

The making of the African Diaspora was a tragedy of both private and epic proportions. Yet the full-bodied complexity of pan-American culture would be sadly impoverished without the dynamic influence of African philosophical and aesthetic principles. This showcase of African based performance honors the tenacious survival of African traditions and acknowledges the cultural debt owed to the presence of Africa here.

2006 CubaCaribe Festival: *Africa* Here

Artistic Director Ramón Ramos Alayo

CubaCaribe Producers

Michael Nolan
Kristina Ramsey
Jamaica Itule Simmons
Rosa Williams

Lighting Design Harry Rubeck
Sound Operator Andy Keefer
Graphic Design Jamaica Itule Simmons

Thank you to all the dancers, musicians, choreographers and volunteers for supporting the CubaCaribe Festival and making this program possible, to Dance Mission Theater, CubaCaribe volunteers and staff, and all the volunteers who have lended their support and time.

Funded in part by Zellerbach Family Fund

Loco Blocco's programs provide youth consistent contact with community-based artists of color who act as teachers, mentors and role models, empowering youth to make healthy choices about their lives. We feel both proud and grateful to work with youth and families in our community, and to bring forth amazing young artists. The Loco Blocco Performance Ensemble is comprised of the Lead Instructors in which make the program possible.
www.locoblocco.org

Michelle Martin & Konpayi

The Afro-Haitian Piece is about Azaka, who is the patron of agriculture. From the field to the market, he assists those who earn their living working the earth; Djuba is the rhythm that is played in honor of Papa Azaka. This piece is dedicated to all workers who struggle daily, continue to be grateful and find the jote de vive in a harsh physical and socio-economic environment.
lokiki510@yahoo.com

Allan Frias and Mind Over Matter

Mind Over Matter (M.O.M.) is the bay area's elite dance group known for its clean execution and soulful style that encourages individualism amongst its members, but yet presents uniformity through the art of dancing. Originated in 1993, M.O.M. has evolved into a diverse troupe that consists of members from teens to adults, with different ethnic backgrounds and a variety of dance styles. Throughout the years this renowned dance group has performed in countless benefit showcases & clubs across California. M.O.M.'s unique choreography and polished stage presence are what sets them apart from others. This strong combination brings forth a surge of excitement & motivation never seen before. Audiences will agree that M.O.M. is an unparalleled group of dancers who pride themselves on their creativity, energy & commitment to dance & to each other. In belief that anything is attainable if you put your mind into it, M.O.M. will give you a performance you would want to watch over and over again.
www.mindovermattersf.com or henryperez79@yahoo.com

¡TIMBEAL!

¡Timbeal is a group of women of different ages, backgrounds, and interests who are strongly connected through a love of Cuban music and salsa rueda dancing. With such a diverse and rich culture of dance in the San Francisco Bay Area, the group's founders decided to harness the creative talents of the women around them and to provide women interested in rueda de casino a supportive and creative space to practice and improve their dancing skills, including leading, following, performing, and teaching. Founded in August 2004, ¡Timbeal has performed at street fairs, community events, private benefits, and other local venues. ¡Timbeal won first place in an international salsa rueda competition in Miami, Florida in November of 2005. ¡Timbeal is just returning home to the Bay Area from their second international rueda competition in Vancouver, Canada. ¡Timbeal's talent was again highly recognized and the team is proud to come home with second place honors. The piece is casino rueda, Cuban salsa danced in a circle or "wheel", with original vueltas inspired by Cuban folkloric and popular dancing. Although rueda looks choreographed, dancers are responding to the direction of the "caller" which adds to the challenge, spontaneity, and fun of this infectious dance form.
timbea_mujeres@yahoo.com or sandy.scoggin@gmail.com.

company profiles

Afro-Cuban Ensemble

The Ensemble is a group of Professional dancers and musicians who currently live and work in the Bay Area, they have united to perform in this festival. What they have in common is their deep understanding of Afro-Cuban Haitian dance and music which flourishes in the eastern part of Cuba, specifically Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba.

