

DIC  
2009

CUBA  
ABSOLUTELY.

WHAT'S ON  
HAVANA

# XXXI festival internacional del nuevo cine latinoamericano

del 3 al 13 de diciembre 2009  
la habana, cuba



PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CUBAISM TRAVEL AGENCY

# Cuba's hotel specialists

Find lots of info, check availability and prices at  
[cubahotelbookings.com](http://cubahotelbookings.com)



[cubahotelbookings.com](http://cubahotelbookings.com) is a service from Cubatism Ltd, one of very few international agencies with full representation in Cuba, and so can, and do, provide a full range of travel services at competitive rates.

Make up your own itinerary precisely how you want it  
Select and book from all 219 contractible hotels in Cuba  
And all in one booking process

If a hotel has no availability we can offer all the alternatives  
Low prices

[cubahotelbookings.com](http://cubahotelbookings.com)



# CUBA

ABSOLUTELY. US\$12.95

New Issue  
Out Now

2008 / 09

Cuba's leading art critic gives his definitive account of Cuba art in the 1990's

### La Muerte de una casa

stunning photo-essay from one of America's best photographers: Roberto Polidori

### In-depth economic analysis

Cuba's leading economic commentators give their analysis of the current situation

### Cuba's diving hot spots

The hippest contemporary Cuban musicians today



Absolutely the best magazine about Cuba  
246 pages



"I am delighted and honoured that the Embassy is among the sponsors of this edition of Cuba Absolutely. This extraordinary publication burst upon us a year ago and filled a longstanding need with style, professionalism and panache. Cuba is indeed a fascinating place to visit, live and work. But we all need a guide as good as this one to make the most of it. I could not do without it, and its website."

John Dew  
Ambassador  
British Embassy Havana

[www.CubaAbsolutely.com](http://www.CubaAbsolutely.com)

# WHAT'S ON



Havana, Cuba. This week, this majestic dame of a city plays hostess to the 30th International Festival of New Latin American Cinema. Hundreds of film producers, actors and participants alike have flown in from across the globe, mostly from South and Central America, though there have been eminent European and American visitors here too, with names such as Mike Leigh and Benicio del Toro crowning the list of heavyweights who are familiar to Western audiences.

The special touch of this Festival, however, lies in its unfamiliarity, and in its opportunity to delve into the subconscious, of the film-savvy Havana public, if only for the blink of a film screening. There are no multiplex cinemas in Havana, and no Pizza Hut or popcorn chains standardising each venue where the hundreds of films are screened from 10am until midnight. There are no Starbucks cafes where the gliterrati hang out between showings, sipping a hundred varieties of coffee. No, this is cinema Cuban-style, with one cup of coffee and two types of cheese sandwich, those with or without ham, and the whole world is invited.

I am standing in Nuevo Vedado, a bland upscale quarter of Havana, wondering best how to fill the hour I have to kill before the lunchtime screening of an Argentine film called LLuvia (Rain). The Acapulco is a tidy, small 1950s cinema which sits like a doll's house on a main artery road of Havana. The hulking frames of aquamarine 1950s Buicks cruise slowly along picking up and dropping off passengers across town, their smoking black exhausts stifling the air. A man dressed in tight white trousers, long gold chains and a Santiago del Cuba white baseball cap comes to try to sell me the same programme which I am already holding in my hand. When I point out that I already have one, he shakes his head smiling and suggests I find something to do for an hour since there is no shade outside the little building. I feel as though I have stepped back into America's Deep South somewhere, a place where the only thing guaranteed to happen is not very much at all. I have been told by my taxi driver that foreign press are not "desperately welcome" here, although he laughs for a good five minutes after he tells me that. Then he tells me that change cannot come fast enough for his liking. He tells me that the cinema looks the same as it always has and he is bored with it now.

[full article](#)

## VISUAL ARTS

**LADERAS**

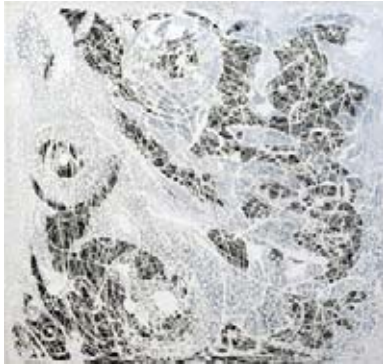
Throughout December / 2009

Galería La Acacia

San José 114 entre Industria y Consulado, Centro Habana

C 861 3533

One of the busiest commercial galleries in Havana today, which has combined its commitment to the production of the new generations of artists with the validity and permanence of established artists, proposes this dialogue between academic artists and the avant-garde, usually considered antagonistic.

