

THE 16TH ANNUAL

CUBA CARIBE

FESTIVAL OF DANCE & MUSIC

A woman in a vibrant, multi-layered costume with a crown, performing on a city street. She is wearing a maroon top with gold floral patterns, a purple and gold skirt, and a crown. She has her arms raised, holding a large feathered fan in her right hand and a colorful, patterned fan in her left hand. The background shows a city street with buildings and a person on a bicycle.

She Who Is Queen

JUNE 8-12, 2022

WWW.CUBACARIBE.ORG

CUBACARIBE FESTIVAL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GRAPHIC DESIGNER Jamaica Itule Simmons

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Ramón Ramos Alayo

PRODUCTION MANAGER Bianca Torres

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, Natalia Lawrence, Isaac Kos-Read, Mena Ramos, Patricia West, Jamaica Itule Simmons, Florence Chamberlin & Ramón Ramos Alayo.



Photo by Jamaica Itule Simmons

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We are finally back with indoor live programming! After three very difficult years, it seems fitting that we are presenting *She Who Is Queen / Ada Ara* which is about the strength of women. Women who are often the comfort and caretakers throughout struggle and hardships, women who embody strength and warmth, women who are mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, and lovers...

This much anticipated evening-length work by artist, dancer and choreographer Susana Arenas Pedroso is especially made possible by a Gerbode Foundation Special Commissioning Award.

Many thanks our amazing CubaCaribe community- especially the powerful artists who are culture bearers and innovators in a society where art is often undervalued, underfunded, and dismissed.

I also want to thank our audiences, volunteers, technicians, individual donors, board members, our development assistant and funders who made this festival both a dream and a reality.

Con amor,

Jamaica Itule Simmons

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

16th Annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance & Music

She Who Is Queen

SPECIAL EVENT: VOZ FEMENINA

A reception, talk, and musical celebration featuring Yenisel Valdés and Sulkary Valverde and members of TeamBahia.

WHERE:

Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, San Francisco

WHEN:

Wednesday June 8, 2022 6:00 - 8:00pm

BOX OFFICE:

www.cubacaribe.org/2022

\$30 + Advance & door

PERFORMANCES: SHE WHO IS QUEEN / ADA ARA

Featuring: Arenas Dance Company

WHERE:

Z Space Theater, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA

WHEN:

Friday June 10 at 8 pm

Saturday June 11 at 8 pm

Sunday June 12 at 2 pm

BOX OFFICE:

www.cubacaribe.org/2022

\$30 Advance only

\$15 Youth (12 and under)

SPECIAL EVENT

Voz Femenina: Reception/Talk/Musical Celebration

Featuring Yenisel Valdés and Sulkary Valverde and members of TeamBahia

Wednesday June 8, 2022 6:00 - 8:00pm

Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, San Francisco

These two incredibly talented Cuban women vocalists will use their powerful voices to both speak and sing. They will share their experiences as Cuban women living in Cuba and the U.S. and sing with six members of the talented musical group TeamBahia. There will be space for dancing and drinks will be served.



CubaCaribe Presents:

Ada Ara / She Who Is Queen

Artistic Direction & Choreography by Susana Arenas Pedroso

Featuring Arenas Dance Company and guests

LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Michael Oesch

STAGE DESIGN: Tania Orellana

VIDEO DESIGN: José Alexander Claros

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Sayre

STAGE MANAGER: Chi Chi Okonmah

VIDEO TECHNICIAN: Claudia Finkle

STAGE ELECTRICIANS: Joshua Sifuentes, Liz Kreter-Killian, Ben McAuliffe

LIVE MUSIC: Bata and Percussion: Michaelle Goerlitz, Jules Hilson, and Mena Ramos Vocal: Wanda Kruda, Ambar McZeal, Karen Smith (coro); Amikaeyla Gaston (Arpon); Christelle Durandy and Sulkary Valverde (soloists).

