

THE 18TH ANNUAL  
**CUBA CARIBE**  
**FESTIVAL** OF DANCE & MUSIC

**JUNE 5-16, 2024**

[WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG](http://WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG)



ALAYO DANCE COMPANY : ABADÁ CAPOEIRA SAN FRANCISCO : FOLKLO AYISYEN LAKAY  
YAMULEE PROJECT SAN FRANCISCO : AGUA DOCE DANCE : HERENCIA GUANTANAMERA  
MARCO PALOMINO/FREDRIKA KEEFER : LA MIXTA CRIOLLA : LOS LUPEÑOS DE SAN JOSÉ  
GRUPO EXPERIMENTAL NAGO : JOHN SANTOS : CUNAMACUÉ : RUEDA CON RITMO





**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Ramón Ramos Alayo

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Jamaica Itule Simmons

**DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT** Hilary Davidson

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Daniela García-Piedra

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Jamaica Itule Simmons & Jazmine Nunez

## 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, Paul Flores, Isaac Kos-Read, Micaya, Mayra Padilla, Patricia West, Jamaica Itule Simmons & Ramón Ramos Alayo.



Photo by Lex Mex Photography

## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We are proud that 2024 marks our 18th Annual Festival of Dance and Music. These are incredibly difficult times we are witnessing and living in and dance and music have been and continue to be a way to resist oppression, release joy, alleviate suffering collectively, all critical to human survival. CubaCaribe honors that celebration of joy is revolutionary and built into the fabric of Cuban, Brazilian, Haitian, Afro-Peruvian, Puerto Rican, Mexican and other Diaspora cultures. These living art forms evolve and respond to the changing world. Our curatorial vision is Acts of Resistance, Acts of Joy and all the artists will explore and answer the questions: Where are the two acts visible in your culture? How do we resist? How do we find and express joy?

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 happen year after year.

Con amor,

Jamaica Itule Simmons

CubaCaribe presents :

# Acts of Resistance, Acts of Joy

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Harry Rubeck

STAGE MANAGERS: Ramón Ramos Alayo & Daniela García-Piedra

Grupo Experimental Nago (lobby performers)

Cunamacué

Yamulee Project San Francisco

Folklo Ayisyen Lakay

Herencia Guantanamera



*Intermission*

Rueda Con Ritmo

Fredrika Keefer & Marco Palomino

Agua Doce Dance

Los Lupeños De San José



## *Danzón*

Grupo Experimental Nago, 2024

### **ARTISTIC DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY, & COSTUME DESIGN:**

Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt

**MUSIC CREDITS:** Las Alturas De Simpson by Orquesta Tipica Cubana

**DANCERS:** Kulwa Apará, Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt, Lisa Larribeau, Claudia Rosa, Alberto Saldivar, Ernesto Ugarte

## *Pregoneros*

Cunamacué, 2023

### **ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY:** Carmen Roman &

Pierr Padilla Vasquez

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Pierr Padilla Vasquez

**DANCERS:** Carmen Roman, Pierr Padilla Vasquez, Andre Ordoñez Sifuentes, Vivian Ordoñez Sifuentes

**MUSICIANS:** Pedro Rosales, Erick Peralta

**PROGRAM NOTES:** This piece draws inspiration from Lima's pregoneros (street merchants) back in the 1800s.

## *Yamulee San Francisco's Dance Journey*

Yamulee Project San Francisco, 2018, 2021, 2023

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY:** Yamulee Dance Company - Osmar Perrones

**COSTUME DESIGN:** Laura Diaz & Yamulee Dance Company

**DANCERS:** Joshua Barbosa, Natali Colom, Yeny Lei, Diego Farfan, Jaylee Ohueno, Francisco Osorio, Keesa Robinson, Hector Urbina, Brenda Perez, Li Huang, Denisa Castillo, Daniel Nghiem, Sheena Fajardo, Eduardo Mejia, Royce Roco, Natsu Yan

# *A Haitian Journey of Uprising and Love*

Folklo Ayisyen Lakay, 2024

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY:** Laurie Fleurentin

**COSTUME DESIGN:** Rebecca Navarrete

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Jeff Piere

**MUSICIANS:** Shawn Myers, Satoko Nealy, & Carson Fratus

**DANCERS:** Laetitia Jacques, Laurie Fleurentin, Brigitte Knight, Romona Mukherjee, Rebecca Navarrete Davis, Brandi Plumley, Carmela Rocha, Naomi Caldwell, Mina Mangewala

**PROGRAM NOTES:** Our piece is a representation of uprising and rebellion against those in power. It opens with a ceremony asking for health and blessings. The journey takes us to Yanvalou and Mayi, two foundational dances in the folkloric repertoire that are drawn from the Rada family of sacred rites and serve as companions in the Haitian folkloric tradition. Yanvalou honors the spirit Dambala, the primordial creator of life in the vodou tradition. Mayi is a fast dance utilizing strong movements of warriors. The piece transitions to Kongo, a dance of love that represents the beauty and majesty of the Haitian people.

