

CUBA ABSOLUTELY.

MAR
2010

WHAT'S ON
HAVANA

2nd Bienal DE Danza DEL Caribe

LA HABANA,
DEL 23 AL 28
DE MARZO-2010

Cuba's Top 10
contemporary
fusion artists
(page 21-26)



FEATURED
VISITING
ARTIST

BULL
DANCING

by Marcelo Evelin [Choreographer]

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CUBAISM TRAVEL AGENCY

WHAT'S ON HAVANA - MAR 2010

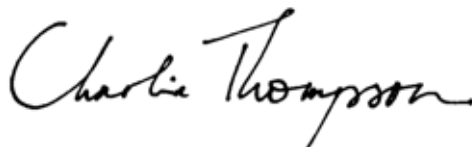
March 1, 2010

Welcome to Cuba Absolutely's new look Havana What's On Guide to the best in Havana entertainment produced in association with Cubatism travel agency.

This month we have highlighted the 2nd Bienal de Danza del Caribe (March 23-28) which is shaping up to have a great selection of Cuban and international groups. We have highlighted a favorite of mine from Brazil; Marcelo Evelin who will be bringing his acclaimed Bull Dancing to Havana.

We have also included an article on Cuba's Best Contemporary Fusion artists (page 21) Enjoy.

Charlie Thompson




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FEATURED EVENT - MAR 2010



2nd Bienal DE Danza DEL Caribe LA HABANA, DEL 23 AL 28 DE MARZO-2010

FEATURED VISITING ARTIST

BULL DANCING
by Marcelo Evelin [Choreographer]

*"I have 206 bones in my body, one head, two eyes that blink 25 thousand times a day. I have a tongue that is the most potent organ in my body. I have a heart that beats three thousand times a day, two kidneys that are worth a fortune, 96.500 kilometers of veins and arteries, two feet that could take me anywhere, 50 million cells, 100 billion neurons, but my bull is dead, what will become of me?" With these words, Marcelo Evelin starts a ritualistic invocation that will give shape to a contemporary bull, resilient and transformed by the years. The bull is an original manifestation from Piauí, later imported to Maranhão and it is the motto of the issues raised in **Bull Dancing - Urro de ómi boi**, a Brazil-Netherlands co-production, which premiered in 2006.*

Bull Dancing is a dance, theatre and music show created from the popular festivities of bumba-meu-boi. The traditional act gains features of comedy, tragedy and satyr plays, as the death and resurrection of an ox is narrated. The story is about a pregnant woman who, in order to satisfy her craving for ox tongue, convinces her husband to sacrifice their master's magical dancing ox. The show draws on deconstructed folkloric elements, as if the bodies were turned inside out, a metaphor of a sacred and profane inner ox which lies in everyone and is visceral, violable, transmutable, temporal, unique and universal.

Marcelo Evelin is a choreographer, researcher and performer. Based in Europe since 1986, he has worked in dance and physical theatre in collaboration with professionals from many countries. Founder of demolition.inc, a resident company at Hetveem Theatre in Amsterdam (Holland), he teaches improvisation and composition at the Superior School of Music in Amsterdam. He leads workshops in many countries in Europe, the USA, Africa, South America and Brazil. Together with Adriana Grechi, he created and manages the Contemporary Dance Festival of Sao Paulo and has coordinated, since 2006, the Nucleo do Dirceu in Teresina (Piauí), a group of independent artists and a research platform for performing arts development.

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CUBA

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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

VISUAL ARTS



15000 WATTS. ENERGÍA INTELIGENTE

Throughout March / 2010

Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales
San Ignacio 352 esquina a Teniente Rey, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 862 5279 y 862 3533

Paintings, sculptures and installations by artists Arnoux Cartooch, Noel Morera Cruz and Miguel Lombardo.



ABSTRACTA MINERVA

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 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.



CAPITAL HUMANO

THROUGH 19 MARCH / 2010

Complejo-Galería La Casona
Muralla 107 esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 861 8544

Installation by the artist Jorge López Pardo.



CENIZAS DEL PARAÍSO

Throughout March / 2010

Galería Villa Manuela
Calle H No. 406 entre 17 y 19, El Vedado
Tel. +(53) 7 832 2391

Solo exhibition by artist Rubén Alpízar, who, according to the critic Caridad Blanco, "brings us face to face with human irrationality in his ironic parody of Creation, "Ashes from Paradise." This diagnosis on a universal scale places us at the coordinates of our contemporaneity, very near to the destruction of all creation."



A FLOR DE PIEL: ANTOLOGÍA DE UN AUTORRETRATO

OPENS 12 MARCH / 2010

Casa de las Américas

Calle 3ra. esquina a G, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 838 2706 al 09

Exhibition by the Peruvian photographer Anamaria McCarthy, who will give a talk to on Thursday 11, 3 pm at the Sala Manuel Galich of Casa de las Américas.