DANCERS: Diana Aburto, Stella Adelman, Ilana Andújar, Joshua Barbosa, Brisa Camacho-Lovell, Jessica Decker, Mysha Harden, Tiffani Jarnigan, Casey Kettering, Sriba Kwadjovie, Clara Martínez, Luz Mena, Susana Arenas Pedroso, Juliana Romano, Tammy Ryan, Tola Williams, Mitzi Ulloa, Deborah Valoma, and guest Isabel Estrada-Jamison.

PROGRAM NOTES: The evening length program explores, through dance, music and spoken word, that the world cannot be without women, their work, wisdom and hearts. Inspired by the tale Ada Ara (which translates to “she who is queen” in Yoruba from Nigeria) in which Ochún, the youngest of the Yoruba deities and the goddess of female sexuality and sensuality, takes away the crown of King Changó, god of male sexuality, after he dismisses her. Her conditions for returning his crown are his respect, admiration and equality.



Photo by Alexa "LexMex" Treviño

EGGUN, 2018

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma

MUSICAN DIRECTION: Elizabeth Sayre

LIVE MUSIC: Batá drums: Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Elizabeth Sayre.
Arpón: Christelle Durandy. Coro: Amikaeyla Gaston, Megan McZeal,
Karen Smith.

SPOKEN TEXT: Susana Arenas Pedroso

DANCERS: Stella Adelman, Ilana Andújar, Tiffani Jarnigan, Myisha
Harden, Casey Kettering, Luz Mena, Juliana Romano, Mitzi Ulloa,
Deborah Valoma, Tola Williams

NOTES:

In Afro Cuban tradition, the eggun are the spirits of ancestors. The projected images in this number include eggun santeras and Cuban women artists. They also include Conceição Damasceno, a beloved Brazilian artist from our San Francisco Bay Area, who recently passed away.

YEMAYA UNIVERSAL MOTHER, 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Diana Aburto and Sriba Kwadjovie

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma

VIDEO DESIGN: Alexander Claros

LIVE MUSIC: Batá drums: Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Elizabeth Sayre.

Vocalist: Sulkary Valverde (solo) Coro: Christelle Durandy, Amikaeyla Gaston, Megan McZeal, Karen Smith.

SPOKEN TEXT: Sulkary Valverde

DANCERS: Diana Aburto, Sriba Kwadjovie

NOTES:

Yemayá is the Yoruba goddess of the ocean and universal mother. This modern choreography representing the life giving, soothing quality of the ocean, honors mothers and mother figures in their likeness to Yemayá.

SALSA FOR YEMAYÁ, 2020

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma

RECORDED MUSIC: Agua Pa' Yemayá by Elito Revé

DANCERS: (Fish) Tiffani Jarnigan, Clara Martínez, Juliana Romano, Tola Williams. (Ocean waves) Diana Aburto, Ilana Andújar, Jessica Decker, Casey Kettering, Luz Mena, Deborah Valoma

NOTES:

Two groups of dancers, each representing fish and ocean waves, dance a fusion of salsa and Afro-Cuban folklore movements celebrating the more vigorous aspect of the ocean as metaphor of maternal energy.

OYA THE WARRIOR, 2020

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Regina Tolbert

VIDEO DESIGN: Alexander Claros

LIVE MUSIC: Batá drums, güiro and timbal: Michaelle Goerlitz, Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Elizabeth Sayre. Arpón: Susana Arenas Pedroso.

Coro: Christelle Durandy, Amikaeyla Gaston, Megan McZeal, Karen Smith.

SPOKEN TEXT: Susana Arenas Pedroso

DANCERS: Susana Arenas Pedroso (Soloist), Diana Aburto, Stella Adelman, Ilana Andújar, Isabel Estrada-Jamison Myisha Harden, Sriba Kwadjovie, Mitzi Ulloa,

NOTES:

Oyá, Yoruba goddess of winds, lightning, chaos, transformation, and the market place, stirs up hurricanes and tornadoes, and brings the power of lightning to earth to spark change. Her movements are strong, her facial expression fierce, eyes wide open as she breathes forcefully and screams. Dancers shake a hard Flamboyant tree seed pods to celebrate her. This Afro-Cuban folklore number celebrates the warrior and transforming spirit of Oyá in women. Visual images of mambisas, women who fought for Cuban independence, are projected to remind us of this female quality.

REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN, 2019

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma

VIDEO DESIGN: Alexander Claros

RECORDED MUSIC: La Culpa (The Blame) by Buena Fe.

DANCERS: Clara Martínez, Luz Mena, Juliana Romano, Deborah Valoma, Tola Williams

NOTES:

A fusion of rumba and modern movements, danced to a fusion of pop, rock and Cuban trova, this dance is inspired by the women who fought, collaborated, and otherwise participated in the overthrow of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista from July 1953 to December 1958.

OCHUN AND WOMEN ARTISTS, 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma

VIDEO DESIGN: Alexander Claros and Giovanni Pietrobon

MUSIC: A capella songs. “Canción de Freddy.” Author: Fredesvinda García Valdés. Vocalist: Sulkary Valverde. Fragment of “Esas no son cubanas” by Ignacio Piñeiro. Vocalist: Sulkary Valverde.

Recorded music: Yambú – Remix by Daisuke Tanabe and Yoshi Horikawa

SPOKEN TEXT: Susana Arenas Pedroso and Sulkary Valverde “Isla,” poem by Sulkary Valverde

DANCERS: Stella Adelman, Jessica Decker, Tiffani Jarnigan, Casey Kettering, Luz Mena, Juliana Romano, Deborah Valoma, Tola Williams

NOTES:

Ochún, goddess of feminine sensuality, sweetness, and love, ruler of the rivers, is the youngest of the Yoruba deities, and the patron saint of Cuba in its syncretised form as Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre. She has a sparkly laughter and loves golden objects, mirrors and fans. This number explores Cuban women’s Ochún-like qualities in general, and the seductive power of the performing art of this show’s Cuban artists in particular. The lush fusion of yambú and jazz in Tanabe and Horikawa’s remix, complemented by the butterfly effect of the fans in this dance, capture an aura of Ochún’s sensuality.

MANOS DE MUJERES A LA OBRA/ WOMEN’S HANDS AT WORK, 2018

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma

LIVE MUSIC: Congas, güiro, clave. Michaelle Goerlitz, Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Elizabeth Sayre. Arpón: Christelle Durandy. Coro: Amikaeyla Gaston Megan McZeal, Karen Smith. Arpón: Christelle Durandy. Coro: Megan McZeal, Karen Smith, Sulkary Valverde.

SPOKEN TEXT: Susana Arenas Pedroso and Sulkary Valverde

DANCERS: Stella Adelman, Diana Aburto, Jessica Decker, Tiffani Jarnigan, Luz Mena, Juliana Romano, Deborah Valoma, Tola Williams

NOTES:

This festive rumba-folklore choreography celebrates the resourcefulness, creativity, pride and joy that go into women’s often undervalued domestic labor, indispensable to building a home, a society, a nation.

ADÁ ARÁ: CUBAN WOMEN DEMAND RESPECT, 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

COSTUME DESIGN: Deborah Valoma & Wilber Van Deer Gaag

VIDEO DESIGN: Alexander Claros and Giovanni Pietrobon

LIVE MUSIC: Batá drums and güiro: Michaelle Goerlitz, Jules Hilson, Mena Ramos, Elizabeth Sayre. Arpón: Amikaeyla Gaston. Coro: Christelle Durandy, Megan McZeal, Karen Smith.

RECORDED MUSIC: Wolenché by Rebeca Mauleón

DANCERS: Isabel Estrada-Jameson (Ochún soloist), Joshua Barbosa (Changó soloist). Changó followers: Diana Aburto, Stella Adelman, Ilana Andújar, Myisha Harden, Casey Kettering, Tola Williams. Ochún followers: Luz Mena, Juliana Romano, Mitzi Ulloa, Deborah Valoma, Tammy Ryan.

NOTES:

In the patakí (Yoruba story) Adá Ará, Changó, king of the religion and god of male masculinity, dismisses his second wife, Ochún, who in addition to being goddess of sweetness, love and feminine sensuality, shares the emotions and feelings of vanity and anger with humankind. She responds to Changó's insult by tricking him into bending over to smell her honey on the floor so she can take away his crown. She offers to return it under one condition: that he promises to respect and admire her as a queen.