# *Tumba Francesa (The Fusion)*

Herencia Guantanamera, 2024

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY:** Director Yoel Mulen & Royland Lobato

**COSTUME DESIGN:** Jose (Cheo) Rojas

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Yoel Mulen

**MUSICIANS:** Joseph Churchill, Peggy Hrastar, Massey Burke, Orosman Mulen, Alan Rivera, Yoel Mulen

**DANCERS:** Daphne Knight, Sanie Brook, Evelyn Mulen, Skarlet Irigoyen, Maryelin Castillo, Maria Jose Calderon, Mayumi Haskell, Mileidy Campbell, Jose Rojas

**PROGRAM NOTES:** Tumba Francesa is a style of music and dance that originated in eastern Cuba, particularly in the regions of Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo. It combines African rhythms, particularly from Haiti, with European influences. Tumba Francesa is known for its lively drumming, colorful costumes, and energetic dances, often performed during festivals and celebrations. It has historical ties to Afro-Cuban culture and is recognized as part of Cuba's intangible cultural heritage.

# Como Se Toca Se Baila

Rueda Con Ritmo, 2024

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION:** Sidney Weaverling and Ryan Mead

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Ryan Mead and Sidney Weaverling (Ahora Tú Véras Como Se Baila El Son, La Malicia), Ana Luisa Cáceres Duquesne - Conjunto Folclórico Nacional de Cuba (El Bodeguero)

**COSTUME DESIGN:** Sidney Weaverling

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Ryan Mead

**MUSICIANS (Son Chévere):** Jordan Wilson (Tres and Vocals), Ryan Mead (Percussion and Vocals), Junior Valencia (Bass and Vocals), Mara Fox (Trombone, 6/7 and 6/9), Miguelito Martínez (Flute, 6/8)

**DANCERS:** Annelise Hagar Preciado, Ashlee Wilkins, Becky Rios, Bret Hendry, Caroline Olson, Chi-Chi Liang, Daniel Cortés, Katey Finnegan, Leo Warshaw-Cardozo, Melissa Elie, Nathan Dejan, Or Gadish, Raghav Mehta, Shaun Fendi Gan, Thanh Nguyen

**PROGRAM NOTES:** "Como se toca se baila," meaning "it's danced as it's played," is a Changüí song from Guantánamo, and we borrow this title for this work, our tribute to the joy that springs from the deep connection between Cuban popular music and Cuban social dance. In three choreographies we embody the connection between the Cha-cha-chá step and the marcha of the tumbadora (conga drum), we physicalize the relation between the clave rhythm and the contratiempo step in Son Cubano, and we reflect the accents of Timba music in the dance of Rueda de Casino.

## Flor

Dance Mission presents Fredrika Keefer & Marco Palomino, 2024

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY, COSTUME DESIGN & DANCERS:** Fredrika Keefer and Marco Palomino

**MUSIC CREDITS:** Bathroom Dance by Hildur Guonadottir & Ayu III by Rey Kjavik

**PROGRAM NOTES:** Cuban Orchid

A flower taken from poverty and planted in the fertile ground of freedom. Watered with love and sacrifice until it takes root and blossoms. Nourished in the warm sun of opportunity and given the chance to bloom. The flower taken from a tropical paradise that felt the hand of oppression, became a vibrant Orchid full of life and generosity that spread its beauty and fragrant love over many, giving encouragement and hope to all who came in touch with it, as it plants other seeds that become flowers in their own right. Creating a garden of prosperity that helps many realize a dream once thought forgotten, all because of A Cuban Orchid that blossomed. - James M Vines (2015)

# *As Ondas da Vida*

Agua Doce Dance, 2024

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY:** Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva

**COSTUME DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION:** Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Mark Machina

**MUSICIANS:** Mark Machina, Holly Shogbesan, Karen A. Smith, Cy Thomson, Amber McZeal

**DANCERS:** Anisah Abdullah, Ava Barrett, Riley Butler, Rachele Chenowith, Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva, Robbie Joseph, Marjorye Maciel, Zoey Spaulding

**PROGRAM NOTES:** This dance unfolds a captivating tale of Yemanjá's escape from her tumultuous marriage to Okere. Fleeing her husband's wrath, Yemanjá finds a cherished gift from her mother, Olokun—a mystical potion within a delicate vessel. She shatters the vessel, unleashing magic and liberating herself from sorrow. The river Oxum emerges who serves as her conduit to freedom, returning her to her roots. Okere's fury transforms him into a formidable hill, obstructing the river's flow. Undeterred, Yemanjá invokes her son, Xango, who commands the heavens. With thunder and lightning, he shatters the hill, clearing her path. In her triumphant passage, Yemanjá ascends to her rightful place as Queen of the Ocean. Her children all over the world honor her with offerings, seeking salvation in her maternal embrace. This dance celebrates Yemanjá's timeless enchantment and legacy, a goddess whose maternal essence echoes wherever the sea kisses the land. I extend heartfelt gratitude to Rosangela Silvestre, whose unwavering guidance and mentorship have been invaluable on my artistic journey, both now and over the years.