This dance form of the piece is Papa Guede. Guede is a family that pertain to the dead that includes many deities. Each of these deities plays a unique and important roll within the cemetery. Their emblematic colors are black, gray and white. Their dances include a variety of body movements that are both erotic and beautiful. It is through their eroticism that they are able to emit their beauty. It is danced by both men and women. Papa Guede is considered to have the most important roll in the cemetery: he is in charge of caring for all of the tombs of children without allowing anyone to either disturb or touch the children's spirits. It is because of this that Papa Guede receives the most offerings, including food, candles and music.
rojascheo@hotmail.com

Alayo Dance Company

The Alayo Dance Company makes dances that blend cultures. Now in its fourth year, many are drawn to the company's unique fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric, and popular dance. At the National School of the Arts in Cuba, from which Ramón Ramos Alayo graduated, all dance students are taught modern and traditional styles of dance and music. In Cuba the two forms are not as segregated, which is in stark contrast to the United States. Combining elements of both styles to produce Afro-Cuban contemporary dance, a rich story is told from a broad palette of movement styles that is indicative of Cuban culture, but the combination of which is rarely seen in the Bay Area. Alayo Dance Company is the resident company of Cuba Caribe. They have performed throughout the Bay Area at venues such as Dance Mission Theater, Sonoma Country Wine Theater, and La Pena Cultural Center.
www.cubacaribe.org or ramoneusalsa@aol.com

GRRRL Brigade

Launched in 2004, Grrrl Brigade is a multiracial performing ensemble that develops issue-oriented multicultural dance theater reflecting the interests, concerns and experiences of San Francisco teenage girls. During its first year, Grrrl Brigade established a forum for young women's voices of self-expression and extended the reach of Dance Brigade's content-driven work into the Mission District and into the teenage sector of the women's community. The program enhances the teenagers' understanding of cultural diversity, women's empowerment, collective process and cooperation and health, hygiene and healthy body images and they acquire the knowledge that a small group of people committed to working on a particular issue can have a significant impact on the larger community.
www.dancemission.com

Loco Bloco Performance Ensemble

Founded in 1994 by artists and activists of color, Loco Bloco has provided thousands of youth from low-income communities free classes in percussion, dance and theater. Drawing from African, Latino and indigenous cultural currents, we empower youth of color by connecting them to art forms reflective of their cultural heritage.

Africa Here

We are the Daughters

Performance by GRRRL brigade: Fredrika Keefe, Hanoko Makepeace, Scarlett Giesbrecht, Hannah Mason, Rachel O'Hearn, Madison Parker, Ava Rosen & Lucy Young/choreography by Ramon Ramos Alayo/music by Pierre Aleandengue & Hughes De Courson "Lambarena"

Everything That Comes From The Earth

Performance by Alayo Dance Company: Oscar Trujillo/choreography by Ramon Ramos Alayo/music by Antonio Pinto

A Praise To These Young Dancers

Performance by GRRRL brigade: Fredrika Keefe, Hanoko Makepeace, Scarlett Giesbrecht, Hannah Mason, Rachel O'Hearn, Madison Parker, Ava Rosen & Lucy Young//choreography by Ramon Ramos Alayo/music by Phillip Glass

Kombit Zaka

Performance by Michelle Martin & Konpayi: Stella Rose Adelman, Gabriella Cole, Dominique Sanz- David, Portsha Jefferson, Paulina Flint de Castro, Lance Scott, Patrice Roland, Tanfela Bell, Bonnie Awesu, Taj Campbell, Patrick O'Day, Saba Sabina & Jason Wong/choreography by Michelle Martin/Live Music by Scooter Fein, Karen, Gaku Watanabe, Mudzima, Heather Easley-Kasinsky & Nancy MacMorris

Rueda de Casino

Performance by Timbeal: Joanna Arhon, Cora Barnes, Lisa Block, Sante Brock, Amy Draizen, Erika Goncalves, Sonya Haggett, Sarah Kipnes, Salome Portugal & Sandy Scoggin/choreography by Cora Barnes & Erica Allen/Music by Los Van Van & Maraca

Island Flava

Performance by Mind Over Matter: Allan Frias, Paula Dewart, Tiffini Elise, Henry Perez, Clint Calimit, Michael Burke, Lida Li, Courtney Wong, Aaron Arrell, Ali McCarthy, Chris Chualong, Dey Charnsupharindr, Edythe Mangindin, Fredrike Keefe, Kyle Manalang & Noelle Calixto/choreography by Allan Frias/Collage of music by Mia, Toni Braxton, Sean Paul, Shaggy and more

Los Guedes

Performance by Afro-Cuban Ensemble: Ramón Ramos Alayo, Luisander Planas Echavaria & Royland Lobato/choreography by José Cheo Rojas Ramirez/Live music by Joe Church, Michael Labrada, Josef (Pili) Martínez, Rogelio Kindelan Nerdet & José Cheo Rojas Ramirez

Sprezzatura

Performance by Loco Bloco Performance Ensemble: Pedro Gomez, Alfe Macias, Jose Barajas, Malyah Cole, Aron Lechuga, Adam Shane & Ron Jackson/Musical Direction by Pedro Gomez/Choreography by Loco Bloco Performance Ensemble

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