

THANK YOU

Ramón Ramos Alayo gives many thanks to Dimensions Dance Theater, Dance Brigade and Dance Mission Theater, Rosa Williams and to all the volunteers for lending their guidance and time.

Special thanks to Krissi Keefer for making this festival possible and for your idea to try to unify the Cuban community, to Debra Lammam for being a friend, to Andy Keefer for all your help and dedication in your work and for making my dreams a reality, to Jodi for your hard work, to Barbara Graber for always being there for me and your energy, to José María Francos for making my work come to life and for always being by my side, to Guy Brenner for all your help in understanding my dream, to my loves, especially to Jamaica for all your generosity and ideas, without her none of this would be possible and to all the dancers for believing in my ideas and giving your time, energy and dedication.

Funded in part by
San Francisco Grants for the Arts
Irvine Foundation
Ca\$h Grant
Zellerbach Family Fund
Lef Foundation
Native American Cultural Center.

la madre

ALAYO DANCE COMPANY APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2005 DANCE MISSION THEATER



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ramón Ramos Alayo

ALAYO DANCE COMPANY

Ramón Ramos Alayo, Serena Edwards, Antoine DeVinci
Hunter, Aja Randall, Laura Serghiou, Kerry Sneed,
Patricia West Sotelo, Oscar Trujillo and Petra Valoma

Special Guests: Tarina Peace, Mikai Jacobs,
Joana Kerr Ramos, Tania Santiago and Nasha Santiago

STAGE MANAGER Barbara Graber

LIGHTING DESIGNER José María Francos

LIGHTING Jodi Feder

SOUND OPERATOR Andy Keefer

STAGE CONSTRUCTION Jodi Feder & Andy Keefer

COSTUME DESIGN Ramón Ramos Alayo

SEEMSTRESS María Velazquez

GRAPHIC DESIGN Jamaica Itule Simmons

la madre

All choreography by Ramón Ramos Alayo

FAREWELL

Performance by Tarina Peace, Mikai Jacobs, Joana Ramos,
Tania Santiago, Nasha Santiago

DEATH AND BLOOD

Performance by Alayo Dance Company

Music by Pierre Akerdegu

HOME

Performance by Tarina Peace, Mikai Jacobs, Joana Ramos,
Tania Santiago, Nasha Santiago

Music by Correo Aereo

FOR YOU

Performance by Ramón Ramos Alayo or Kerry Sneed

Music is tape collage

IN THE HOSPITAL

Performance by Ramón Ramos Alayo, Serena Edwards,
Antoine DeVinci Hunter, Aja Randall, Laura Serghiou, Kerry
Sneed, Patricia West Sotelo & Oscar Trujillo

Music by Yo-Yo Ma, Kathryn Stott, Alex &
Jake Parker

THE LETTER

Performance by Patricia West Sotelo

Music by Guy Brenner

AT PEACE

Performance by Alayo Dance Company

Music by Somei Yoshiro Taiko Ensemble

DEDICATION

Esta trabajo quiero dedicar a mi madre y padre por todo el amor que me dieron por ser mi guía para la vida. Gracias, por mi madre ... lo estoy haciendo porque quiero traer los memorias de mi madre. Mi madre murió en 1984 cuando yo tenía mi madre murió cuando ya tenía 17 años y mi hermana Tania tenía 14 y mi otra hermana Alina tenía 19 yo tengo muy poca memoria de mi madre porque me fui de la casa cuando tenía 11 años para otra ciudad y solo podía visitar mi casa dos veces al año y pienso mi madre me puso en la escuela de arte pero nunca me vió bailando. Con este trabajo quiero bailar para ella, quiero agradecerle por este regalo. Con este trabajo quiero demostrar cuanto importancia son los padres en la vida de nosotros, de agradecer a nuestra padres por todo lo bueno y malo porque nadie es perfecto.

– Ramón Ramos Alayo

I would like to dedicate this work to my mother and father for all the love they have given me and for being my guide for life. Thank you to my mother... I am doing this because I want to bring back the memories of you. My mother died in 1984 when I was 17 years old and my sister Tania was 14 years old and my oldest sister Alina was 19 years old. I have very little memory of my mother because I left my house when I was 11 years old to live in another city and I could only visit my house twice a year. My mother put me in the art school, but never once saw me dance. With this work, I want to dance for her, I want to say thank you for this gift she gave me. With this work, I want to demonstrate how important it is to have parents with us in our lives, to be thankful of our parents with all the good, bad and imperfection.

– Ramón Ramos Alayo

PROFILES

Ramón Ramos Alayo (artistic director/ choreographer/ dancer) started dancing at age eleven in Santiago de Cuba. 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 has performed in Cuba, Europe, Canada, Belize and the U.S. In 1997, Ramón moved to the U.S. and began his professional career in the Bay Area. He has performed with a variety of local choreographers including Robert Henry Johnson, Kim Epifano, Sara Shelton Mann and Zaccho Dance Theatre. Currently he dances with Robert Moses' Kin. He teaches Cuban Salsa and Afro-Cuban Modern dance at a variety of Bay Area studios and teaches children's movement classes at a variety of schools. In 2003 he co-founded CubaCaribe, an organization that promotes Cuban cultural and artistic programs throughout the Bay Area and produces Cuba Camp, an annual summer dance camp. Most recently he co-produced first annual Cuba Caribe Festival at Dance Mission Theater. Ramón has directed various groups including, Ire Ile, an all women's Cuban dance ensemble. He has produced four full-length dance performances, Anoraña de Una Epoca (1998) Mis Sueños Mis Ideas (2003) A Piece of White Cloth (2004) and La Madre (2005). In 2003, he established the Alayo Dance Company and choreographs new work that is a unique fusion of Afro Cuban Modern, Folkloric and Popular dance.