¡MUJERES!, 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Susana Arenas Pedroso

RECORDED MUSIC: ¡Qué lindas son las mujeres! By Cristian y Rey

DANCERS: The entire cast

NOTES:

Arenas Dance Company and guests give thanks and greet our audience in this choreographed bow sequence to a song that celebrates all the women on earth for what they do to sustain this world and who they are regardless of social, racial or cultural difference.



Photo by Tom Ehrlich

BIOS

Arenas Dance Company

The all-female ensemble of dancers and percussionists directed by Susana Arenas Pedroso, Arenas Dance Company, have performed throughout the Bay Area, and are best known for their celebrated works *Yo Soy Cuba* (I am Cuba), *Dos Aguas* and *A Night in Havana*. Arenas Dance Company has been featured as part of numerous festivals, including Black Choreographers Festival, CubaCaribe Festival, Salsa Rueda Festival, Yemanjá Festival, Stanford Jazz Festival and San José Jazz Festival. Arenas Dance Company's mission is to promote the rich and diverse Cuban folkloric and popular dance traditions from the percussive *Arara*, to the sensual *Rumba*, to the energetic *Palo* making it accessible to wide audiences via performances and classes. Born from a commitment to educate and enrich the communities in which Ms. Pedroso lives, Arenas Dance Company inspires the hearts and minds of its audiences in the way it brings the history of Cuban dance and music culture to life.

Susana Arenas Pedroso

Born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Susana Arenas Pedroso danced professionally for seventeen years in Cuba with popular, folkloric and theatrical performing groups, including Tierra Virgen, Alafia Ire, Oche Olorun, Oriki, Clave y Guaguancó, Oba Wemilere, Rumberos de Cuba, and Raíces Profundas. Since 1998, she has performed and choreographed throughout the United States, Austria, Mexico, Morocco, Martinique, Cuba and Hong Kong with companies such as Omo Ache, Omo Oddara, Ban Rarra, Ire Ile, Alayo Dance Company, Las Que Son Son and Obini Ashe. In 1999 Ms Pedroso founded her own dance companies, Saudunga Cubana, specializing in Cuban popular dance, and Olorun, specializing in Cuban folkloric dance. In 2004 Ms Pedroso joined the two troupes into one, establishing Arenas Dance Company, an all-female ensemble that has developed an expertise in folkloric and popular Cuban rhythms and traditions.

Dancers:

Diana Aburto was born and raised in Nicaragua. She has a wide variety of dance training from Latin-American rhythms, contemporary, modern techniques, and belly dance. Now in the Bay Area, Diana directs Chavalos Danzas por Nicaragua—a Nicaraguan folklore troupe in SF that participates in several venues throughout the Bay Area. She has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2018.

Stella Adelman, Raised in SF, Stella Adelman holds a Bachelors in World Arts and Cultures and also studied dance at El Instituto Superior del Arte (Havana, Cuba). Adelman is currently the Managing Director at Dance Mission Theater, an artist-driven space rooted in intersectional feminism. Adelman co-produced the CubaCaribe Festival from 2007-2010, has worked with Carnaval San Francisco since 2014, and has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2005.

Ilana Andújar has studied and performed dance since age four. Having studied dance locally and abroad, Ilana performs with local groups and companies. With a BS in Public Health, dance is an influential force in her work with youth, which she currently serves in an East Oakland Public School.

Brisa Camacho-Lovell is a proud Oakland native who has been dancing with Arenas Dance Company since 2021. She has a Bachelor's Degree in World Politics and Hispanic Studies from Hamilton College in New York, and works as a middle school Spanish teacher and Social Justice Educator.

Jessica Decker has a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology from Paris. She works as a therapist with the Latin community in the Bay Area. Working with trauma in many forms, she deeply believes in the healing powers of dance and the restorative strengths of finding community through dance, culture and art. She has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2018.

Myisha Harden was professionally trained in Ghanaian dance with an emphasis on the Togo/Benin region under master drummer Dr. Ck Ladzepko. Since age 9, Mayisha has been one of the principal dancers for his West African Dance Ensemble, touring nationally and internationally. In addition to Arenas Dance Company she has danced in one of the Bay Area's iconic Haitian groups, Rara Tou Limen.

