sung by Manno Charlemagne, *Tragedie* by Djenane Saint Juste, *Gonaives* by Eric Virgal

Sound Effects: *Politics* and *Catastrophe* by Walter Cruz

Afoutayi Dance Company was founded in 2009 to provide awareness and education about Haitian culture, as well as the sacredness and artfulness of the Vodou religion.

Djenane Saint-Juste was born and raised in the traditional Haitian culture as her mother Florencia Pierre, a priestess of the Vodou religion was, and her mother before. Ms. Saint-Juste has an extensive background in Haitian dance and music, and is an accomplished choreographer, dancer, and vocalist specializing in the traditional folkloric dances of Haiti. A former student at Cuba's International Schools for Sports and Physical Education, she served for 15 years, as co-artistic director, first dancer, and instructor at the Jaka Dance Institute in Pétionville, Haiti alongside her mother, Florencia Pierre. She has worked with many renowned Haitian artists, including Azor, Boukman Eksperyans, Alan and Syto Cave, Paula Clermont Pean, and Fabienne Denis.

Intermission

Alayo Dance Company

Adonde Vas Amor

Dancers: Ramón Ramos Alayo, Tina Banchemo
Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo
Music: Ruben Gonzales, Bebo Valdes
Costumes: Deborah Valoma.

Momento

Dancers: Lauri Anderson, Tina Banchemo, Shelley Davis, Patricia West Sotelo (Friday & Saturday), Fredrika Keefer (Sunday)
Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo
Music: Ramón Ramos Alayo
Costumes: Ramón Ramos Alayo

Metamorphosis

Dancers: Ramón Ramos Alayo, Alain Soto Aguilera, Aja Randall
Choreography: Narciso Medina
Music: Tomita
Costumes: Narciso Medina

(5 minute pause)

Traces

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company
Choreography: Ramón Ramos Alayo and Alain Soto Aguilera
Music: Conjunto Folklorico Cutumba, Gustavo Santaolalla, Everton Nelson
Costumes: Ramón Ramos Alayo, Deborah Valoma

Lighting: Harry Rubeck
Sound Operator: Andy Keefer
Graphic Design: Jamaica Itule-Simmons
Alayo Dance Company: Ramón Ramos Alayo, Alain Soto Aguilera, Patricia West, Shelley Davis, Aja Randall, Fredrika Keefer, Tina Banchemo, Lauri Anderson

Ramón Ramos Alayo is a dancer, teacher, choreographer and the founder and artistic director of Alayo Dance Company and of CubaCaribe. Selected by the Cuban government to study dance in Santiago de Cuba at age eleven, he went on to earn a masters degree in contemporary and folkloric dance and dance education from 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, and Joanna Haigood. Ramos currently dances with Robert Moses' Kin and teaches Cuban popular dance, Afro-Cuban modern dance and children's movement at several local dance studios and schools.

In 2002, he founded Alayo Dance Company. As director and choreographer, his work is an innovative fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuban dance. Ramos has choreographed and produced eight full-length dance performances: *Añoranza 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 and Sugar* (2008); and *Migrations* (2010).

For more information visit www.alayodance.org

About Us

CubaCaribe was founded in 2003 with the mission to preserve and promote the vibrant artistic heritage of Cuba, the Caribbean, and the wider African diaspora. Based on the principle that racial, ethnic, religious, gendered, economic, and age-based barriers are breeched through the arts, CubaCaribe coordinates performances, workshops, and educational programs that bring Caribbean dance and music to San Francisco Bay Area audiences.

Acknowledgements

Ramón Ramos Alayo gives many thanks to all the dancers, technicians, and volunteers for supporting Alayo Dance Company and CubaCaribe. Thank you to Dance Mission Theater for their invaluable expertise, and especially to Jamaica Itule-Simmons and Adriene Harrison of CubaCaribe. Thanks also to the Friends of CubaCaribe and to all the dancers for believing in my ideas and for giving their time, energy, and dedication.

This project has been made possible in part by support from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the San Francisco Arts Commission, Dance Brigade, and the Zellerbach Family Fund.