

THE 11TH ANNUAL

CUBACARIBE FESTIVAL

OF DANCE & MUSIC
IN SEARCH OF SOUL

APRIL 9 - APRIL 26, 2015



Photo Credit: eLe Photography

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.



Artistic Director Ramón Ramos Alayo

Executive Director Jamaica Itule Simmons

Producers Kyleigh Nevis and Aida Salazar

Graphic Design Jamaica Itule Simmons and Lexx Valdez



A Note from the Executive Director:

Thank you for joining us for our 11th Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music: In Search of Soul. This year's theme will investigate how spirit, core and heart, emerge in movement and cultures of the Caribbean Diaspora. Soul will be defined by our artists and their choreography, will uncover how deeply intertwined are the connection and union of the soul and the body. The festival has been highly acclaimed for being the only festival to present popular, contemporary and folkloric culture, art, 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. We pride ourselves on working with artists locally, nationally and internationally. We continue to strive to achieve our mission, improve upon our setbacks and celebrate our 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



Week 1: African Souls- Cuba & Brasil Fri - Sun, Apr 10-12, 2015 : ODC Theater

Arenas Dance Company

Rumba y Candela

Choreography: Susana Arenas Pedroso

Soloists: Susana Arenas Pedroso and Ramon Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Stella Adelman, Elizabeth Soberanes, Luz Mena, Tony (Ton-Yun) Fang, Deborah Valoma, Sierra Drew, Mitzi Ulloa, Camille Steneck

Musicians: Elizabeth Sayre, Carolyn Brandy, Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Yoel Mullen, Michelle Martinez, Alisa Froman, Peggy Morrison, Heidi Clark, Natasha Wild, Anne Huang

Teatro Brasileiro de Dança- The Bahia in Oakland

De Corpo e Alma

Created in 2015

In a ritualistic manner, as if a mantra, performer's bodies/corpos are totems, made by capoeira forms of the 3 different capoeira schools: angola, regional and contemporânea. Through poetry and berimbau sounds, lights, and a slow beat, movements become absolute. The path is open by "the cultural roots of Candomblé" which is brought to life with the movements of Congo-Angola, Jêje, Ketu, Jexá cultural nations and caboclos. As emotions and the beat rise, drums transform the poem into an euphoria. Ritual is transformed to celebration. Celebration keeps traditions alive. We carry them within our "de corpo e alma" (body and soul).

Choreography: Isaura Oliveira

Dance Assistants: Asatu Musunama Hall Allah and Julia Hughes

Capoeira Assistants: Elieverson Lobo and Nadia Qabazard

Musicians: Julio Remelexo: atabaques and led percussion; Danilo Portugal: Berimbau and percussion effects; Viniciuos Oliveira-Bae: atabaques, berimbau, lead percussion

Vocalist Leaders: Danilo Portugal and Vinicious Oliveira-Bae

Costume Design: Isaura Oliveira

Dancers: Alexis Lowenstein, Asatu Musunama Hall Allah, Chipa Ginga Mundo, Danilo Portugal, Elieverson Lobo, Hélio Luiz-Sereno, Isaura Oliveira, Jadson Souza-Çaçador, Julio Remelexo, Laeah Kimble-Price, Nadia Qabazard, Tammy Chang-Foquinha, Ugo Edu, Veronica Howard and Vinicious

Alayo Dance Company

Love Me or Hate Me

Created in 2015

Choreography: Grette Rodriguez

Music: Ewan McGregor

Dancers: Adonis Damien Martin, Jose Carlos Alarcon, Edisnel Rodriquez, Fredrika Keefer, Zoe Klein, Grette Rodriguez

Arenas Dance Company

Oya: La Mujer Guerrera

(Oya: The Female Warrior)

Choreography: Susana Arenas Pedroso

Costumes: Adrienne Harrison

Soloist: Susana Arenas Pedroso

Dancers: Diana Aburto, Stella Adelman, Elizabeth Soberanes, Luz Mena, Tony (Ton-Yun) Fang, Tammy Ryan, Mitzi Ulloa, Camille Steneck

Musicians: Elizabeth Sayre, Carolyn Brandy, Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Yoel Mullen, Michelle Martinez, Alisa Froman, Peggy Morrison, Heidi Clark, Natasha Wild, Anne Huang

INTERMISSION

Aguas Dance Company

Amor ao Mar

World Premiere

A Puxeda de Rede, which is a Brazilian folkloric piece about Yemanjá, the Orisha of the Ocean, and a fisherman. It's an ethereal and celebratory piece with scenes by the ocean involving fishermen, mermaids and Yemanjá.