Tiffani Jarnigan was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and fell in love with Latin culture and dance. She returned back to the Bay in 2014, as a sustainability professional by day and dancing with Susana Arenas by night. She has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2016.

Sriba Kwadjovie was born and raised in the SF Bay Area and is trained in modern/contemporary, ballet, jazz and African Diaspora dance forms including Katherine Dunham Technique. She holds a law degree from John F. Kennedy University and bachelors in political science from UC Irvine. She has performed with various companies including Company Chaddick, Robert Moses' Kin, Epiphany Dance Theater and has choreographed solo projects locally and abroad. Sriba joined Arenas Dance Company in 2021.

Casey Kettering joined the Arenas Dance Company in 2018 with prior experience in West African dance and music. Casey's dissertation was written on West African forms of dance-drumming in treatment of anxiety and depression. Following musical, spiritual and cultural traditions from West Africa to Cuba, Casey continues to be inspired by

how music and dance are both art and medicine.

Clara Martinez Dutton has been dancing since age fifteen, when she first fell in love with Cuban music and dance. She has a master's degree in International and Multicultural Education and teaches advanced high-school Spanish. She has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2021.

Luz Mena is a Salvadoran native, cultural geographer, professor, dance instructor and choreographer. She has specialized in Nineteenth-Century Havana's colonial relations completing a Ph.D. and postdoctorate from UC Berkeley. Trained in Latin America, Spain and the US in a wide gamma of dances, she focuses on Latin American rhythms. She joined Arenas Dance Company in 2010, and is serving as Arenas's production manager, script writer, and cultural researcher for this show.

Juliana Romano is a Bay Area native, artist, dancer, and teacher. Juliana has performed at the SF Ethnic Dance Festival, Ashkenaz, CubaCaribe Festival, Mission Cultural Center, ODC, and Dance Mission. She graduated from UC Davis with a degree in community development and teaches Spanish and dance at John O'Connell High School. She has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2018.

Tammy Ryan has been a dedicated student of Susana Arenas for 22 years. She has taught for Susana's dance classes and traveled with Susana to Mexico, Asia and throughout the US as a performer. Tammy offers blessings to her teachers: Susan Arenas, Tania Santiago, and Carlos Aceituno, Ibae.

Mitzi Ulloa has studied/performed with Susana Arenas Pedroso & Arenas Dance for nearly two decades. She coordinates travel for Arenas Cuba's Dance/ Music Program & is a Bay Area Visual/Performing Arts Educator. Mitzi holds a B.A. in Dance, Youth Development & Masters Degree in Education from SFSU. Proud daughter of immigrant parents (Mexico/Colombia), a native to Califas, residing on Ramaytush Ohlone land.

Deborah Valoma is an artist, researcher, writer, professor, and chair of the Textiles Program at California College of the Arts where her specialized field is textile history, theory, and practice. Deborah has been

dancing Cuban popular and folkloric genres since 2000 and has performed and designed costumes for Arenas Dance Company since 2016.

Adetola (Tola) Williams was born in Oakland to Yoruba parents from Nigeria. She spent seven of her childhood years in Lagos, Nigeria, where music and dance is a staple of everyday life. She started dancing Afro-Cuban dances when she joined the Arenas Dance Company in 2016.

Soloists:

Susana Arenas Pedroso (see bio above)

Isabel Estrada-Jamison owes her first experiences of dance to her late mother Barbara who brought her along on adventures from the tablaos of Sevilla to the rumbas of La Habana. Currently a member of Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Experimental Dance in New York, she has also had the honor of performing with Arenas Dance Company (the first company she ever performed with in 2000) and Raíces Profundas in La Habana. Isabel is also passionately studying Flamenco with her teachers Sonia Olla and Ismael Fernández.

Joshua Barbosa was born and raised in Puerto Rico and holds a master's degree in Engineering. He started dancing Salsa On 2 in 2010 and danced with Salsamania Pro Team, from the Bay Area, for several years. Currently he is the director of a dance team called Yamulee Project San Francisco. He has been a member of Arenas Dance Company since 2018.