Agua Doce Dance  
Photo by Lex Mex Photography



Los Lupeños de San José  
Photo by Sam Cortez

## *Yoremadas Sierreñas, Fiesta en el Pochotal*

Los Lupeños de San José, 2015

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION:** Samuel Cortez & Alejandro Ocampo

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Rafael Borbolla Ibarra

**COSTUME DESIGN:** Rafael Borbolla Ibarra

**MUSIC CREDITS:** Los Meros Meros de La Sierra, Los Sierreños de Sinaloa

**DANCERS:** Abigail Fernandez, Aliyah Serene Jimenez Ruiz, Andrea Rocha Trejo, Dominic Ortiz, Eduardo Zamora, Edwin Alvarez, Erick Reyes, Evelyn Juarez, Isabel Alaniz, Isabel Padilla, Javier Arciga, Joaquin Sagahon, Juan Diaz, Luna Delgado, Montserrat Rocha Trejo, Nancy Madrid, Sonia Gómez Valdez, Steven Gastelum, Tristan Steele

**PROGRAM NOTES:** The Mayo people are the original inhabitants of the region of the northern Sinaloa and Southern Sonora Mexican States. In their own language, the word Mayo means “people from the shore” while they refer to each other as Yoreme, “the people who respect tradition.” This choreography by Maestro Rafael Enrique Borbolla Ibarra represents the musical and dance evolution of the rich cultural heritage of the native peoples of Sinaloa. They showcase a passion for their roots by dancing with indigenous movements to the modern rhythms of grupo norteño. This suite is an open invitation to witness the pride and devotion of the Mayo for their cultural heritage. Here they dance the Pascoledado with a unique blend of Spanish and Yoreme sounds, creating a scene of joyful and boisterous music and dance where Yoris (the non-indigenous) and Yoremes come together in continuous celebration of their common heritage.



CubaCaribe presents :

# ALAYO & ABADÁ

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Daniel Weiermann

PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER: Zoe Klein

## *Spirited Acts of Resistance*

ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco, 2024

### ARTISTIC DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Artistic Director, Márcia Treidler, Mestra Cigarra

### PERFORMERS:

Artistic Director Mestra Cigarra | Márcia Treidler

Professor Ferrugem | Fernando Nascimento da Cruz | São Paulo, Brazil

ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco Company

Professor Prego | Diego Freitas

Professora Sereia | Jennifer Walsh

Professora Estrela Vésper | Sara Breselor

Instrutora Sucuri | Rhodora Derpo

Instrutor Soldadinho | Miguel Hernandez

Instrutor Papagaio | Elias Gonzalez Quiñonez

Instrutora Ciranda | Helisangela Silva-Willoughby

Instrutora Jabuticaba | Maria Hernandez

Instrutor Tupinambá | Gabriel Sinche

Graduada Toninha | Erica Hemenway

Graduado Baraúna | Tony Shepherd

Graduada Mineira | Shannon O'Malley

Graduado Tartaruga | Alex Castillo

Graduada Samambaia | Eneida Sosa

Querubim | Sebastian Willoughby

Macaquinho | Marco Hernandez Weikum

**PROGRAM NOTES:** The ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco Company will perform capoeira and maculelê. These Afro-Brazilian arts are derivatives of life in quilombos, or communities of escaped, and later freed, African slaves. It is often said that they were conceived in Africa and born in Brazil: they are mixtures of different African cultural traditions that were combined on plantations and in quilombos, creating art forms that are unique to Brazil.

Capoeira is a dynamic martial art form, which developed during the slavery era through shared cultural customs, rituals, and fighting techniques. Slaves used capoeira to fight to escape and resist capture, but concealed its combative purpose through music, song, and dance. Today, it is internationally practiced and protected under UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Maculelê is a traditional folk dance that was created by slaves on sugar cane

plantations. The dance is practiced with sticks or machetes and the rhythmic movements imitate the chopping of sugar cane.

## *Esperanza Negra*

ALAYO Dance Company, 2024

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION:** Ramón Ramos Alayo

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Ramón Ramos Alayo, Manuel Suarez, Susana Arenas Pedroso and dancers

**COSTUME DESIGNER:** Ramón Ramos Alayo

**MUSIC CREDITS:** live music by Herencia Guantanamera. Recorded music by Bola De Nieve

**POEM BY:** Nicolas Guillen

**DANCERS:** Jose Gabriel Baez, Natalie Ghezzi Aceves, De Lisa,, Bianca S. Mendoza-Prado, Melissa Maura Muñiz Morales, Marco Palomino, Alejandro Perez, Delvis Savigne Friñon and guest CubaCaribe carnival dancers.