Choreography: Tania Santiago

Music: Wagner Profeta Santos (percussion), Mark Machina (percussion, violin, guitar), Jules Hilson (percussion), Tosh Harris (percussion)

Costume Design: Conceicao Damasceno

Dancers: Stella Adelman, Danielle Ancin, Stephanie Bastos, Jon Campbell,

Heather Elaine, Mikhaila Fendor, Felice Gomez-Spencer, Nasha Harris, R. Jefferson Joseph, Andrew Leathers, Lily Liang, James Sarria, Tiombe Valone, Rayna Wiles

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: Ramon Ramos Alayo

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

Costume Designer: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Adonis Damien Martin, Jose Carlos Alarcon, Edisnel Rodriguez, Fredrika Keefer, Zoe Klein, Grette Rodriguez

ABADA-Capoeira San Francisco Company

Maculelê and Capoeira:

Created in 2015

Capoeira is a traditional Afro-Brazilian art form that combines ritual, self-defense, acrobatics, and music in a rhythmic dialogue of the body, mind, and spirit. Maculelê is a traditional Afro-Brazilian dance played with sticks and machetes. Maculelê was created by the African slaves in Brazil who worked the sugar cane plantations. It is believed that during their times of rest between working, they would practice this dance with the machetes which they used for cutting down the sugar cane.

Choreography: Márcia Treidler, Mestra Cigarra

Musicians: Berimbau: Mestra Cigarra, Lisa Willoughby, Elias Gonzalez;

Atabaque: Alison Gleason, Zak Douglas; Pandeiro: Mayela Carrasco, Alazan Flores; Agogô: Zander Williams

Dancers: Sara Breselor, Mayela Carrasco, Antonio Contreras, Rhodora Derpo, Nick Dolce, Zak Douglas, Alazan Flores, Aimée Fribourg, Alison Gleason, Kelly Gleason, Elias Gonzalez, Miquel Hernández, Ian McLachlan, Tony Shephard, Makley de Sousa, Márcia Treidler, Mestra Cigarra, Jennifer Walsh, Zander Williams, Lisa Willoughby

Production Team:

Lighting Design: Daniel Weiermann

Light/Sound Tech: ODC Technical Staff

About the Performing Companies:

ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco Company was founded in 1992 and has been producing and presenting athletic and spirited performances that preserve and promote Afro-Brazilian culture. Under the artistic direction of internationally- renowned capoeira artist Márcia Treidler, the ensemble has presented over 1,000 performances at ticketed venues, schools, cultural events, and outdoor festivals throughout Northern California. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Márcia Treidler “Mestra Cigarra” is the founder and artistic director of ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco (ACSF). Mestra Márcia Cigarra is one of the top seven capoeiristas out of over 50,000 international ABADÁ-Capoeira members and the first female student of Mestre Camisa to be awarded the rank “Mestra”, a title shared with some of the world’s top practitioners. Since 1991, Márcia has dedicated herself to developing ACSF’s into a San Francisco cornerstone for art and culture, and an internationally renowned capoeira school and Center. This is the sixth large-scale stage production she has created and directed featuring her ACSF performance company and guest master artists from Brazil.

Aguas Dance Company was founded in 1998 by Tania Santiago with a mission to share the rich 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 Orisha and folkloric dances to the urban dance of “samba reggae.”

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

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.

Teatro Brasileiro de Dança- the Bahia in Oakland is an itinerant, mutable performance group idea, that creates new segment in which location the artist leader Isaura Oliveira settles. It was first created in Boston, MA(2001) to embrace students and guest performers of Isaura’s experimental work. TBC performed in ‘01/’02 “building our IWA PÊLÉ “, among other pieces. In 2004 in Miami Beach, FL, Isaura performed a solo piece: “Salutation” as her graduation of Synergy Yoga Training. When relocated to SF Bay Area, TBD performed in 2008 as result of Dance Mission performance workshop and 2009 as part of the Black Choreographers Festival. Also in 2009 TBD promoted the Festival Brasileiro in Berkeley. Since 2013 TBD embraces the idea of its third segment, now 2015 it is official, the BAHIA in OAKLAND, a collaboration between artists of dance, capoeira, music, theater, video with the baixos: Julio Remelexo, Danilo Portugal, Bae Oliveira, Chipa Mundo, Jadson Souza, Hélio Sereno, Isaura Oliveira and Elieverson Lobo.