BOMBA

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam

Empedrado esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 863 9781 y 861 3419

Con la curaduría de Píter Ortega, que apuesta por lo más novedoso de las artes visuales en el país, la muestra reúne obras de 23 creadores, entre ellos los ya muy conocidos Alejandro Campíns, Michel Pérez y Niels Reyes, y constituye una ventana al quehacer de la más joven e inquietante producción plástica cubana.



CANTOS CEREMONIALES

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Centro Hispano Americano de Cultura

Malecón 17 entre Prado y Genio, Centro Habana

Tel. +(53) 7 860 6282

Interesting exhibition by Peruvian Máximo Laura, an artist of textiles who masters both the traditional techniques of Andean cultures and today's tapestry making.



VIAJES, VIAJES, VIAJES...

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Galería de Arte Malecón

Calle D, entre 1ra, y 3ra., El Vedado

Solo exhibition by Alicia Leal, who uses medieval codes in the use of colour, the spatial layout and elaborate decoration, and reveals woman as the centre figure.



ARTE NAIF

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Galería Roberto Diago

Muralla 107 esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 3577

Group exhibition of naive art.



INCERTEZA

THROUGH 12 MARCH / 2010

Galería Espacio Abierto

Revista Revolución y Cultura

Calle 4, número 205, entre Línea y 11, El Vedado

The fragility and fleetingness of existence, the defencelessness of man in the face of vicissitudes of life, whether individually or socially, are evoked through everyday objects by the photographer Maribel Longueira.



NO VEO NADA

THROUGH 15 MARCH

Galería Galiano

Galiano esquina a Concordia, Centro Habana

Tel. +(53) 7 862 5365

Seemingly breaking away from his figurative style and the themes that dominated his known work—childhood, play, exploration into the psychic and emotional structure of man—for this exhibition, the young painter Maykel Herrera has included brilliantly coloured abstract pieces that had been subtly suggested as a background to his figures in previous works.



MUSAS DEL LENTE

OPENS 11 MARCH / 2010

Museo de Arte Colonial

Plaza de la Catedral, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 6440

Exhibition of Cuban photographs from old daguerreotypes to works by contemporary artists all focusing on the female figure.



MEMORIA INSTRUCTIVA PARA PENETRAR LA PIEL

OPENS 25 MARCH / 2010

Biblioteca Pública Rubén Martínez Villena

Obispo 59 entre Baratillo y Oficios, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 9037 al 39

Solo exhibition by the photographer María Cienfuegos Leiseca, who last October was awarded the Casa de las Américas-CLACSO Prize in Photography for her work Una pulgada de Tierra.



FORMATO ROTO

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Sede de la revista La Jiribilla
Calle 5ta. Esquina a D. El Vedado

Works by the painter and engraver Diana Balboa, who, according to the artist, "I separate human figures, add elements from the animal or plant world, integrate musical instruments...My entire visual memory projects itself and comes out when I face the canvas."



UN RASGUÑO EN LA PIEDRA

OPENS 19 FEBRUARY / 2010

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Arte Cubano)
Troadero entre Monserrate y Zulueta, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 862 0140 / 861 3858 / 863 9484

To commemorate the 100th birthday of the great Cuban poet, essayist and narrator José Lezama Lima, the National Museum of Fine Arts, with the collaboration of the Lezama Lima House-Museum, has organized the exhibition of paintings by significant Cuban artists to whom Lezama dedicated critical reviews and, sometimes, even poems, and who had also illustrated several of his publications, including Amelia Peláez, Mariano Rodríguez, René Portocarrero, Victor Manuel García and Wifredo Lam.



MEMORIA DEL PERÚ: TEXTILES Y CERÁMICAS PRECOLOMBINAS

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Galería Mariano
Calle 15 núm. 607 entre B y C, El Vedado
Tel. +(53) 7 838 2702

Exhibition of valuable pieces from the cultures that inhabited the region that comprises Peru today—zoomorphic and anthropomorphic vessels and beautiful textiles.



ANTECOMIENZO

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

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.



POÉTICA DE LA LÍNEA

OPENS 26 MARCH / 2010

Convento de San Francisco de Asís
Oficios y Churruga, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 862 9683

Retrospective exhibition of the work of the painter Leonel López-Nussa (1916-1924), with over 80 pieces of different formats and techniques in which one can see a strong Picassian imprint inserted in a Cuban environment. A new edition of the book *El dibujo*, by López-Nussa, who was an art critic of *Bohemia* magazine for several decades, will be launched.



SOME THREE

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Galería Carmen Montilla
Oficios 162 entre Amargura y Churruga, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 866 4114

Collective exhibition of the young painters Janet Hevia Amador, Jurgen Rodríguez García and Michel Martínez Challout, who have recently graduated from the San Alejandro Art Academy.



NUEVA GALERÍA

THROUGHOUT MARCH / 2010

Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo de La Habana
San Ignacio, entre Obispo y O'Reilly, La Habana Vieja

The new gallery José Nicolás de la Escalera has recently opened with the exhibition of valuable works by Cuban and international artists, all from the collection of the City Historian's Office.