### **PROGRAM NOTES:**

The piece investigates Cuba's history with annual Carnaval celebrations. Historically it was a place where slaves and their descendants were allowed to gather to practice their cultural and religious traditions and expose the racial inequities they faced. In Cuba, Carnaval featured conga comparsas made up of lower-class citizens playing percussion instruments and dancing in street performances or parades. "Growing up in a small rural town outside Santiago de Cuba, I consistently experienced the dance and music of the street parades with neighbors- expressing happiness and releasing your daily struggles. These music and dance traditions have been passed from generation to generation and vary greatly depending on the region you live in, but all are similar and have the same intent, A Gozar!"

ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco  
Photos by Smooke Joseph



# Special Events:

## *Cuban and Brazilian Music & Dance: Cultural Resilience and Adaptation in the Afro-Diaspora, A Lecture with John Santos*

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00-8:30pm at Museum of African Diaspora

Five centuries of colonial oppression and a century and a half of post-colonial reality have forged a relentlessly harsh environment for generations of enslaved and abused working class communities throughout the Americas. Seven-time Grammy-nominated percussionist, US Artists Fontanals Fellow, and 2013-2014 SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director, John Santos will talk on how cultural expression and identity played a role in addressing this historical dilemma? This presentation focuses on some traditional and contemporary examples from Cuba and Brazil.

## *¡Bomplenazo!: An evening of Bomba and Plena interpreted and explained through film, discussion and music.*

Wednesday, June 12, 7:00-8:30pm at Museum of African Diaspora

Live music and discussion with Héctor Lugo and La Mixta Criolla, and film shorts curated by Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi.

Bomba and Plena rhythms need to be understood and appreciated because of their historical significance and relationship. These two most important genres of Afro-Puerto Rican music each have very different musical characteristics, histories and social foundations.

**Musicians & Dancers:** Héctor Lugo, Román “ito” Carrillo, Jo-Annie Seda, Julio Perez, Pedro Rosales

### **Films :**

#### **Bomba Ancestral**

A short film about the first Bomba Ancestral organized by Sheila Osorio and Samuel Lind in Loíza, Puerto Rico where the river meets the sea. We gathered on the beach. The moon was full and we could feel the connection to the four elements. The FIRE that purifies, WATER, AIR and EARTH. Honoring all of our ancestors from whom we inherited this beautiful dance of Bomba.

**Created by** @fistuptv & @defendpr

**Director / Producer:** Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi

**DP & Editing:** Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi & Adriel Rivera

**Video By:** @fistuptv @adrielrivera\_

**Drone Footage By:** Jose Alejandro

**Subtitles By:** Yari Mar Rodas

#### **Negra Soy Bella**

Black women in Puerto Rico are leading the Afro-latinidad movement while shifting societal beauty standards. Mar Cruz, a Afro-Puerto Rican woman, uses Bomba, a rhythm and dance form created by her ancestors to connect with her roots, transform and heal. The movement “Negra,

Yo Soy Bella" (Black, I am Beautiful) aims to remind Puerto Ricans of the importance of acknowledging and honoring the African influence in our DNA. By connecting with all parts of our heritage, we can create new possibilities.

**Director:** Vashni Korin

**DP:** Calvin Blue Jr.

**Producer:** Karely Perez Cruz

## *Master Afro-Cuban Modern Dance Class with Marco Palomino*

Sunday June 16, 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.

## **WEEKEND 1 BIOS**

### **Agua Doce Dance led by Stephanie Emmanuela Da Silva**

Da Silva is a dance artist with an MFA in dance and choreography. She immersed herself in the Afro-Brazilian dance culture of Salvador from 2007-2012, living there as a student, a professional dancer, a teacher and a designer. In the Bay Area she has danced with TWDCC's Diaspora Dance Co, Yabas, Tropicalismo, Sambada and Amor do Samba. She has choreographed Tannery Winter Dance Concert, Saint Mary's College, Santa Rosa Junior College, Cabrillo Community College, Ethnic Dance Festival, Santa Cruz Dance Week, the Ebb and Flow Festival, SJDance Co, Yemanjá Arts Festival at Brasarte and CubaCaribe Dance Festival. She has taught dance at ACDA, UCSC, SRJC, Saint Mary's College, and is a resident teacher at the SCBT and Harbor High School, and more.

**Cunamacué | Carmen Román** is a performing arts company founded in 2010 in Oakland by Carmen Román with the purpose of bringing visibility to the presence and cultural knowledge of the African descendant population in Peru. Cunamacué brings awareness of Peru's African descendants by sharing their deep cultural history through music and dance. Cunamacué promotes the continuity of Afro-Peruvian culture, representing it as a living, vibrant and evolving form whose music and dance can be used as a means of contemporary expression.