**ABSTRACTA MINERVA**

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER 2009 AND JANUARY 2010

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. Edificio de Arte Cubano

Trocadero entre Monserrate y Zulueta, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 0140, 861 3858, 863 9484

Twenty-nine recent works by the painter Minerva López, described by Moraima Clavijo, Director of the National Museum, as "refined and serene, and at the same time original and disturbing" form this exhibition by an artist who has gone from figuration to abstraction, with a very personal style.

**LOS ÁNGELES DE HOY**

THROUGH 6 DECEMBER / 2009

Casa Fundación Oswaldo Guayasamín

Obrapia entre Oficios y Mercaderes, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 861 3843

Ten paintings in acrylic, charcoal and pastel from the series G and San Isidro, by the artist Dagoberto Jaquinet, who delves into social topics of contemporary Cuba, especially regarding the concerns and behaviour of youth.

**TRUENE Y RELAMPAGUEE**

Opens 4 December / 2009

Casa Fundación Oswaldo Guayasamín

Obrapia entre Oficios y Mercaderes, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 861 3843

First solo exhibition by the popular Cuban TV and cinema actor Alberto Pujol.



### UN LUGAR EN EL MUNDO

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER / 2008

Galería Villa Manuela

Calle H número 406 entre 17 y 19, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 832 2391

An exhibition by Roberto Diago, who according to the critics and its curator, Elvia Rosa Castro, shows that the artist "knows how to treat materials. He is able to exploit his expressive abilities to the fullest. He makes them coexist in an excellent tension of fragility and solidity of arte povera and cool. Two-dimensionality strives to abort and becomes sculpture. He forces matter to project a vision of permanence and temporariness without taking away an inch of beauty."



### HABANERA DIOSA INDIANA

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER / 2009

useo Biblioteca Servando Cabrera Moreno

Calle Paseo 304 esquina a 13, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 835 2027 y 836 0010

The female figures by the Cuban painter Servando Cabrera Moreno, which were exhibited for the first time in 1975 and have never been shown as a group since then, aroused reluctance among critics and connoisseurs; some branded them as facile, banal or just plain decorative, while others conjectured hidden phallic symbols in the elegant faces atop the Modigliani-like flexible necks. Almost 35 years later, 31 of these paintings are being exhibited again.



### 3 VISIONES EN 3 LUCES

THROUGH 17 DECEMBER / 2009

Fototeca de Cuba

Mercaderes 307 entre Muralla y Teniente Rey, Plaza Vieja, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 2530

An exhibition by the Cuban photographers Rufino del Valle and Servio Alfonso, and the Spaniard Pedro Coll, curated by Del Valle, who set out to "state his view on architectural constructions and their relation with aesthetics, how something as popular as the Capitol, the Eiffel Tower or any other construction may be viewed from a different perspective according to where we stand when taking the picture, or the way we interpret it according to the manipulation of the projections of light and shadow that emerge from them."



### VOLVER

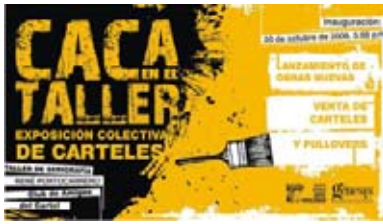
THROUGHOUT DECEMBER / 2009

Galería 23 Y 12

Calle 23 esquina a 12, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 8311810

A retrospective of Águedo Alonso, one of the masters of Cuban landscape painting, which ranges from his first series--the sensual and even erotic Paisajes and Casa del Campesino, where he reaches an extreme synthesis, an almost geometric reduction to essential shapes, and seems to warn the cost of moving man from his natural environment—to his most recent production—levitations, in which recurring motifs such as the palm tree or the bohío are given new meanings and seem to float, detached from the earth that previously nurtured or supported them.



## CACA EN EL TALLER

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER / 2009

Taller de serigrafía René Portocarrero

Cuba 513, entre Teniente Rey y Muralla, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 3276 / 861 9354

The Club de Amigos del Cartel (CACa) [Friends of the Poster Club] has gathered the best posters by 31 designers for this exhibition. The posters were designed from 2008 to 2009, of different themes and styles.



## ABRAZOS PROHIBIDOS

OPENS 4 DECEMBER / 2009

Galería Habana

Línea 460 entre E y F, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 832 7101

With an aesthetics that some critics have described as "post medieval", but which owes much to more wide-ranging interpretations of universal art and to the exploration of national identity factors, one finds in Ernesto Rancaño's work a search for spirituality that captures all kinds of viewers.