NUEVAS OBRAS EN BELLAS ARTES

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. Centro Asturiano (Colección Universal)
San Rafael entre Zulueta y Monserrate, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 862 0140 / 861 3858 / 863 9484

The Brownstone Foundation, directed by the American gallery owner Gilbert Brownstone, recently made a donation to the Museo de Bellas Artes of nine paintings by 19th- and 20th-century avant-garde painters, which were not represented in the museum's collections: Camille Pissarro, Pablo Picasso, Marcel Duchamp, Joan Miró, André Masson, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol.

MUSIC

**FESTIVAL DE MÚSICA DE CONCIERTO A TEMPO CON CATURLA**

3-7 March / 2010

Santa Clara and Caibarién, Villa Clara Province

Dedicated to one of the greatest Cuban composers of the 20th century, Alejandro García Caturla, representative of the first musical avant-garde in the Island, Performances by young composers and singers from all over Cuba.

**EL JARDÍN DE LA GORDA**

Third Sunday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2010

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.

**FIESTA DEL TAMBOR GUILLERMO BARRETO IN MEMORIAM**

9-14 March / 2010

Teatros Amadeo Roldán

Teatro América

Salón Rosado de La Tropical

Palacio de la Rumba

A festivity of percussion that includes a competition, theoretical meeting, lectures, guest speeches and concerts with popular Cuban bands, including Muñequitos de Matanzas, Pupy y los que Son Son, Manolito Simonet y su Trabuco, and Klímax, plus guest performers from Canada, the United States and the Netherlands.

**PEÑA DE REMBERT DUHARTE**

Last Friday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2010

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 / 2010

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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 Balneario Universitario El Coral
 Calle 1ra. esquina a 42, Miramar

Performance by Cuban singer Rochy with her group and guests.



CONCIERTO ABIERTO

Last Thursday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2010
 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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 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 / 2010
 Pabellón Cuba
 23 y M, El Vedado

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



XIII FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE MÚSICA ELECTROACÚSTICA PRIMAVERA DE LA HABANA

15-21 March / 2010

Old Havana's Historical Centre, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Casa de las Américas, Complejo Cultural Bertolt Brecht and Instituto Superior de Arte, Ciudad de La Habana

Organized by composer Juan Blanco, a pioneer of electroacoustic music in Cuba, the Varadero Spring Festival--as it was first called--gathered important figures which included Jon Appleton, Max Matthew, Leo Kupper, Ahmed Malek, Nicola Sani, Lejaren Hiller, Manuel Enríquez, Ricardo Dal Farra and Andrew Schloss. In 1998, the event moved its venue to Havana's Historical Centre. The festival's program will include electroacoustic music concerts, electronic music sessions, performances and lectures.



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE LA TROVA PEPE SÁNCHEZ

17- 21 March / 2010

Casa de la Trova and Sala de Conciertos Dolores in Santiago de Cuba

The festival began in 1962 in homage to local Santiago de Cuba composer José (Pepe) Sánchez (1856-1918), considered the father of Cuban trova (the troubador genre of voice, song and poetry that is usually accompanied by a guitar). Several generations of musicians from different musical trends within trova participate in this event, including exponents of more traditional trova, of filin (an evolution of bolero and trova), and of nueva trova (the very Cuban genre of personal commentary influenced by British, US and Brazilian popular music). Santiago de Cuba--the cradle of trova--hosts this festival which takes the city's streets and parks by storm in a celebration where musicians and singers from abroad join their Cuban counterparts. On Troubador Day, March 19th, the city awakes to the sound of colourful serenades to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Pepe Sanchez.



TARDES DEL JAZZ

Second Thursday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2010

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.



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

5 March

Directed by Greta Rodríguez, Ensemble Alternativo will perform works by Bach and the Cuban composer Beatriz Corona.

13 March

Directed by Teresa Paz, the Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble will perform works from the French repertory from the times of Louis XIII and Louis XIV.

20 March

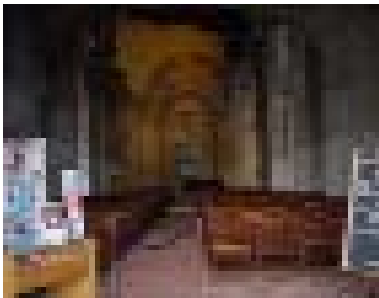
Performance by the children's choir Cantus Firmus, which belongs to the Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble, and Cantoría Lunita, of the all-female ensemble Vocal Luna.



CHARANGUEANDO

Every Thursday at 5:00 pm / 2010
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.