**Folklo Ayisyen Lakay | Laure Fleurentin** F.A.L Haitian dance, songs and music company is a performance company and non-profit arts organization incorporated in the state of California. Our mission is to foster and promote Haitian heritage and representations of diversity through music, dance and art. Director





Folklo Ayisyen Lakay  
Photos by Lesly Jacques

Laurie Fleurentin was born in Port-au-Prince and received her education at the Ecole Nationale des Arts. She was a principal dancer in Viviane Gauthier Dance Company and came to the United States 12 years ago to teach dance. She dedicates her time to choreographing and teaching at San Francisco State University, Destiny Arts Center, The Beat, Dimensions Dance Rites of Passage, and at many public schools throughout the Bay Area

**Grupo Experimental Nago Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt** is dedicated to the preservation and development of Afro-Cuban culture through dance and music, particularly on the culture of Oriente Province in Eastern Cuba reflecting Afro-Haitian influences. Nago is the first company in the SF Bay Area dedicated to this form. Temistocles Fuentes Betancourt is the Artistic Director. He has over 40 years experience as a principal dancer, regisseur, professor and choreographer with the Ballet Folklórico de Oriente. In Santiago de Cuba, he served as regisseur for Ballet Folklórico Cutumba, Director of Conjunto Folklórico Kazumbi, Professor of Salsa at Ateneo Cultural Antonio Bravo Correoso and Choreographer of the youth Carnaval group, Los Chicos Alegres de Veguita de Galos. Since coming to the US he has appeared in Oyuoro and has choreographed and performed at numerous events and festivals. He has taught at Dance Mission, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco Park and Recreation Department, YMCA and Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts.

**Fredrika Keefer** was born and raised in The Mission District of San Francisco, CA. She is a Hip Hop, Ballet, Contemporary, and Traditional Japanese Taiko drumming performer and instructor. She is currently the Grrrl Brigade Director and Studio Manager at Dance Mission Theater, pursuing her Masters in Dance at University of Arts In Philadelphia. She has been an ongoing member of the Dance Brigade and Alayo Dance Company.

**Marco Palomino** is a choreographer, dancer, and director based in Los Angeles, CA. Born in Cuba, he graduated from Escuela Nacional de Arte with a BFA from La



Universidad de las Artes in Havana. He was recently nominated for the Princess Grace Award in Choreography. Palomino has worked with Alayo Dance Company, Jacob Jonas The Company, Ballet Revolución, Rosario Cárdenas, Carlos Acosta's Acostadanza in collaboration with Birmingham Royal Ballet, and with revered choreographers Julianio Nuñez, Jacob Jonas, Pontus Lidberg, Micaela Taylor, Javier de Frutos, Norge Cedeño, Jorge Cresis, Osnel Delgado, Mike Tyus, Alexis Fernández (Maca), Goyo Montero, Rosanna Gamson and Carlos Acosta. Palomino has created commissions for dance companies, museums, film, immersive experiences and live theater and shared his work in 11 different countries.

**Herencia Guantanamera I Yoel Mullen Robert's** mission is to preserve, celebrate, and share the rich cultural heritage of Guantánamo, Cuba. Through our diverse range of events, educational programs, and artistic endeavors, we aim to honor the traditions, music, dance, and history of the region, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Guantanamera culture for present and future generations.

**Los Lupeños de San José I Samuel Cortez Balderas** Established in 1969, Los Lupeños de San José stands out as one of the pioneering Mexican folk dance companies in the United States. Our company is passionately dedicated to promoting Mexican culture and traditions through the art of dance.

**Rueda Con Ritmo I Sidney Weaverling & Ryan Mead** Founded in San Francisco in 2007 by Sidney Weaverling and Ryan Mead, Rueda Con Ritmo is a community of dancers offering classes, events, and performances throughout the Bay Area and beyond. We strive to create a warm and inclusive atmosphere that welcomes dancers of all levels, from all backgrounds, and of all ages. In 2023, RCR performed as the opening act for separate concerts by Los Van Van and Havana D' Primera in SF, and in Cuba with the Conjunto Folclórico Nacional, Compañía All Stars, and the Fundadores de la Rueda de Casino.

**Yamulee Project San Francisco I Natali Colom** started in 2018 with a group of friends that wanted to learn more about NY style salsa. It has since grown to a team of approximately 30 dedicated dancers that love to work and train and grow. The growth that we have seen in the team is truly inspiring.

## **WEEKEND 2 BIOS**

**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.

**Alejandro Perez** is a first generation Mexican-American from Los Angeles, California. He was first introduced to dance at the age of twelve. He joined a street dance crew in which he used 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 and Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program. Alejandro completed a 3-week residency in the world renowned Orsolina28 in Moncalvo, Italy dancing under the direction of Mike Tyus. He has been a performer and a collaborator with Sidra Bell Dance NYC, ISHIDA Dance, DawsonDances, ZiRu Dance, Mike Tyus & Co. and several other companies through the United States. Alejandro has set works on the LINES Ballet Training Program, Summer Program in San Francisco, Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP), California Summer School for the Arts, AMDA LA, and Santa Monica College. Both his work and his dancing have been seen throughout the country. Last month Alejandro danced for Sidra Bell Dance New York on the world premiere of COMMUNION. This is his second season with Alayo Dance Company.