## ARTE NAIF

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER / 2009

Galería Roberto Diago

Muralla 107 esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 3577

Group exhibition of naive art.



## UN INSTANTE EN LA VIDA

OPENS 5 DECEMBER / 2009

Galería Servando

Calle 23 esquina a 10, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 833 9599

Solo exhibition by the artist Carlos Guzmán, who, according to his own words, has always been interested in "the relation of man not only of what goes on in this space, but the manner in which man faces other realities that may be parallel to this one and are not seen...and how one can communicate with this."



## LE PARC. LUMIÈRE

OPENS 10 DECEMBER / 2009

Casa de las Américas

Calle 3ra. esquina a G, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 838 2706 al 09

Exhibition by the Argentinean artist Julio Le Parc chosen by Casa de las Américas to close the Kinetic Year which Casa has celebrated throughout 2009 in its 50th anniversary. On Wednesday, 9 December, at the institution's Manuel Galich Hall, the public will be able to meet with the artist, who will comment on his most recent work and experiences within the kinetic movement.



### CRONOS

THROUGH DECEMBER / 2009

Complejo-Galería La Casona

Muralla 107 esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 861 8544

Painting, installation, photography and drawing form this group exhibition by significant contemporary Cuban artists, such as Ricardo Rodríguez Brey, Santiago Rodríguez Olazábal, José Manuel Fors, Rocío García, René Peña y Analía Amaya, just to name a few.



### CUERPO, TIEMPO Y MEMORIA. ILUSTRADORES CUBANOS DE ANALES DEL CARIBE

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER / 2009

Galería Mariano

Calle 15 núm. 607 entre B y C, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 838 2702

Exhibition by the artists Manuel Mendive, Eduardo Roca (Choco), Santiago Rodríguez Olazábal and Pepe Menéndez, who have contributed illustrations to the magazine Anales del Caribe, published by Casa de las Américas.



### TINA MODOTTI

OPENS 4 DECEMBER / 2009

Pabellón Cuba

Calle 23 esquina a N, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 832 3511

Exhibition in honour of the Italian photographer Tina Modotti, whose work, which was carried out in Mexico during the 1920s, was considered renovating and revolutionary for using the resources of a new aesthetics with a social content in mind.



### FLAUTAS MÁGICAS

OPENS 10 DECEMBER / 2009

Casa Simón Bolívar

Mercaderes 158 entre Obrapía y Lamparilla, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 861 3988

The draughtsman and illustrator Frank Valdés and his sons Kamilo, Roberto and Yaser Hill exhibit ceramics, paintings, texts and graphic materials inspired in a flute-vessel that has accompanied man since the dawn of civilization, the ocarina. The opening (4 pm) will include the performances by the oral narrator Octavio Pino who will tell the story of The Magic Flute; the early music ensemble Cantiga Armónica; and a group of scissor grinders will play the harmonicas that have identified them for centuries.



### ÓPTICO '70

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER / 2009  
 Casa de las Américas  
 Calle 3ra. esquina a G, El Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 838 2706-09

Exhibition of Cuban graphic design displaying optical influence in posters, discs, books, etc., which confirms the strong presence of optical-kinetic trends in Cuba's domestic graphic design.



### HABANA MÍA

OPENS 15 DECEMBER / 2009  
 Museo de Arte Colonial  
 Plaza de la Catedral, La Habana Vieja  
 Tel. +(53) 7 862 6440

The artist Ileana Mulet takes in hand a recurring subject in her production—the eternal Havana, with her customary look charged with symbolism, poetry and feminism.



### ANTECOMIENZO

OPENS 18 DECEMBER / 2009  
 Galería Factoría Habana  
 O'Reilly 308 entre Habana y Aguiar, La Habana Vieja

The recently opened Factoría Gallery exhibits a representative sample of Cuban art of the 1990s with works by artists Aimée García, Sandra Ramos, Abel Barroso, Carlos Montes de Oca, Fernando Rodríguez, Lázaro Saavedra, Ibraim Miranda, Luis Gómez, Osvaldo Yero and René Francisco Rodríguez.



### EL JARDÍN DE EPICURO

OPENS 7 DECEMBER / 2009  
 Galería El Reino de Este Mundo, Biblioteca Nacional José Martí  
 Boyeros entre 20 de Mayo y Aranguren, Plaza de la Revolución  
 Tel. +(53) 7 881 1757

Solo exhibition by the Cuban painter Arturo Montoto, whose search for post Renaissance and baroque visualizations is combined with the use of minimalist resources, and a dramatic quality in composition and light.