MARZO EN LA BASÍLICA

6:00 pm / 2010
Basilica Menor de San Francisco de Asís
Oficios y Churruca, La Habana Vieja
Tel. +(53) 7 862 9683

3 March, 4:00 p.m Graduation recital by Liliana López, a student of oboe at Havana's Art Institute.

6 March The violinist Evelio Tieleles and the pianist Leonardo Gel will play sonatas by Beethoven for both instruments.

12 March María del Henar Navarro (piano) and Javier Zalba (saxophone) will perform works by French composers Paul Maurice, Darius Milhaud and Eugène Bozza, and Cuban composers Jorge López Marín and Javier Zalba.

13 March Recital by the pianist Yamilé Cruz, with works by Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Liszt and Bach.

24 March, 4:00 pm Graduation recital by Ayamey Castañeda, a student of oboe at Havana's Art Institute.

26 March, 5:00 pm The musician family of Cubans Ernán, Ruy and Harold López-Nussa will dedicate this concert to the artist, writer and critic Leonel López-Nussa (1916-2004). An exhibition with a selection of his works will open at the Convento de San Francisco de Asís, next to the Basilica.

27 March Concert Canciones sin palabras dedicated to tradicional Cuban trova, by the pianist and composer José María Vitier, with guest guitarist Víctor Pellegrini, cellist Amparo del Riego and percussionists Adel González and Luis Bárbaro Rodríguez.

31 March Performance by the Schola Cantorum Coralina as part of the Coloquio Internacional de Música y Poesía Nicolás Guillén.



RETRETAS EN LA PLAZA DE ARMAS

Every Friday, 4:00 pm / 2010
Tacón entre O'Reilly y Obispo, La Habana Vieja

Weekly open-air concerts by the Banda Nacional de Conciertos conducted by Rafael Díaz Carter, a hundred-year-old orchestra that has delighted several generations of habaneros and visitors alike with their own versions of concert and popular Cuban and international music.

5 March Acuarela brasileña, by Ary Barroso; Mambo de la pelota, by Dámaso Pérez Prado, and John Williams in Concert, among other compositions.

12 March Overture to El murciélago, by Strauss; Danza lucumí, by Ernesto Lecuona; Patricia, mambo by Dámaso Pérez Prado, and El relicario, pasodoble by José Padilla.

19 March A selection from the suite La guerra de las galaxias, by John Williams, and the potpourri Cuba querida, by Rodrigo Prats.

26 March Overture to Nabucco, by Verdi; Fantasía cubana, by Gonzalo Roig; a selection from Aladino, by Alan Menken, and Granada, by Agustín Lara, among other.



LÍRICOS EN SAN FELIPE

7:00 pm unless otherwise indicated / 2010

Oratorio San Felipe Neri

Aguiar esquina a Obrapía, La Habana Vieja

4 March, 7:00 pm Artd'Voces will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban National Choir.

6 March, 4:00 pm Concert by the duet Calamus, with Paula Suárez (piano) and Néstor Calvo (clarinet).

11 March, 7:00 pm Lírica Intramuros proposes Voces graves en concierto [Deep Voices in Concert].

13 March, 4:00 pm Concert by the chamber music orchestra Nuestro Tiempo, conducted by the Italian maestro Francesco Belli.

16 March, 7:00 pm The pianist Ana Gloria Peñate will give a recital based on Chopin's waltzes.

20 March, 4:00 pm The Orquesta Sinfónica del Lyceum Mozartiano de La Habana, conducted by Verónica del Puerto and Sandra Cerero, will play works by Bach, Mozart and Weber.

23 March, 3:00 pm Graduation recital by Dania Pérez, a student of the horn at Havana's Art Institute.

25 March, 7:00 pm Tenors in Concert by Lírica Intramuros.

26 March, 7:00 pm The trio White, with cellist Amparo del Riego, the pianist María Victoria del Collado and the violinist Alfredo Muñoz, have prepared a program based on works by Beethoven.

27 March, 4:00 pm Voces Nuevas--New Voices--a space for young operatic talents, directed by the soprano María Eugenia Barrios.



VERDADERO COMLOT

Third Saturday of the month, 4:00 pm / 2010

Centro Hispano Americano de Cultura

Malecón 17 entre Prado y Genio, Centro Habana

Tel. +(53) 7 860 6282

A space for young trova talents, and the live recordings of their performances. This month with the trovadora from Holguín province, Aliannys Abad Bonet



PEÑA DE LYNN MILANÉS Y SU GRUPO

Every Saturday, 6:30 pm / 2010

Centro Cultural Fresa y Chocolate

Calle 23 esquina a 12, El Vedado

Lynn Milanés—daughter of the famous singer-songwriter Pablo Milanés—with a selection of well-liked Cuban songs, which range from bolero to pop.



PEÑA DE PANCHO AMAT

Third Thursday of the month, 5:00 pm / 2010

Sede provisional del Museo Nacional de la Música

Obrapía 509, entre Bernaza y Villegas, La Habana Vieja

The popular tres player Pancho Amat and Cabildo del Son with a sample of the most Cuban of Cuban song and dance styles, son.