**Delvis Savigne Frión** 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 Ramón Ramos Alayo, the Dance Brigade with Krissy Keefer, Zaccho Dance Theatre with Joanna Haigood, and the Robert Moses' Kin Dance Company. This is his ninth season with Alayo.

**Jose Gabriel Baez** is Afro-Dominican multi-disciplinary artist. They are a dancer, choreographer, and movement director born in the Santo Domingo and raised in New York City. Jose's movement is deeply inspired by his training in hip hop styles such

as waving and popping as well as street-jazz. Jose has also trained in styles such as contemporary, ballet, Limón, and Graham. They have danced for artists such as Doja Cat, Meg Thee Stallion, Tinashe, Dua Lipa, Rosalia and more. Performances include the VMAs, Coachella, BET awards, and NYFW. This is their first season with Alayo Dance Company.

**Bianca S. Mendoza-Prado** was born and raised in the Bay Area where she began her training in classical ballet with principal dancers of the San Francisco Ballet; Carmela Zegarelli Peter and Zoltan Peter. Bianca was accepted into the BFA dance program at the California Institute of the Arts which was proclaimed the United States number one art school in 2012. In her time at CalArts, Bianca was trained in various dance techniques by various well renowned artists which included Colin Connor; Limon Company director, Andre Tyson; original Alvin Ailey company member, Cynthia Young; of the San Francisco Ballet and more alike. A Latin American feminist and choreographer, Bianca has shown works across the United States such as Jonnek'a Nok, a solo which was accepted to go to the American College Dance Festival in Champagne, Illinois in 2010, as well as Loaded Yoke a piece Bianca choreographed which was chosen to go to Walt Disney's REDCAT Theater in Los Angeles in 2012. Bianca's piece Colloquy was accepted into Dance Missions D.I.R.T festival in San Francisco in 2015 and her work My Self was invited to be part of the West Wave Dance Festival 24 in 2016. Bianca is currently dancing, choreographing, and working as the Youth Program Director at Dance Mission Theater and currently dancing with Krissy Keefer's Dance Brigade Company. Bianca is a Latinx American feminist, choreographer, dancer, writer, and artist. This is her first season with Alayo Dance Company.

**Natalie Ghezzi Aceves**, originally from Oakland, CA, and currently based in Florida, has spent much of her movement path training, performing, and collaborating with artists worldwide. Initially trained as a ballet dancer, she expanded into modern, urban, and global dance genres, later incorporating wellness, fitness, yoga, and education into her career. Creativity has always been her guide, and movement her way of experiencing and serving the world. Traveling to Brazil, Cuba, Ghana, Bali, and New York to expand her curiosity and connection through dance, she continues to develop her creative voice and movement style. At Laney College, she delved deep into Afro-Haitian dance and the Dunham technique, later exploring Afro-Cuban Modern and House Culture, embracing freestyle as key to her artistic expression. She has performed at prominent events across the U.S. and worked with acclaimed artists and dance companies worldwide, while also teaching at various institutions from California to Florida and touring the Midwest. Natalie continues to explore her creative voice in as many ways as she can while also working as a yoga facilitator, personal trainer, bodyworker, educator, and performer. This is her third season with Alayo Dance Company.

**De Lisa**, a versatile dancer and choreographer hailing from St. Louis, Missouri, now calls LA her artistic home. Her performances are a captivating fusion of hip hop, contemporary, and West African dance, showcasing her multifaceted talent and vibrant creativity. This is her first season with Alayo Dance Company.

**Melissa Maura Muñoz Morales** studied modern and contemporary dance for 10 years at the professional art school in Santiago de Cuba. She did a professional internship at the Danza Teatro del Caribe company. She tested into The Institute of Art (ISA) in Havana, Cuba. While studying, she worked at the Ballet Fumeczu company in Havana, Cuba. After her first year at ISA was contracted to work with Harhmony, a

Jamaican company. This is her first season with Alayo Dance Company.

**ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco Performance Company** has been promoting Afro-Brazilian culture since 1992 through athletic and spirited performances. Their shows are a unique blend of skill, artistic beauty, and tradition designed to uplift and inspire audiences. The ensemble, led by internationally renowned Capoeira artist Márcia Treidler, has performed at over 1,000 venues, including schools, cultural events, and outdoor festivals throughout Northern California. The company comprises 15 talented artists, each bringing their own unique skills to the stage.