## MUSIC

**CONCIERTO DE ROBERTICO CARCASSÉS E INTERACTIVO**

5 December, 5:00 pm / 2009

Centro Hispano Americano de Cultura  
 Malecón 17 entre Prado y Genio, Centro Habana  
 Tel. +(53) 7 860 6282

Performance by one of the top groups in the fusion of jazz, rock and other international sounds with the rhythms of Cuban popular music.

**VI FESTIVAL DE MÚSICA POPULAR**

2-6 December / 2009

Las Tunas

The Barbarito Diez Popular Music Festival is celebrated in tribute to the centenary of the birth of the Cuban singer Barbarito Diez, one of the greatest singers of danzón, which is considered the island's national dance. The 6th Festival includes a troubadour gala, danzón competitions for children and adults, an Honor Ball with 200 men and women from several generations, open air activities with popular dance orchestras from the Eastern region of Cuba, a workshop on danzón and a colloquium on Barbarito Diez's career.

**EL JARDÍN DE LA GORDA**

Third Sunday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2009

Centro Iberoamericano de la Décima  
 Calle A entre 25 y 27, El Vedado

Sara González, emblematic voice of the Cuban Nueva Trova, at her monthly gatherings where the audiences can enjoy, in an informal atmosphere, the performances of some of the best Cuban troubadours.

**CONCIERTOS DE DIMENSIÓN VERTICAL**

Sundays, 4:00 pm / 2009

El Sauce  
 Calle 9na. entre 120 y 130, Playa  
 Tel. +(53) 7 204 7061

Dimensión Vertical, one of the oldest Cuban rock bands who insist on reproducing, the same as 40 years ago, hit songs by famous British and US rock bands of the 60s and 70s, make up, together with their middle-aged fans, a sort of Jurassic Park.

**PEÑA DE REMBERT DUHARTE**

Last Friday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2009

Jardines del teatro Mella  
 Línea entre A y B, El Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 830 4987

The young jazz musician Rembert Duharte plays the different forms of Cuban jazz.



### PEÑA DE LOS KENTS

Sundays, 4:00 pm / 2009  
Café Cantante, Teatro Nacional  
Calle Paseo y 39, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 870 4651

Los Kents, another "dinosaur" of Cuban rock, play their own hits from the 60s and 70s.



### PEÑA DE ENFUSIÓN

Every Monday, 5:30 pm / 2009  
Patio-bar of the EGREM record label  
San Miguel 410 entre Campanario y Lealtad, Centro Habana  
Tel. +(53) 7 862 0673

A trova get-together hosted by Enfusión.



### LA BELLA CUBANA

Wed 4 and 18, 5:00 pm / 2009  
Sala Villena, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC)  
Calle 17 esquina a H, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 832 4551-53

Dedicated to highlight the presence of women in Cuban music.



### NOCHE DE BOLEROS

Saturdays, 9:00 pm / 2009  
Hurón Azul, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC)  
Calle 17 esquina a H, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 832 4551-53

Lovers of this romantic genre par excellence have the opportunity of meeting and enjoying the performances of the best Cuban boleristas.



### PEÑA DE ROCHY

Last Thursday of the month, 8:30 pm / 2009  
Balneario Universitario El Coral  
Calle 1ra. esquina a 42, Miramar

Performance by Cuban singer Rocky with her group and guests.



### CONCIERTO ABIERTO

Last Thursday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2009  
Sala Villena  
Calle 17 esquina a H, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 832 4551 al 53

Concert and electroacoustic music for soloists and chamber music ensembles, under the direction of Guido López Gavilán.



### PEÑA DEL AMBIA

Wed 11 and 25, 5:00 pm / 2009  
Hurón Azul, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC)  
Calle 17 esquina a H, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 832 4551-53

The best place to go for those seeking to become acquainted with authentic African-Cuban traditions, hosted by the poet Eloy Machado, aka. El Ambia.



### TROVANDO

Wednesday, 5:00 pm / 2009  
Patio-bar of the EGREM record label  
San Miguel 410 entre Campanario y Lealtad, Centro Habana  
Tel. +(53) 7 862 0673

A place where troubadours and poets get together for a unique performance in a bohemian atmosphere, combined with the launching and sale of record albums, books and magazines.



### PEÑA DE LA TROVA

Sunday, 7:30 pm / 2009  
Patio de La Casona de Línea  
Calle Línea entre D y E, El Vedado

As a confirmation of the old Cuban saying "The trova is not dead", singers from different generations and different styles get together to sing their songs.



### LA TROVA SIN TRABA

Wed 4 and 18, 5:00 pm / 2009  
Hurón Azul, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC)  
Calle 17 esquina a H, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 832 4551-53

Different generations and styles converge in a natural combination of traditional, new and very new trova.