Serena Edwards is a San Francisco based dancer born in Santa Cruz, California. She is completing her B.A. in Dance at San Francisco State University and is getting certified in Pilates at the Ellie Herman Studio. She has performed with P.U.R.E. Dance Collective and the Zari Leon Dance Theatre. She is also Co-founder of the aerial pole dance company One Trik Pony. This is her first year with the Alayo Dance Company and she feels honored to be a part of the Company.

Antoine DeVinci Hunter is a graduate of Oakland's Skyline High School where he began dancing with Miss Dawn James. He has performed with Nuba Dance Theater with Evelyn Thomas and attended California Institute of the Arts for two years. He has also studied at the Paul Taylor Summer intensive in New York during 2003 and 2004 with Ms. Susan McGuire. He is a faculty member of East Bay Center of the Performing Arts under Jordan Simmon and is co-directing Urban Ballet with Rebecca Hawley in Richmond, California. Antoine has studied with Reginald Ray-Savage, Zafra Miriam, Ck Ladzekpo and Betty Ladzekpo for seven years. He is a faculty member of Savage Jazz Dance Company at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts and has been a member of the Savage Jazz Dance Company since 2002. This is his first year with the Alayo Dance Company.

Aja Randall Hailing from St. Louis, Missouri, Aja graduated from Stephens College in 1999 with a degree in Dance and a minor in Education. She moved to San Diego, California with her husband in 2000 and danced for two years with Majelate Collective Dance Ensemble and projects with Sadie Weinberg. She moved to the Bay Area last year and has been very blessed to have been dancing since she stepped foot in the city. This is her first year with the Alayo Dance Company and Aja is excited to be dancing with the company.

Tania Santiago Born and raised in Salvador, Bahia where she grew up in the heart of African influenced Brazil. She has taught, danced and choreographed for the most well known companies in Brazil. She has degrees in Dance from the SESC Associação School of the Arts and Fundação do Estado da Bahia School of Dance located in Salvador. She spent six years working with Olodum, the most successful Bloco Afro in Brazil. Tania

choreographed and performed for Olodum all over the world, including Europe, Asia and North America. She also taught dance at the Olodum Creative School for Youth in Bahia during this time. She has been residing in California since 1997 and teaches regularly in dance studios and in many San Francisco public schools. In 2001, she received the California Arts Council Artist in Residency grant to teach youth in the community. In 1998 she formed the dance company Aguas Da Bahia which has performed at a variety of Bay Area venues. In 2003 Aguas Da Bahia produced its own season, the critically acclaimed show AGUAS, was performed in front of 1200 people over three days.

Laura Serghiou is originally from the island of Cyprus. Since moving to the Bay Area in 1993, she has attended Ballet, Modern and Jazz classes at San Francisco Dance Center. In 1999, she graduated with a Masters degree in Art Education with a Dance specialization from Stanford University. She is delighted to work with Ramón and is grateful to have the opportunity to perform with a talented and inspiring group of dancers. This is her second year with the Alayo Dance Company.

Kerry Sneed began his ballet training at the age of fourteen at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas, Texas. He also has trained with the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and began his professional career performing and choreographing with the Mahogany Dance Theatre of Dallas. While obtaining his BFA Degree at CalArts, he choreographed 14 dance works for their dance department. He was the first in-house student to choreograph for their Dance Ensemble and the opening of the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theatre. At CalArts, Kerry trained with Fiona Lummis, Glen Eddy, Arthur Mitchell, Helen Pickett and others. Kerry has also worked with KIN Dance Company in Los Angeles, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Alvin Ailey II, the Conservatory of Classical Ballet, and Random Dance Company in London. He has taught at the BTWHSPVA and at the Alonzo King LINES Contemporary Ballet 2004 Summer Workshop. This is his first year with the Alayo Dance Company.

Patricia West Sotelo is an Oakland based dancer, choreographer and teacher. She's received her B.A. in English, Dance, and Education at U.C. Berkeley and a M.A. in Education from San Jose State University. Previous to the Alayo Dance Company, Patricia has been a member of the Bay Area Repertory Dance, Capacitor, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, and Levydance. Patricia continues to work with several independent choreographers here in the Bay Area. She feels honored to be spending her third year with the Alayo Dance Company.

Oscar Trujillo is a Bay Area based dancer, choreographer and teacher. He has worked with Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, Capacitor, Dandelion Dance Theater, Kajiyama and Navarette, Element Dance Theater, and Mary Carbonara dances, among others. He is co-director of GROUP and Vortex Collective. Oscar also directs Cubana Cero productions which will present its first full evening of performance in San Francisco in fall 2005. This is his second year with the Alayo Dance Company.

Petra Valoma is a dancer, poet and Junior at Berkeley High School. She has studied Classical Indian dance for ten years with Aggie Brenneman, Brazilian dance for five years with Conceicao DAMasceno, African dance for one year with Naomi Diouf and modern dance for two years. She performs with Ginga Brazil and this is her first year with the Alayo Dance Company.