Photo Credit: Nancy Duranteau, Maaf



Week 2: Soul Caribe
Fri - Sat, Apr 17-19, 2015 : Dance Mission Theater

Colombian Soul **Ritual and Profane**

The dance performed for an invisible audience of spirits, ancestors, deities, and other entities whose good-will is considered necessary to the well-being of the Afro-Colombian community.

Choreography: Adriana Sanchez

Music: Virgilio Guevara, Craig Miller, Adley Penner, Tomas Salcedo

Dancers: William Alvarez, Nicole Gray, Devine Hardy, Christina Holmes, Hector Marin, Catalina Tapia, Lady Ramirez, Adriana Sanchez, Atalya Yeshayahu

Bravissimo Youth Ensemble **A Blessing**

Created in 2015

Choreography: Grette Rodriquez

Music: Max Richter and Birdy

Costume Design: Cecile Janicek

Dancers: Sophie Kourtoglou, Elexi Kourtoglou, Mira Wong, Krystn Janicek

Dimensions Dance Theater **The Town on Notice**

Created in 2015

Choreography: Deborah Vaughan

Spoken Text: Marvin K. White

Costume Design: Dorcas Mba

Dancers: Laura Elaine Ellis, Denice Simpson Braga, Marianna Hester, Erik Lee, Lavinia Mitchell, Valrie Sanders, Justin Sharlman, Phylcia Stroud, Latanya D. Tigner, Roquisha Townsend

Aguacero

Mi Alma Habla Bomba

Created in 2015

This presentation focuses on the root of Bomba which is a partner dance in an improvised format. It accents the beauty of the paseo (stroll) in variations of basic steps. One of the highlighted rhythms is the rhythm of Yuba which is defined as a dance of character, with great strength, attitude and intent.

Choreography: Shefali Shah

Costume Design & Seamstress: Shefali Shah and Susan Marchionna

Music: Ali "Choco" Luna (barril), Hector Lugo (barril y cua) Roman Ito Carrillo (barril), Mari Luna (barril y cua), Christina Navarro (cua), Maraca (lead singers-Shefali, Sandra Garcia Rivera, Hector Lugo)

Vocalists: Shefali Shah, Sandra Garcia Rivera, Hector Lugo, Luis Lemus, Roman Ito Carrillo, Jo Annie Seda, Christina Navarro

Dancers: Ito Carrillo, Sonya Childress, Luis Lemus, Hector Lugo, Ali "Choco", Luna Mari Luna, Christina Navarro, Jennifer Pedelaborde, Sandra Garcia Rivera Jo-Annie Seda, Sarita Shah, Shefali Shah

Photo Credit: Patrick Hickey



INTERMISSION

Grupo Experimental Nago

Guateque Campesino

Created in 2014

These are campesino dances found primarily in the central and eastern regions of Cuba. These dances are not frequently performed outside of Cuba and lend insight into rural culture, past and present. They celebrate the richness and complexity of campesino life and include rapid footwork and intricate formations. The basic structure of these dances was brought to Cuba by the Spanish. African-based rhythms and movements then influenced these styles creating a unique choreography.

Choreography: Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt

Associate Director: Claudia Rosa

Costume Design: Alice Thomas

Dancers: Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt, Holly Burnett, Corrine Inabinet, Lulula Lee, Marisa Roman, Katy Alaniz Rous, Serena Wong

Musicians: Joe Churchill, percussion and vocals; Jubal Greenwood, guitar; Preston Justice, percussion; Livan Montoya, bass; Joaquin Ramos, percussion

Vocalists: Morgan Simon, Lead Vocals; Alisa Froman, coro; Michelle Martinez, coro; Peggy Morrison, coro.

Cunamanué

Cantando y Bailando

World Premiere

Through the use of Zapateo (footwork), vocals, and movement, this piece celebrates legacy and the continuity of culture.