### HOMBRES VERDES

Third Friday of the month, 9:00 pm / 2009

Pabellón Cuba  
23 y M, El Vedado

A gathering for electroacoustic music sponsored by the organization of young Cuban creators: Asociación Hermanos Saíz.



### MAYDA GALANO EN CONCIERTO

26 December, 7:00 pm / 2009

Palacio del Teatro Lírico Nacional  
Zulueta 253 entre Ánimas y Neptuno, La Habana Vieja

Three popular Cuban troubadours--Sara González, Heydi Igualada and Marta Campos--will give a concert on Casa de las Américas' 50th anniversary.



### CANTOS DE MUJER

11 December, 5:00 pm / 2009

Casa de las Américas  
Calle 3ra. esquina a G, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 838 2706 al 09

The soprano Mayda Galano, accompanied by the pianist Pura Ortiz, will perform works of the different styles that travelled from Spain to America and back, and the symbiosis between both cultural trends.



### TARDES DEL JAZZ

Second Thursday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2009

Hurón Azul, Unión de escritores and Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC)  
Calle 17 esquina a H, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 832 4551-53

Jam sessions with important Cuban jazz musicians and bands.



### CHARANGUEANDO

Every Thursday at 5:00 pm / 2009

Café Cantante, Teatro Nacional  
Calle Paseo y 39, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 870 4651

A regular space for Cuban charanga dance bands--ideal instrumental format for the danzón, mambo and cha-cha, hosted by the legendary América band.



## LÍRICOS EN SAN FELIPE

7:00 pm unless otherwise indicated / 2009

Oratorio San Felipe Neri

Aguiar esquina a Obrapia, La Habana Vieja

**3 Dec, 7:00 pm** Cuban National Chorus and guests.

**5 Dec, 4:00 pm** Concert by the Nuestro Tiempo chamber music orchestra, conducted by Enrique Pérez Mesa, permanent head of the National Symphony Orchestra.

**10 Dec, 7:00 pm** The soprano Milagros de los Ángeles, the countertenors Ubail Zamora and Edwing Ramírez, the baritone Bryan López, the pianist Ana Magdalena and an instrumental ensemble, all conducted by Eduardo Díaz, will pay tribute to the great Baroque composer Friedrich Handel.

**11 Dec, 7:00 pm** The Chamber Music Orchestra of the National Arts Institute, together with professors of the Institute, will perform works by the composers of the Musical Renovation Group, which was founded in 1942 and included the musicians José Ardévol, Julián Orbón, Harold Gramatges, Argeliers León, Hilario González and Gisela Hernández, among others.

**12 Dec, 4:00 pm** Conducted by Leonardo Lara, actors and singers will comment on significant moments of Nelson Dorr's legacy to the Cuban musical theatre.

**17 Dec, 7:00 pm** Concert by the saxophonist Javier Zalba and the pianist María del Henar Navarro.

**19 Dec, 4:00 pm** The pianist Nigel Clayton (England) and Eralys Fernández (Cuba) will perform works by Schubert, Mozart, Brahms, Poulenc, Gershwin and Ignacio Cervantes.

**26 Dec, 4:00 pm** Voces Nuevas--New Voices--a space for young operatic talents.



## CONCIERTOS EN SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA

7:00 pm / 2009

Iglesia de San Francisco de Paula

Desamparados y San Ignacio, Alameda de Paula, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 860 4210

**4 Dec** The Ventus Habana and Alabama University Wind Quintets will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn with the performance of a selection of works by Haydn and Mozart.

**11 Dec** The all-female children's choir Lunita, directed by Sandra Santos, will perform the concert Lunita navideña, with Christmas carols of different periods and styles.

**18 Dec** The many-times prize-winning chamber music choir Exaudi, directed by María Felicia Pérez, will perform a program based on works by the composers Randall Thompson (USA), David Childs (New Zealand), Niels La Cour (Denmark), August Söderman (Sweden), Vitautas Miskinis (Lithuania), Gyorgy Orbán (Hungary) and Fernando Moruja (Argentina), among others, plus Spanish and Cuban Christmas carols.

**19 Dec** Concert Rosa mística by the Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble, directed by Teresa Paz with music by the composers Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla, Pedro Bermúdez and Gaspar Fernández.



## NOVIEMBRE EN LA BASÍLICA

6:00 pm / 2009

Basílica Menor de San Francisco de Asís  
Oficios y Churruca, La Habana Vieja  
Tel. +(53) 7 862 9683

**4 Dec, 4:00 pm** Concert by the pianists Huberal Herrera and Yadasny Portillo, who will perform works by the Cuban composers Ramón Valle, Ernesto Grenet, José María Vitier, Silvio Rodríguez, Guillermo Rodríguez Fiffe, Ernesto Lecuona and Yadasny Portillo.