EVENTS



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE DOCUMENTALES SANTIAGO ÁLVAREZ IN MEMORIAM

MOVIE THEATRES CUBA AND RIALTO, SANTIAGO DE CUBA

8-13 March

Created in 2000, this festival aims at highlighting the prominent role of the documentary, a film genre that has been somewhat consigned to oblivion by the promotional mechanisms of the larger movie festivals, yet with a tradition of significant quality and acknowledgement in Cuba, among other factors, thanks to the work of the late prize-winning Cuban film-maker, Santiago Alvarez. Although the festival began as a national event dedicated to the memory of the most relevant Cuban documentary maker of all time, throughout the years it has attracted the attention of a number of filmmakers from Latin America, Europe and the United States. With films in competition, parallel screenings and theoretical discussions, the Festival, which this year will be dedicated to Brazil, constitutes a space for exchanging opinions and experiences among filmmakers and lovers of this genre.



COLOQUIO Y FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE MÚSICA Y POESÍA NICOLÁS GUILLÉN

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN HAVANA HAVANA

29 March-2 April

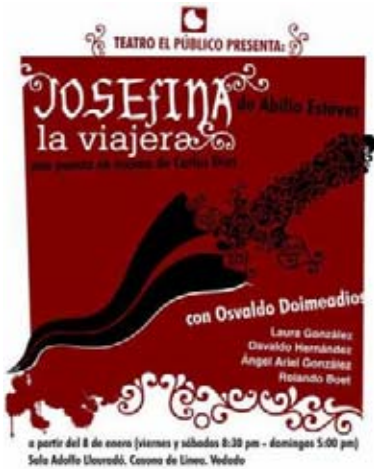
The colloquium/festival has organized lectures, panels and discussions on the literary legacy of the great Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén; music recitals; poetry readings; popular, symphonic and coral music concerts; and art exhibitions to honour the Haitian people, victims of a devastating earthquake last January. The scientific event will focus on "Inequality and Diversity" (race, gender, generations, education, etc.) and in addition to being dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the book of poems *Motivos de son*, a space will be reserved in remembrance of the centenary of the Cuban poet, essayist and narrator José Lezama Lima.

THEATRE

**LA OVEJA NEGRA**

Every Tuesday, 8:30 pm / 2010
 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.

**JOSEFINA LA VIAJERA**

Viernes y sábados a las 8:30 pm; domingos a las 5:00 pm / 2010
 Sala Adolfo Llauradó
 Calle 11 entre D y E, El Vedado
 Tel. +(53) 7 832 5573

Directed by Carlos Díaz, Teatro El Público opens this play by the Cuban narrator, poet and playwright Abilio Estévez, with one of the most talented, intelligent and versatile actors of today's Cuban stage—Osvaldo Doimeadiós. the playwright and critic Norge Espinosa points out that "The main character of this mask ball is Josefina Beauharnais, a Cuban woman from eastern Cuba and French descent...She says she is 120 years old with 103 on her own since she was 17 and left the family home to try her luck in Havana, a place she never reached. The character's conflicts fashion the suffering of a long life with hurt, pain, nostalgia and loss."

**FOTOS TEATRALES**

Through March / 2010
 Casona de Línea
 Línea 505 entre D y E, El Vedado
 Tel. +(53) 7 833 8562

Exhibition of the best photographs of Cuban theatrical shows from the 1960s to the present.

**LA PRIMERA VEZ**

6-21 March; Fri and Sat, 8:30 pm; Sun, 5:00 pm / 2010
 Sala Adolfo Llauradó
 Calle 11 entre D y E, El Vedado
 Tel. +(53) 7 832 5573

Teatro de la Luna opens March with La primera vez [For the First Time], a play by the Polish playwright Michal Walczak, in which two youngsters, who plan their first physical contact together, end up in misunderstanding and a lack of communication. The director Raúl Martín has also conceived this production as a tribute to the famous bolerista Blanca Rosa Gil.

DANCE

**II BIENAL DE DANZA DEL CARIBE**

23-28 MARCH / 2010

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

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

Sala Adolfo Llauradó
Calle 11 entre D y E, El Vedado
Tel. +(53) 7 832 5573

Casona de Línea
Línea 505 entre D y E, El Vedado
Tel. +(53) 7 833 8562

Centro Cultural Bertolt Brecht
Calle13 esquina a I, El Vedado
Tel. +(53) 7 832 9359

Dancers, choreographers, teachers and students from the Caribbean and other parts of the world will meet during the 2nd Caribbean Dance Biennial as a way of promoting dance in a historically, ethnically and linguistically diverse region. The event will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy the performances of important soloists and companies

Companies who have confirmed their presence:

Maravillosa (Jossie Cáceres and Federica Folco, Ecuador-Uruguay)
ATP (Tamara Cubas, Uruguay)
Bull dancing (Marcelo Evelin, Brasil)
Cómo se dice en Martinica "la arena de la playa" (Mexico-Martinique)
Ecos (Colectivo La prenda, Colombia)
Peso (Sandra Rami/Teatro El Público, Cuba)
Malson (Susana Pous/DanzAbierta, Cuba)
Project (Kettly Noel, Nelly Xaba and Luis de Abreu/Mali-South Africa-Brazil)
Comamos, all inclusive (Christiane Emmanuel, Martinique)
Ecume (Annabel Guérédrat/Artincidence, Martinique)
Una pieza selecta (Colectivo Coliflor, Brazil)

Solo

sTengo autorización de la policía para quedar desnudo aquí (Ricardo Marinelli, Brazil)
¿Es el cuerpo un medio de danza? (Vanilton Lakka, Brazil)
Carne (Micheline Torres, Brazil)
Sobrenatural (Natalia Tencer, Argentina)
Shagaa (Hélène Cathala, France)
Instinto de conservación (Abel Berenguer/DanzAbierta, Cuba)
Lea (Janoski Suárez, Ad Libitum, Cuba)
¡Non! (Lisbeth Sad, Ballet Rakatán, Cuba)
Haití en preguntas (Jean-Aurel Maurice, Saint Martin)
Oroyo So (Julie Adami, Guyana)

Opening gala: 23 March, Gran Teatro de La Habana, 8:30 pm, with the performance of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba and Teatro de la Danza del Caribe.

Awards and closing ceremony: 27 March, 9:00 pm Special performance by the prize-winning dancers: 28 March, at 5:00 pm at the Mella Theatre. The exhibition AfricaDanzAfrica, by the French-American photographer Antoine Tempe, the forum, "Maneras de ser Caribe y algo más" plus performances, public interventions, guest lectures and workshops will also take place during the event.



BALLET NACIONAL DE CUBA

23, 25, 26 AND 27 MARCH, 8:30 PM / 2010

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

23 March

Opening gala inaugural of the II Bienal de Danza del Caribe: Les Sylphides (choreographed by Alicia Alonso based on the original by Mijaíl Fokin, Chopin), and Acentos (choreographed by Eduardo Blanco with music by Grupo Luna Negra).

25, 26 and 27 March

Les Sylphides, Rara avis (choreographed by Alberto Méndez with music by George Frideric Andel y Alessandro Marcello), and Majísimo (choreographed by Jorge García with music by Jules Massenet).

A PREVIEW OF THE COMING MONTHS



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE DANZA EN PAISAJES URBANOS: "HABANA VIEJA, CIUDAD EN MOVIMIENTO" POR FOTO

OLD HAVANA

7-11 April

This unique International Urban Dance Festival was first held in 1996 in two or three small museums located in Havana's Historical Centre, eventually bringing into play most of the institutions, plazas and streets of Old Havana. Aiming to link dance choreography with the visual and expressive nature of the old city, as well as seeking to interact with passers-by, the event, organized by the Retazos Dance Company directed by dancer and choreographer Isabel Bustos, is attended by hundreds of foreign and Cuban guests.



TALLER INTERNACIONAL DE TEATRO DE TÍTERES POR FOTO

MATANZAS

12-18 April

Based on the successful experience of the puppet troupes from Matanzas, especially the many times prizewinning Teatro de las Estaciones, this International Puppet Theatre Workshop will include lectures, guest speeches, exhibitions, launching of specialized texts, a theoretical event, and the opening of new plays.



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE POBRE POR FOTO

GIBARA, HOLGUÍN PROVINCE

19-25 April

Since 2003, the International Low-Budget Film Festival has been held in the small town of Gibara close to the eastern city of Holguín. Besides the competition itself, which awards prizes for fiction and documentary films, there are also meetings, concerts, recitals and art exhibitions. The festival guarantees a broad range of approach and topics, aspiring to become an alternative to commercial filmmaking - promoting artistic quality with production costs kept to a minimum.



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE COROS CORHABANA 2010 POR FOTO

TEATRO AMADEO ROLDÁN AND BASÍLICA MENOR DEL CONVENTO DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS, HAVANA

21-25 April

Founded in 1999 as the Havana Choral Meeting, for three years the event was the meeting place for choruses from Cuba and the United States. In 2002, however, it became an international festival and changed its name to Corhabana. Presided by Digna Guerra, who is the director of the National Chorus, this year the festival has programmed its customary concerts, plus workshops on the performance and staging of works from the Cuban and international choral repertory.

Cuba may be most famous for salsa and Buena Vista Social club but some of the most dynamic and hippest groups today are playing to a very different beat

"Fusion? Its like cooking, *mi amor*. You throw in some black beans from Cuba, spices from India, BBQ chicken from down-south USA, add a little salsa from here, a sweet potato from there...and what have you got? Fusion, blend, mix, spice, something hot, something new, *mi amor*, something new!" (Havana musician).