Choreography: Carmen Roman in collaboration with Andre Ordoñez Sifuentes

Music: Pedro Rosales, Cajon

Dancers: Stephanie Bastos, Aliyah Dunn-Salahuddin, Andre Ordoñez Sifuentes, Carmen Roman

La Mezcla

Convivencia

“Convivencia” is a Son Jarocho piece that was created to represent the life, traditions, and people of Veracruz, Mexico. This state is along the Gulf of Mexico and has its own distinct, rich, beautiful culture.

Choreography: Vanessa Sanchez

Music: Jorge Beltran, Lourdes Castro-Beltran, Maria de la Rosa, Dolores

Garcia, German Reules

Dancers: Jorge Beltran, Lourdes Castro-Beltran, Arturo Flores, Dolores Garcia, German Reules, Vanessa Sanchez

Alafia Dance Ensemble

Soley

World Premiere

Soley is represented by Saint Nicolas in the vodou religion as the patron of justice who shines in the four corners of the world. This piece is to invoke Saint Soley, invocation to the sun, prayers to the sun, asking for peace, love, light and unity. Each generation is here to bring something to the world. We are here to learn from our ancestors and our mission is to pass it onto the next generation and keep the sun shining.

Choreography: Fofa Pierre

Costume Designer: Fofa Pierre

Dancers: Adrian Arredondo, Javon Brandon, Daniel Derrick, Akiko Heard, Brigitte Knight, Mariella Morales

Production Team:

Lighting Design Harry Rubeck

Sound Operator Kristofer Hall



Photo Credit: Patrick Hickey

About the Performing Companies:

Aguacero is a performance and education project focusing on the traditions and creative expressions of Puerto Rican Bomba music and dance. “Aguacero” literally means a sudden heavy rainstorm usually followed by a refreshing sky clearing and gust of sunshine. The spirit and practice of Bomba, like an “aguacero,” is intense, healing and promotes life and growth. Through song, music and dance, Aguacero embodies the life, energy, and continuity of water in nature. Aguacero came together in 2006 as a collective of skilled Bay Area dancers, musicians, poets and songwriters practicing, studying, and performing Bomba and other Puerto Rican and Caribbean folkloric traditions. Aguacero carries out its vision to create and share new original works in Bomba and to affirm perspectives and expressions of the genre rooted in the teachings of our masters and ancestors.

Alafia Dance Company 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. Florencia “Fofó” Pierre has dedicated her life to teaching the stories, songs and rhythms that form the foundation of traditional Haitian culture. Fofó is an accomplished choreographer, singer, actress, and educator, as well as a mambo (a priestess in the Vodou religion). Born in La Gonave, Haiti, she was raised in Haitian culture by her mother, who was also a mambo.

Columbian Soul is a dance company founded by Adriana Sánchez that was born out of a necessity to express and to share who Sanchez was, where she came from, and what she lived each day in Colombia as well as in other parts of the world. Through Colombian folkloric dance and short pieces of theater Adriana shows the vivid expressions, idiosyncrasies, and dreams of the Colombian soul. Since 2005 Colombian Soul has been representing Colombian music and Folklore in numerous culturales events in San Francisco and through the Bay Area. Adriana Sánchez has a commitment with the Colombian Culture, she wants preserves the Colombia cultural performing and teaching the dances and music heritage to a new Colombian as well as other countries generations.

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 Dance Theater is a dance company and school that was founded in Oakland in 1972 with the mission to create, perform, and teach dance that reflects the lives and historical experiences of The African Diaspora. Much of DDT's work focuses on Africa and the Americas in the Caribbean. Under the continuing leadership of co-founder and artistic director Deborah Vaughan, the company has for over 40 years served as a beacon of creativity and a model of artistic excellence for a low-income, inner city, urban community with little access to the arts.

Grupo Experimental Nago focuses on the dances of Eastern Cuba and will be presenting a guateque campesino, a richly textured celebration of rural life in the Oriente Province. Grupo Experimental Nago has been in existence for five years. Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt, Artistic Director, is dedicated to the preservation and development of Afro-Cuban culture through dance and music. Nago focuses particularly on the culture of Oriente Province in Eastern Cuba. This area is home to a unique blend of dance and musical forms reflecting Afro-Haitian influences on the already rich blend of Afro-Cuban music. These styles are rarely seen outside of Cuba and Nago is the first company in the SF Bay Area dedicated to this form.