**4 Dec, 4:00 pm** Performance by the Concertante Trio at the opening of the Orchid Festival.

**11 Dec** The Música Eterna chamber music orchestra, conducted by Guido López Gavilán, and the many-times prize-winning pianist Aldo López Gavilán will perform works by Handel, Rachmaninoff, Couperin and Guido López Gavilán.

**12 Dec** Abraham Castillo (fagot), and guests Lisandra Rodríguez (piano), Lena Rodríguez (flute), Frank Ernesto Fernández (oboe), Nestor Calvo (clarinet) and Leticia Pons (horn) will perform works by Bach and Poulenc.

**17 Dec** The Cuban violinist Irina Vázquez Cruz and the English pianist Nigel Clayton will perform works by Beethoven, Mozart, Debussy and Franck.

**18 Dec** Performance by the Cuban soprano María Eugenia Barrio and guests.

**19 Dec** On the occasion of its 16th anniversary, the Camerana Romeu, conducted by Zenaida Romeu, has chosen a program with works by the Italian violinist and composer Arcangelo Corelli.

**22 Dec** Maité Aboy, Mahé Marty and the Scherzo quartet will perform works by Hindemith and Mozart.

**26 Dec** To close the year at the Basílica, the orchestra Cámara Solistas de La Habana, conducted by María Elena Mendiola, will perform works by Handel.

## DANCE

**TEMPORADA DE DANZA CONTEMPORÁNEA DE CUBA**

4-20 DECEMBER; FRI AND SAT, 8:30 PM; SUN, 5:00 PM / 2009

Gran Teatro de La Habana  
Prado y San Rafael, Centro Habana  
Tel. +(53) 7 861 3077 al 79

On the occasion of Danza Contemporánea's 50th anniversary, the famous dance company announces two world premieres: *Mambo3XXI*, by the Cuban choreographer George Céspedes, with music by Alexis de la O Joya and Edwin Casanova, and the mambo icon, Dámaso Pérez Prado; and *Casi-casa*. By the Swedish dancer and choreographer Mats Ek, with music by FleshQuartet.

**ÉXITOS DEL BALET ESPAÑOL DE CUBA**

25-27 DECEMBER; FRI AND SAT, 8:30 PM; SUN, 5:00 PM / 2009

Gran Teatro de La Habana  
Prado y San Rafael, Centro Habana  
Tel. +(53) 7 861 3077 al 79

The Ballet Español de Cuba, directed by the dancer and choreographer Eduardo Veitía, will present a program formed by works from the Spanish classical repertory, accompanied on the piano by the dancer and pianist Daniel Martínez, and a number of new choreographies dedicated to flamenco.

## EVENTS

**FERIA INTERNACIONAL DE ARTESANÍA FIART**

10-20 DECEMBER / 2009

Pabexpo, La Habana

Held as a way of expressing the identity and cultural diversity of different countries, this fair has promoted arts and crafts attracting thousands of visitors each year. Lectures, exhibits, fashion shows, sales and the crafts themselves offer an opportunity for interaction and exchange between artists and the public. In its 11 previous editions, the original treatment of contemporary design in handicrafts has been remarkable, in pieces which, without losing their ancestral nature, exhibit an undisputable touch of modernity, whether applied to textiles, fibres, leather, precious and semiprecious stones, metals, clay, or any other material ready to be fashioned and beautified through the sensitivity of craft artists. This year, the representations from India, Argentina, Spain, Chile, Mexico and Peru—again the biggest exhibitor—are outstanding, while Cuba will be represented by various institutions and individual crafts artists with 42 and 147 stands, respectively. Collateral events include the exhibition *Más allá de los límites*, by Raúl Valladares, at the Museo de la Orfebrería (Obispo 113 entre Oficios y Mercaderes, La Habana Vieja, Tel: 863 9861); the Wood Carving Prize-Winners Salon at the Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas (Calle 17 entre D y E, El Vedado, Tel: 830 8037); the papier maché biennial at the Casa del Benemérito de las Américas Benito Juárez (Obrapía 116, entre Mercaderes y Oficios, La Habana Vieja, Tel: 861 8166), and the 4th Patchwork Biennial at the Casa de la Cultura de Plaza (Calzada y 8, El Vedado).