Musicians:

Elizabeth Sayre has studied and taught Afro-Cuban drumming since the mid-1990s in Philadelphia, New York, and the Bay Area. For the last 25 years, she has worked as a musician, teacher, researcher, grant writer, community school director, arts funder, city arts education coordinator, non-profit program director, and startup operations manager. A percussionist for 30 years, Elizabeth has been working with Arenas for 10 years and is now the company's Musical Director.

Jules Anastasia is a percussionist and youth teaching artist based in Oakland. Their interest in Latin and Afro Caribbean music began when they joined a Brazilian batería. Following generations of Oakland roots, they moved here in 2008 and began playing with Susana Arenas in 2011. Other projects include cumbia psychedelia band Ritmos Tropicocos and brass band Mission Delirium.

Mena Ramos is a Filipina Oakland-based percussionist, medical doctor, and founder of the Global Ultrasound Institute, an Oakland based medical education and software company. She received her B.A. from Brown University in 2005 and her M.D. from Escuela Latinoamerica de Medicina in Havana, Cuba in 2011. When she is not working in the ER and teaching ultrasound to medical professionals, she is teaching salsa dancing and performing in the Bay Area music scene as an Afrocuban and fusion drummer. She performs with Free Press, Christelle Durandy, the Arenas Dance Company, and the all women's salsa band AguaPura. Her passion is at the intersection of arts and medicine as a means to foster community and social change.

Michaelle Goerlitz has played drums and percussion since she was eight years old. After college, she moved to San Francisco in 1980 to continue her studies and her exploration of Brazilian, Afro Cuban, Venezuelan, and Middle Eastern rhythms (plus jazz, R & B & funk). She's founding member of two renowned & long-term projects, the Blazing Redheads and Wild Mango. She has played with many renowned musicians and bands.

Sulkary Valverde is a talented singer of Latin music in the San Francisco Bay Area, was born in Guantanamo Cuba. She studied music and voice from an early age at the regional provincial school "Regino E Voto" and later graduated from the national school of art "Lili Martinez" in Camaguey, Cuba, specializing in saxophone and voice. In Cuba, she sang with the bands Traje Nuevo, La Ritma y Sabor, and others. Residing now in the Bay Area, Sulkary sings with Pellejo Seco, TeamBahia and more, enriching the bands with the rich texture of her incredible voice and launching her career as one of the leading female Latin singers of the Bay Area.

Christelle Durandy fuses Afro-Caribbean, Jazz and other polyrhythmic sounds in a provocative exploration of the African diaspora's diffuse and powerful musical energy - a multicultural complexity Christelle herself embodies, having been raised in France by a mother from Reunion Island and a father from Guadeloupe. She draws upon her polyglot background to celebrate and expand the diaspora's vibrant musical conversation.

Amikaeyla Gaston is proclaimed as one of the "purest contemporary voices" by NPR, and described by MTV as "...her sultry sound is like listening to velvet waterfalls...", Amikaeyla works with refugees and jeopardized populations worldwide. She's the Founder/E.D for The International Cultural Arts and Healing Sciences Institute and is recipient of the UN Global Woman and The International Hero for Peace and Forgiveness Awards.



Photo by Tom Ehrlich

THANK YOU/GRACIAS:

Estimada Jamaica Itule, directora de CubaCaribe y Ramon Ramos, director artístico, Quiero agradecerles eternamente por haberme dado la confianza y oportunidad de trabajar en este inmenso show espectacular de Ada Ara.

También quiero profundamente agradecer a toda la compañía de Arenas Dance Company y muy en particular a: Elizabeth Sayre directora musical; Luz Mena mi gran colaboradora y asistente de producción; Stella Adelman por apoyar con otras becas; Y nuestra diseñadora de vestuarios Déborah Valoma.

Les doy las gracias al Gerbode Foundation y al público por su apoyo y participación y a todo el elenco y la producción de CubaCaribe.

Millones de gracias a todos mis ancestros. Gracias olofi y olordumare, gracias a los orishas y a todas esas ciencias del más allá.

Ashe.

Susana

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

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