Text by Sue Herrod (with Yvonne Chapman & Hiram González)

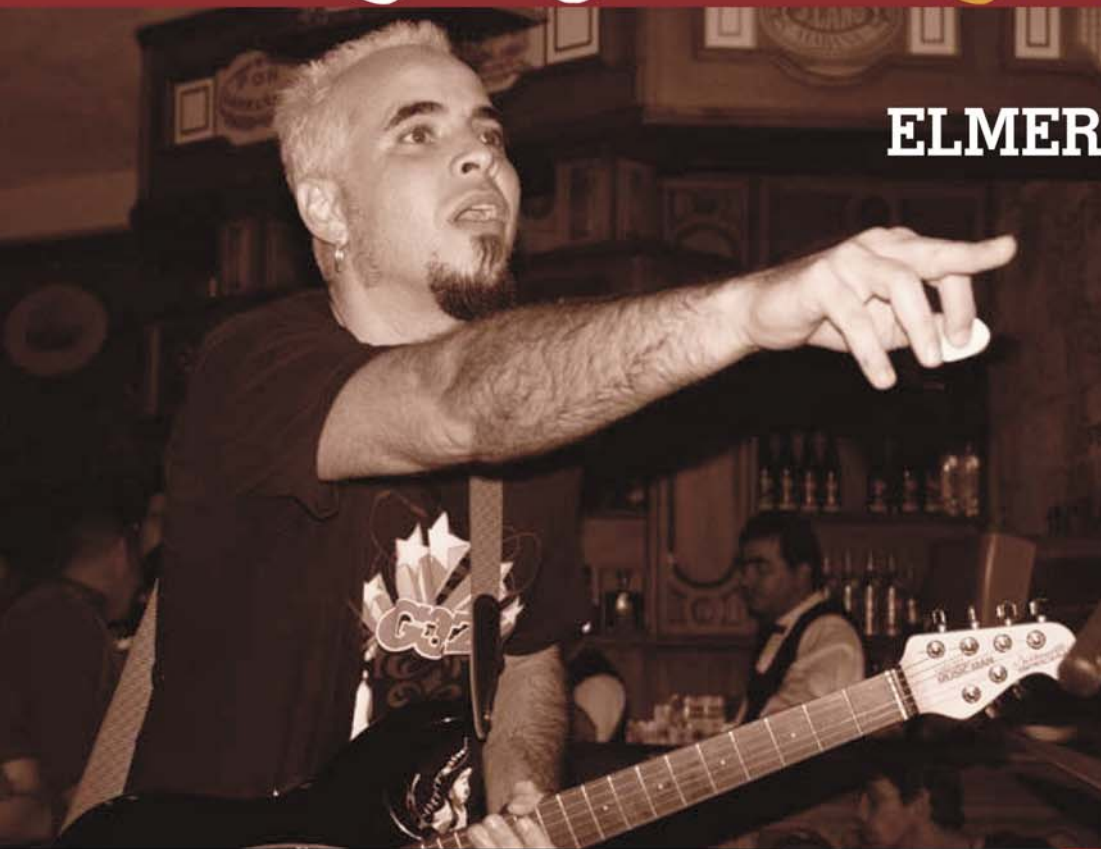
Contemporary fusion is a spontaneous phenomenon that's a key element of Cuban musical life. The idea of blending sounds, of mixing one style with another, has been part and parcel of the island's musical tradition—particularly using African, European, Latin, Caribbean and US styles. More recently, in the early 1990s, cultural life really opened up. Many Cuban musicians (NG La Banda and Buena Vista Social Club) met with great acclaim abroad, and the influence of many new styles, instruments, sounds and artists poured into the island. The latter resulted in a further, furious musical mix—blending variations of sounds and styles such as the most aggressive punk, trash, rock 'n roll and hip hop with Brazilian-style *brimbao*, congas, *batás* and the most rhythmic *clave cubana* – the island's musicians doing what they've always done: mixing and spicing it all up. Today, in Havana, for example, many younger musicians play, write and produce together, and so national and international influences have even more of a chance to flower and bloom.

CUBAN CONTEMP

ELMER FERRER

One of the most prolific studio musicians in Cuba, guitarist Elmer Ferrer is particularly known and greatly admired for his harmonic brilliance and his fast and furious finger work—think Jimi Hendrix. He is also an accomplished composer, arranger, producer, teacher and leader of the remarkable Elmer Ferrer band. In the early 90s, he hooked up with Roberto Carcassés and Descemer Bueno to form the Estado de Animo band, touring extensively in Europe and Latin America. Elmer has performed at numerous and prestigious guitar and jazz festivals, written music for film and was one of the few artists invited to play with Sting when the British musician visited Havana. Enjoy him on his two solo albums: *Metrópoli* (Unicornio, 2002) and *Fango Dance* (Johnston Records, 2005), and if you're very lucky, catch him live in Havana.