## VIII ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE MANEJO Y GESTIÓN DE CENTROS HISTÓRICOS

1-3 DECEMBER / 2009

Old Havana

The 8th International Meeting on the Management of Historical Centres is organized by the Master Plan for the Comprehensive Revitalization of Old Havana of the City Historian's Office, which will focus on the "Vulnerability, Risks and Mitigation in Emergency Situations" of historical centres, whether due to natural factors and/or violence, marginality or overcrowding.

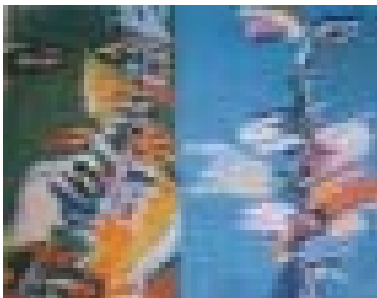


## I FESTIVAL NACIONAL DE LAS ORQUÍDEAS

9-12 DECEMBER / 2009

Old Havana's Historical Centre

Professionals, aficionados, artists and growers of delicate and exotic orchids may be able to participate during the 1st National Orchid Festival in different activities that include the exhibition El jardín de las orquídeas by the painter Jorge Duporté, who is a specialist in the topic (opens 9 December, 3:00 pm, Conde de Villanueva Hotel, at Mercaderes 202 entre Lamparilla y Amargura); exhibition and competition of live plants (10-12 December, Casa del Benemérito de las Américas Benito Juárez, at Obrapía 116, entre Mercaderes y Oficinas); and workshops on how to grow orchids at home and cultural care of orchids (10 December, Sociedad Patrimonio, Comunidad y Medio Ambiente, at Amargura 60).

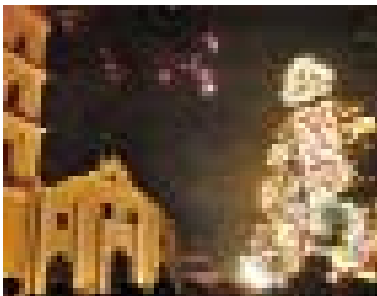


## CHARANGAS DE BEJUCAL

DECEMBER 24, 25, 26 AND JANUARY 1ST / 2009

Bejucal, La Habana Province

Like many other festivals of this type in Cuba, the charangas (popular son-influenced Cuban music that began in the 1940s emphasizing flute, violin and piano orchestra) are related to Christmas celebrations, when white Catholics and black slaves would take to the streets with their musical instruments to pay tribute to their deities. Eventually, they divided into two groups: La Musicanga, which gathered the criollos (freed blacks and slaves); and Los Malayos (representing the Spaniards). Thanks to the fusion of cultures that characterizes Cuban identity, racial and class differences were lost with time, and belonging to one or another side was simply determined by each person's preference. Rivalry between both sides today - now named La Ceiba de Plata and La Espina de Oro - consists in the ability to construct the most colourful and striking floats. The traditional music of the orchestra Los Tambores de Bejucal accompanies this festivity now attended not only by the inhabitants of the town, 20 km south of Havana, but by hundreds of visitors who enjoy the fantasy and creativity of designers, engineers, painters, musicians, choreographers, and dancers whose talent guarantees the vitality of one of the oldest popular celebrations in Cuba.



## PARRANDAS DE REMEDIOS

24 DECEMBER / 2009

Remedios, Villa Clara Province

Legend has it that during the 1820s, a young priest officiating in Remedios—the eighth town founded by the Spaniards in Cuba—decided to have a group of children make a noise with whatever they had to hand in an effort to awaken lazy parishioners to attend mass in the chilly mornings of 24th December. From then on, neighbours would go out into the streets on the nights prior to Christmas for music and merrymaking. From 1871, a competition or "parranda" between two neighbourhoods—El Carmen and San Salvador—took place, each with its own hymn, colours, kites and lanterns. In 1875, complicated floats lit by flares and fireworks were paraded by each side at the town's Plaza de Armas (town square). To this day, the two neighbourhoods continue with a rivalry characterized by the beauty and originality of these floats, as well as by the amazing pyrotechnics that from 9 pm on 24th December to dawn on 25th December, illuminate the city sky. Both sides keep their floats secret from each other during the course of the year with even members of the same family on either side of the fence sworn to secrecy against each other. Although these festivities have spread to other nearby localities of Guayos and Camajuaní, the Parrandas de Remedios are the oldest and most well known on the island.

## THEATRE

**LA OVEJA NEGRA**

Every Tuesday, 8:30 pm / 2009  
 Centro Cultural Bertolt Brecht, Sala Tito Junco  
 Calle 13 esquina a I, El Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 832 9359

A different show every Tuesday by the comedians that form the popular group La Oveja Negra.