La Mezcla is made up of some of the strongest Son Jarocho musicians and dancers in the bay area who strive to create a sense of community around the Son Jarocho tradition, preserving its significance and sharing the often unknown Caribbean side of Mexico. With years of training in the Bay Area and Mexico, each artist brings *el sabor y la cultura hermosa de Veracruz* to the stage!

Photo Credit: Jamaica Itule



Week 3: Alma
Fri - Sun, Apr 24-26, 2015 : Laney College Theater

Alayo Dance Company

Where the Butterflies Go

World Premiere

Choreography: Ramon Ramos Alayo and Dancers

Music: Savanj Rooms, Max Richter

Costume Designer: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Adonis Damien Martin, Jose Carlos Alarcon, Grette Rodriquez, Edisnel Rodriquez, Fredrika Keefer, Zoe Klein, Ramon Ramos Alayo

Krissy Keefer Dance Mission Company

Defection Deflection Devotion

Created in 2014

This piece is based on my observations of these three dancers and their defection from Cuba to the United States.

Choreography: Krissy Keefer with the Dancers

Music: Swod Holy Fuck

Dancers: Adonis Damien Martin, Jose Carlos Alarcon, Delvis Savigne Frinon

Duniya Dance and Drum Company

Yamama

Created in 2013

Yamama is a traditional rhythm from the Samou region of Guinea, West Africa near the border of Sierra Leone. Yamama is played for spiritual ceremonies.

Choreography: Joti Singh

Costume Designer: Gibreel Camara

Music: Bongo Sidibe (arranger); Drummers: Bongo Sidibe, Mohammed "Tiger" Soumah, Mory Fofana, Jamil Diop

Dancers: Gail Burks, Alhassane "Papin" Camara, Reina Heinz, Joti Singh, Lorena Valenzuela Tabije, Maura Whelehan

Soko

World Premiere

Soko is from the Faranah region of Guinea, from the Malinke ethnic group. Soko is done before initiation/circumcision.

Choreography: Joti Singh

Costume Designer: Gibreel Camara

Music: Bongo Sidibe (arranger); Drummers: Bongo Sidibe, Mohammed "Tiger" Soumah, Mory Fofana, Jamil Diop

Dancers: Gail Burks, Alhassane "Papin" Camara, Reina Heinz, Joti Singh, Lorena Valenzuela Tabije, Maura Whelehan

Krissy Keefer Dance Mission Company

Witness

World Premiere

Choreography: Krissy Keefer and the Dancers

Music: Gunner Haslam Craig Pruess

Dancers: Jillian Hibbert, Fredrika Keefer, Grette Rodriguez, Adonis Damien Martin, Jose Carlos Alarcon, Edisnel Rodriguez, Delvis Savigne Frinon

INTERMISSION

Alayo Dance Company

House of Water

Created in 2014

Choreography: Ramon Ramos Alayo and Nelson Reyes

Costume Designer: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company

Sweet Day

Choreography: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Music: H. Harden

Costume Designer: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Dancers: GRRRL Brigade

When it Rains, It Pours

Choreography: Nelson Reyes

Music: Ruben Gonzalez/ Graeme Koehne

Costume Designer: Eduardo Sosa

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company

Swimming Away

Choreography: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Music: Guy Brenner and Max Richter

Costume Designer: Ramon Ramos Alayo

Dancers: Alayo Dance Company

Production Team:

Lighting Designer Matthew DiGambia

Sound Operator Brian Glasscock

Set Designer Ramon Ramos Alayo

Set Builder Ruben Thome & Raul Thome

Custom Designer Eduardo Sosa and Ramon Ramos Alayo

Seemstress María Velasquez



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: Anorañza 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 Pofesional Academy of dance with a degree in Contemporary and Folkloric Dance. He is a very versitile 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.

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 forth season dancing with Alayo Dance Company.

Adonis Damián Martín Quiñones: was born in Contramaestere, a province of Santiago Cuba on June 17, 1990. He is a graduate from José María Heredia Heredia Dance Academy entitiled 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 interative dance company. He has danced with Kim Epiphano, Dance Brigade, Berkeley Ballet Theater and this is his second season with Alayo.