**Marcia Treidler “Mestra Cigarra”** is the founder of ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco and is one of the top seven Capoeiristas among 60,000 ABADÁ members worldwide. She is also the first female student of Mestre Camisa to be awarded the rank of “Mestra.” She began practicing Capoeira in 1982 under the renowned Mestre Camisa and moved to the United States in 1991 to spread the art outside of Brazil. In 1997, she was granted permanent residency in the US as an “Alien with Extraordinary Abilities” due to her artistic contributions to the country. Treidler is a trailblazer in many ways: she is the first female Mestra, a choreographer, the director of an internationally recognized organization, a leader in ABADA, and a bridge-builder. Her achievements have paved the way for women in Capoeira, and her success and commitment to publicly embracing her identity as a gay woman have amplified gender equity in Capoeira worldwide. Her work highlights the historic significance of Capoeira while advancing cultural knowledge.

## SPECIAL EVENT BIOS

**John Santos** Master percussionist, internationally renowned seven-time Grammy nominee, composer, producer, bandleader, educator and cultural activist. He is a keeper of the Afro-Caribbean flame steeped in Cuban and Puerto Rican folkloric traditions as well as salsa and Latin jazz. A 2012 San Francisco Latino Heritage Arts Awardee, born and raised in San Francisco’s Mission District amidst an extended family of Puerto Rican musicians, he’s been at the center of the Bay Area’s Latin music scene for over five decades. He has written, recorded and published well over 100 original compositions. He served on the Smithsonian Institution’s Latin Jazz Advisory Committee, was SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director (2013 & 2014) and has played an essential role in expanding Latin jazz’s rhythmic lexicon beyond the foundational Cuban grooves. He has produced a steady stream of critically acclaimed, peer-respected recordings on his Machete Records label since 1984 and has travelled the world as a performer, teacher and lecturer since the mid-eighties. He was founder and director (1985-2006) of the internationally renowned, Grammy-nominated Machete Ensemble, and currently directs the Cubadisco-nominated, John Santos Sextet. The documentary film, Santos: Skin to Skin about his life’s work, premiered at SFJAZZ, the Mill Valley Film Festival, and Cinefest in Puerto Rico in the Fall of 2023.

**Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi** An internationally-recognized and award-winning filmmaker. He is the founder of FistUpTv a media platform uplifting and telling stories from communities across the world who refused to be



Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi  
Photos by Kahlil Jacobs-Fantauzzi

silenced. His work has circulated through National Broadcast on Free Speech TV, Teaching Channel, and PBS. His last film *Bakosó: Afrobeats of Cuba* is currently available on World Channel. He is currently touring with his film *We Still Here / Nos Tenemos* which has won festivals around the globe. This year he is producing and curating his 15th Annual Fist Up Film Festival in the Bay Area. His dedication to his craft is deeply connected to his commitment to social justice and the belief in the transformative power of film.

**Vashni Korin** Black American director with Puerto Rican and Caribbean roots, whose cultural identity influences her gaze. She strives to bring her community together through folklore, spirituality, and celebration, with a focus on the experiences of women. Her dreamy, mantra-like films urge viewers to listen to their inner voice with an audio-visual map to rise above any circumstance. A commercial director, Korin has directed spots for Adidas, Instagram, Square and many music films. She was a cinematographer on Lizzo's documentary "Love, Lizzo" as they traveled the world together. A Black history enthusiast, she produced the Henry Louis Gates Jr. show "Black History in 2 Minutes" (2021). Her trailblazing documentary short, "You Can't Stop Spirit," shortlisted by DOC NYC (2022), connects the spiritual and physical lives of Black women during carnival in New Orleans-featured on NY-Times Op Docs, POV, and Reel South's PBS Award. "Negra, Yo Soy Bella" (2023) is her second directorial short, a part of Queen Latifah & Tribeca's Queen Collective fellowship amplifying Afro-Latinas in Puerto Rico. This short screened at Tribeca, LALIFF, Blackstar and Caribbean Tales with final distribution on BET Networks.





La Mixta Criolla  
Photos by Unknown

**Héctor Lugo** A percussionist, singer, songwriter, and educator. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, he grew up immersed in the creole music and culture of the Island. He moved to the Bay Area in 1989 to pursue graduate studies in sociology and Latin American history, and soon thereafter began to formally study Afro-Caribbean percussion with masters from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. He is the founder, director and principal songwriter of La Mixta Criolla. His compositions and arrangements have been featured in the acclaimed compilation *Salsa de la Bahía vol. 2* (Patois Records, 2015), in the documentary film *Dolores* about the life and work of the great labor organizer and feminist leader Dolores Huertas, in La Mixta Criolla's album *AfroTaíno* (Round Whirled Records, 2011), and in theatrical productions in San Francisco, New York and Seoul, Korea. Presently, Héctor works as Teaching-Artist for SFJAZZ Education, is a member of the faculty of Living Jazz and leads the ALMA (Afro-Latin Music Alliance) collective.