**LA OTRA ORILLA**

Fri and Sat, 8:30 pm; Sun, 5:00 pm / 2009  
 Cine-teatro Trianón  
 Línea entre Paseo y A, El Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 830 9648

Directed by Alexis Díaz de Villegas, Teatro El Público opens La otra orilla by the Chinese narrator and playwright Gao Xinjian, Nobel Literature Prize for the year 2000.

**LAS MARIPOSAS SALTAN AL VACÍO**

Fri and Sat, 8:30 pm; Sun, 5:00 pm / 2009  
 Centro Cultural Bertolt Brecht, Café Teatro  
 Calle 13 esquina a I, El Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 832 9359

First seen on the stage in 1994, during the 2002-2003 season it reached over 100 performances, which is not a usual thing in the Cuban theatre; it has also been performed in Puerto Rico, Colombia and Mexico. The Pequeño Teatro de La Habana Company, directed by the playwright José Milián, National Theatre Prize-winner for 2008, reruns this moving play which deals with AIDS as a social phenomena.

**IGNACIO Y MARÍA**

Fri, Sat and Sun, 7:00 pm / 2009  
 Centro Cultural Bertolt Brecht, Sala Estudio  
 Calle 13 esquina a I, El Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 832 9359

Directed by Julio César Ramírez, Teatro D'Dos premieres Ignacio y María by the young Cuban playwright Nara Mansur. As is customary in this company, two actors share with the audience a very small space in which the boundaries between audience and stage dissolves.

**LA VISITA DE LA VIEJA DAMA**

Fri, Sat and Sun, 7:00 pm / 2009  
 Sala-Teatro Buendía  
 Calle 39 entre Loma y Bellavista, Nuevo Vedado  
 Tel. +(53) 7 881 6689

Cristian Cortez summarizes the plot for the newspaper El Universo, of Ecuador: "...based on the novel by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (Switzerland, 1921-1990)...it deals with the return of a woman who was banished from her hometown due to 'indecorous' conduct and the expectations created by the people when she comes back rich and glamorous, although...with a tragic and sordid end." Certain allusions to Cuba's present-day reality can be identified in this play directed by Flora Lauten.

## A PREVIEW OF THE COMING MONTHS



### PREMIO CASA DE LAS AMÉRICAS

CASA DE LAS AMÉRICAS

January

Initiated in Havana in 1960 to draw attention to the most significant literary production in Latin America—and at a later date, the Caribbean, too—in the genres of poetry, novel, short story, essay, theatre and testimony, as well as works in other languages spoken in the region, the Casa de las Américas Literary Award has gathered outstanding figures of contemporary writing, including Miguel Ángel Asturias, Mario Vargas Llosa, Julio Cortázar, Alejo Carpentier, Allen Ginsberg, Nicolás Guillén, Nicanor Parra, Jaime Sabines, Alfredo Bryce Echenique, Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Eduardo Galeano, Paco Ignacio Taibo II, José Lezama Lima, Italo Calvino, Camilo José Cela, José Saramago, to name a few. Throughout the years, many of the prize-winning works have become classics of the continent's literature; thus, each year's announcement creates great expectations among the public, who also have the opportunity to attend collateral activities programmed during the event.



### FESTIVAL DE MÚSICA ANTIGUA ESTEBAN SALAS

OLD HAVANA

February

Previously an event to commemorate the music of Cuban composer Esteban Salas, since 2003, on the 200th anniversary of his death, it became a festival of early music. Every year the event gathers outstanding performers of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music who perform in Old Havana headed by the Ars Longa Music Ensemble. Venues include the Basílica Menor del Convento de San Francisco de Asís, Iglesia de Paula, Oratorio San Felipe Neri, Centro Hispano-Americano de Cultura and Palacio de Gobierno.



### FERIA INTERNACIONAL DEL LIBRO

HAVANA HISTORICAL CENTRE

February

What began as a modest book fair founded by the famous Cuban writer, scientist and philosopher Alejo Carpentier, and held in the surrounding areas of Havana's Central Park, eventually became the most important book and literary event on the island. With an unexpected change of venue, the 19th Book Fair will move from the customary Cabaña Fortress to different locations in Old Havana's Historical Centre.



### FESTIVAL DE LA TROVA LONGINA

SANTA CLARA, VILLA CLARA PROVINCE

7-11 January

In remembrance of one of the greats of traditional Cuban trova, Manuel Corona, and his immortal song Longina, troubadours of different generations will share the stage with famous Cuban musicians. The event will include theoretical meetings, informal get-togethers and the traditional walk to Caibarién, Corona's hometown, on the 9th.