Edisnel Rodríguez González: Born in Ill Frente, a province of Santiago, Cuba on June 22 1990. He graduated from the Pofesional Academy of dance, “José María Heredia Heredia”, as a dancer and professor of Folkloric Cuban dance in 2001. He is a professor at the Vocational School of Art in Santiago. He has traveled to Jamaica and Belize to perform and teach and he is a soloist with the company. This is his third show with Alayo Dance Company.

Grette Rodríguez Despaigne: Born in Ill Frente, a province of Santiago, Cuba on June 22 1990. He graduated from the Pofesional Academy of dance, “José María Heredia Heredia”, as a dancer and professor of Folkloric Cuban dance in

2001. He is a professor at the Vocational School of Art in Santiago. He has traveled to Jamaica and Belize to perform and teach and he is a soloist with the company. This is his third show with Alayo Dance Company.

Duniya Dance and Drum Company

Founded in April 2007 in San Francisco, Duniya Dance and Drum Company performs and teaches traditional and innovative performance pieces from Guinea, West Africa and Punjab, India. Duniya's mission is to cultivate respect for traditional forms, foster cultural exchange, effect social justice and engage in community building. Duniya's Artistic and Music Directors, Joti Singh and Bongo Sidibe, highly value collaboration; the company has produced work with several other artists as well as non-arts organizations. Duniya's work is characterized by its high energy and the unique way it simultaneously pays homage to traditional forms while innovating within them to address subject matters relevant to contemporary times.

Krissy Keefer Dance Mission Company

Krissy Keefer has been performing, teaching, and choreographing in the Bay Area since 1975 when she would come down from Oregon with the Wallflower Order Dance Collective. Founding Dance Brigade in 1984 she has toured and performed extensively, predominately with her all female dance company. The two pieces she is presenting tonight, are departures for her. Known for her hard hitting political dance theater, these pieces are about the dancers with whom she has been living and working with for the last two years at Dance Mission Theater. They are emotional and movement based. These dances are part of an imagined larger evening, SIN PALABRAS, (without words) to be performed sometime in the future. All of this process has been very new and very interesting. Thanks to Ramon and Cuba Caribe for the invitation to present this new work.



Photo Credit: Ashley James



Special Festival Events

BOMBA - DANCING THE DRUM : FILM SCREENING FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH DIRECTOR AND SPECIAL GUEST: JULIA CEPEDA

THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2015 7:00 PM

at the Museum of African Diaspora in San Francisco

Directed by Ashley James, Produced by Roberta Singer @ MoAD, SF – A film about the legendary Cepeda family, known as the “patriarch family” This is one-hour film about the legendary Cepeda family, known as the “patriarch family” of Bomba, Puerto Rico’s richest musical expression of its African heritage. For nearly a century, the Cepeda family has been in the forefront of the struggle to keep the Bomba tradition alive in Puerto Rico. \$10 online, \$12 door

BATEY BORICUA

SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2015 4:00-7:00PM

at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley

Bay Area Bomba and Plena Workshop and CubaCaribe invite you to celebrate life through music, dance, great vibes, good people and delicious food at a community jam session. Music from Puerto Rico: Bomba, Plena and more. Featured Guest Artist: Jaqueline Rago. This is a family and child/youth friendly event. \$5 suggested donation.

DE CURROS A ESPECULADORES : LECTURE

THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2015 7:00 pm

at the Museum of African Diaspora in San Francisco

Black to the Future in Cuba by Umi Vaughn. This talk traces the relationship between a special class of black Cubans known as “Curros” from the island’s colonial past and Cuban youth today. At issue is how shifts in Cuba’s relationship with the outside world affect Cuban culture, economics, spiritual practices, etc., especially for black Cubans. Since history tends to repeat itself, this talk considers the past and present as a way to conjecture about Cuba’s future. \$10 online, \$12 door

AFRO-CUBAN & AFRO-HAITIAN : DANCE WORKSHOP

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2015 3:30-5:00PM

at Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco

\$14 online, \$18 door



A Note from the Artistic Director:

Quiero mandar gracias a MoAD, Kyleigh Nevis, Forooza Baradar and Tom Ehrlich. Muchísimas gracias a Krissy Keefer por toda su generosidad y apoyo durante todos estos años y en particular para este proyecto. A mi amigos buenos Sydney and Rosa Williams, Guy Brenner, a mi hermanan brasileña Tania Santiago, a toda la comunidad del Area de la Bahia que en todos estos años nos han apoyado, y especialmente a Alayo Dance Company por ser lo mejores bailarenes y amigos, a dos amigos buenísimos Aida Salazar y John Santos, y a una persona que no es solo la directora de CubaCaribe es también mi esposa, Jamaica Itule y a mis tres hijas.