**La Mixta Criolla** A dynamic Bay Area ensemble with deep roots in the creole musical cultures of Puerto Rico and the wider Caribbean. Blending instruments and styles from diverse Afro-Latin traditions this hard swinging sextet has captivated dancers and music lovers everywhere with soulful performances of singular strength and beauty. Their repertoire of originals and funky renditions of classic tunes features a variety of Afro-Caribbean grooves from plena, bomba, aguinaldo and seis, to cumbia, merengue, son, rumba and bolero. La Mixta was founded by percussionist, singer and songwriter Héctor Lugo and features an all-star cast with Román "Ito" Carillo on bongó, pandero and barril, Ayla Dávila on bass, Javier Navarrette on congas and cajón, Camilo Landau on electric cuatro, Pedro Pastrana on acoustic cuatro and güicharo, and dancer and singer Shefali Shah. For this presentation La Mixta will perform "a puro cuero" to highlight the traditional percussion and voices sound of plena and bomba, Puerto Rico's foremost Afro-Caribbean music and dance genres.

CubaCaribe is supported in part by:

WALTER & ELISE HAAS FUND





TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
ODC/Dance presents

# Summer Sampler



July 18-21, 2024  
[odc.dance/summersampler](https://odc.dance/summersampler)



Risk.  
Curiosity.  
Experimentation.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
ODC THEATER PRESENTS

# State of Play Festival 2024

August 1-4  
[odc.dance/stateofplay](https://odc.dance/stateofplay)







**Alchemy Massage**  
& Movement Therapy



SCAN ME

**Scan to Schedule your  
appointment**

**Transforming your stress into Strength with  
movement and Healing Touch**



**Alchemy Massage  
Modality;**

- \*Trauma Sensitive
- Intuitive Touch
- \*Swedish
- \*Shiatsu
- \*Acupressure
- \*Reiki
- \*Tui Na
- \*Myofascial Release
- \*Neurovascular Release

[alchemyhealing.net](http://alchemyhealing.net)

**3576 Laurel Ave. Oakland**  
**-inside the Oakland Acupuncture Project's Laurel  
Clinic**

BANDALOOP



Photo: Chelsea Hill

2024 Summer + Fall  
youth + adult workshops

**COME FLY WITH US**  
[bandaloopstudios.org](http://bandaloopstudios.org)



**Bay Area  
MASSAGE AND HEALING**



**Mention CubaCaribe for \$30 off your next massage!**

~ Call to schedule your session by 7/31/24 ~

**Find your calm and thrive!**

**Sandy Owens, CMT  
bayareamassageandhealing.com  
ActivSpace in the Mission  
415-347-1380**



**CONTRA COSTA**  
***DANCEWEAR***



## EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC CUBA

December 10th-23rd Havana  
(\$2,600)

### whats Included

- Breakfast and Dinner
- Stay in private homes in the heart of the city
- Dance classes with some of Cuba's best teachers such as Yaelis Sánchez and Ory Figuerola
- Enjoy 3 hours/day of classes with live drumming
- visit spectacular sights



To Register, contact Ramon:  
[dancewithramon@gmail.com](mailto:dancewithramon@gmail.com) and follow on insta:  
[@danceconramon](https://www.instagram.com/danceconramon)



August 2-4, 2024  
[CubanWeekend.com](http://CubanWeekend.com)  
\$595

Yunier  
Lebran  
Veranes



Ramón Ramos Alayo



Zainé Rosabel

Three-day dance retreat with renowned Cuban teachers in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Includes 10 dance classes, guaranteed partners, evening events with live bands, daily comida, pop-up rueda, parties!



# YOUR VILLAGE IN THE SF MISSION

Bar

Restaurant

Private events

Dance venue

Lounge

Outdoor patio

Live music

Comedy

DJ nights



[WWW.BISSAPBAOBAB.COM](http://WWW.BISSAPBAOBAB.COM)



## FREIGHT & SALVAGE

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY  
TO WORLD-CLASS LIVE MUSIC



THEFREIGHT.ORG

# CUBA CARIBE

## DONATE:

Join us in preserving and promoting Caribbean dance, music, art and culture in the SF Bay Area.

We gratefully welcome any and all donations. All donations are fully tax-deductible under our 501(c)3

For more information email [contact@cubacaribe.org](mailto:contact@cubacaribe.org)

DONATE NOW --Scan QR Code --



# CUBACARIBE UPCOMING EVENTS

## 18TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

JUNE 5 > Cuban / Brazilian Music Lecture with John Santos

JUNE 7-9 > Mixed Program

JUNE 12 > ¡Bomplenazo! with Héctor Lugo y La Mixta Criolla

JUNE 14-16 > Alayo / ABADÁ

JUNE 16 > Afro-Cuban Modern Dance Class with Marco Palomino

## MOVING JUNTOS

youth dance & music classes

AUGUST 11-DECEMBER 8

## DANCE ALL DAY

adult dance camp

DATES TBA

## NOCHE CARIBEÑA GALA

fundraising event

NOVEMBER TBA

## DONATIONS FOR DANCE

accepting donations

LOCATIONS ONLINE

Learn More:

[WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG](http://WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG)