Con cariño,

Ramón Ramos Alayo



Photo Credit: Lindsay Upson Photography

Thank You:

To our funders and our individual donors for this year's festival including:

Serena Connelly
Scheryle Simmons
Kate Northcott
Allen and Berta Low

Monica Conrady
Audrey Barris
Sterling Bank and Trust SF
Cole Hardware SF

Donations

Friends of CubaCaribe is an association formed to help fund the productions and projects of CubaCaribe. As a member of Friends, join others to preserve and promote Caribbean dance, music, visual art and culture in the San Francisco Bay Area through performances and community outreach. We gratefully welcome any and all donations, large or small. All donations are fully tax-deductible. For more information please contact us. We thank you in advance for your kind support and generosity.

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.

Contact Information

Ramón Ramos Alayo, Artistic Director
Jamaica Itule Simmons, Executive Director
60 - 29th Street, Suite 315
San Francisco, CA 94110
cuba.caribe@yahoo.com
www.cubacaribe.org



WALTER & ELISE HAAS FUND

Upcoming and Ongoing CubaCaribe Events:

EXPLOSION CUBANA: UNA NOCHE TROPICAL

NOVEMBER 20, 2015 - DECEMBER 5, 2015

In the spirit of Havana's Tropicana nightclub, CubaCaribe and Dance Mission Theater present a spectacular evening of Cuban cabaret.

CUBA TOUR

JULY 17, 2015 - JULY 31, 2015 AND DECEMBER 11- DECEMBER 25, 2015

Led by Ramos Alayo as a guide, students travel to Havana and Santiago de Cuba for a two-week dance intensive program

CUBACARIBE DINE & DANCE FUNDRAISER

CubaCaribe hosts an annual fundraiser with Cuban fare and salsa dancing.

ONGOING CLASSES

Local ongoing classes take place weekly at a variety of Bay Area studios.

CUBACAMP

Cuba Camp offers a weekend of Caribbean dance and music classes.

ALAYO DANCE COMPANY

The resident dance company featuring Ramos' innovative fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuban dance.

Explorations in Afro-Cuban Music & Dance

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2015 FACULTY & CLASSES

KATI HERNANDEZ Advanced Orisha and Popular (Salsa/Rueda) Dance
JOSE CARRION Rumba, Haitiano, and Popular (Ssa) Dance
KIMBERLY MIGUEL MULLEN Beginning Orisha Dance
JESUS LORENZO PEÑALVER (CUSITO) Rumba and Orisha Songs
HILARIO DURAN Piano and Afro-Cuban Traditional Music Ensembles (All instruments welcome!)
JESUS DIAZ Beginning and Advanced Popular Percussion (Drum Set, Timbales, Congas, etc.)
ROMAN DIAZ Advanced Bata
SANDY PEREZ Intermediate/Advanced Folkloric Percussion
JOHN SANTOS Beginning Bamba and Survey of Afro-Cuban Popular Music
MICHAEL SPIRO Beginning and Advanced Rumba
DAVID PEÑALOSA Clave - The Key to Understanding Afro-Cuban Rhythms



HSU Explorations in Afro-Cuban Music & Dance is on Facebook: [facebook.com/HSUafrocuban](https://www.facebook.com/HSUafrocuban)

INFORMATION: [707] 826-3731 🌀 afrocuban@humboldt.edu

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Rental Facility: Fundraisers, Parties, Lectures, Concerts

photo by Eli Jacobs Fantauzzi

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San Francisco Pilates supports the arts! We offer dancer and performer discounts to keep the dream alive! (contact Lena@sf-pilates.com for more details)

San Francisco Pilates congratulates Cuba Caribe for producing over a decade of inspiring, artistic performances!



WHAT IS PILATES? Pilates is a mind-body exercise that improves the way you look, feel, and perform. It builds strength without bulk, improves posture, increases flexibility and improves circulation.

Our equipment-based studio is located at Market & Powell.

Cultural Travel to Cuba

Music and Dance in Santiago and Havana

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**More info: DanceInCuba.wordpress.com
Email us: ramoncusalsa@aol.com**