Iván Soca





Iván Soca

CARLOS VARELA

Think Bruce Springsteen/Bob Dylan/Paul Simon and you have the black-hatted-clothes-and-shades talent of Carlos Varela. An early, rebel Nueva Trova singer and now, in his mid 40s, Varela has been described as having "a searingly emotional gravel of a voice which can rock you off your seat and then break your heart." He is very big here, in Spain and in Latin America, draws huge crowds of mainly younger (and not so younger) fans, and is perhaps best heard on the early *Como los peces*, the delicate and intimate *Nubes*, and the more commercial *Siete*. Varela has toured extensively in Europe, Latin America and the US and recently played—along with Bob Dylan, Manu Chao and the Steve Miller Band—at the 2007 Ottawa Blues Festival. His latest album is due out in early 2008.

PROBARY FUSION

YUSA

Guitarist, bassist and singer-songwriter, Yusa has been making big waves both here and outside of the island for some time, especially in Europe and Japan. Often intimate and laid back, sometimes fast and furious, her funky bass playing and loose singing style are a contemporary mix of Cuban, Brazilian,

jazz and R & B styles, though she says she is now searching for a quieter simplicity in her work. The long and close association with Roberto Carcassés, Descemer Bueno and Pável Urquiza remains inspirational for her, and Interactivo still provides a musical home-base. A fine guitar and bass player with an emotive, soulful voice, she is signed to the UK-based TUMI label and can best be heard on her very nice 2004 album, *Breathe*. A third album is due for release in early 2008.



Iván Soca

ALDO LÓPEZ GAVILÁN



A young prodigy from one of Cuba's most famous musical families, Aldo began composing at 5, playing at 6, collecting awards at 12, and by 17 was playing Prokofiev with Cuba's National Symphonic Orchestra. In the late 90s, he left for London and Trinity College, and has gone on to develop his multi-faceted talent, performing extensively in Europe, the USA and Latin America. His particular pianistic style mixes the virtuosity of classical music, the vibrant freedom of jazz and the rhythmic complexity of Afro-Cuban styles, and one can hear his love of Keith Jarrett and Yellow Jacket in there too. With his current trio, he is presently experimenting with more of an electro-acoustic/house mix. Listen to his 1999 piano solo *En el ocaso de la hormiga y el elefante* (nominated for a Latin Grammy), and the fine *Talking to the Universe* (2006).

Iván Soca

CUBAN CONTEMP

DAVID TORRENS

Most famous for his humorous, passionate, and fiery performances, and with a musical fusion that many say is almost impossible to classify, singer-songwriter David Torrens is an unmissable talent. Aficionados talk about the seamless movement between pop, rock and trova that thread through his most popular songs, and which blend Caribbean rhythms such as mambo, cha-cha-chá, bomba, samba and reggae. With at least two albums to his name (*Mi poquita fe* (1998) and *Ni de aquí ni de allá* (2001), this very popular artist "...irreverently mixes tradition and innovation and gives you great songs about the sweet and more savoury sides of daily life." Moving between Mexico City and Havana, he is presently concentrating on live concerts so catch him if you can at La Casa del Habano (Sta y 16, Miramar) or Club 1830.



Iván Soca

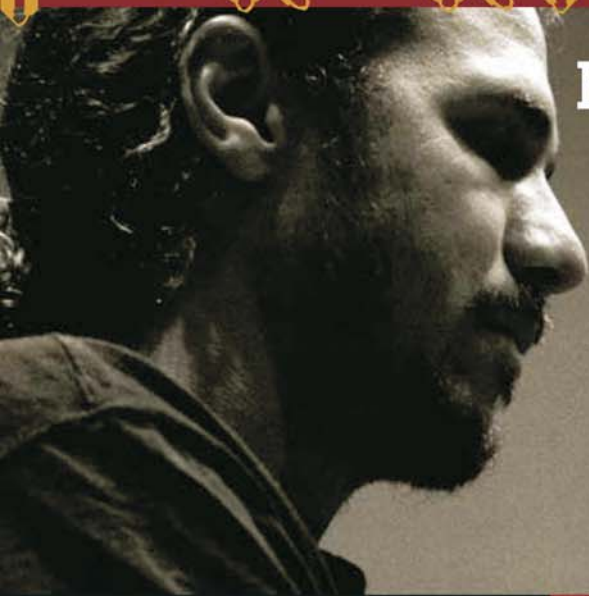
BUENA FÉ

From the eastern-most province, Guantánamo, this singer-songwriter duo—Israel Rojas (with a degree in law to boot) and partner Yoel Martínez—are said to be one of the most popular bands among a young, mainly high school and university crowd. Although they can be questioning—much metaphor and irony to express reflective and well-thought out ideas and feelings—they also talk about love, relationships and the everyday issues of Cuban life. With various music prizes and three albums already to their credit they are big news. So, says my 17-year-old neighbour and her friends, if you enjoy a melodious and rhythmic kind of folk-pop with a mix of Caribbean and Cuban beats, and if you fancy seeing hundreds of all-singing, all-smiling and all-dancing young people, search them out.



Sven Creutzmann

PROFANE FUSION



ROBERTO CARCASSÉS and INTERACTIVO

One of the most influential musicians in today's fusion scene and with a pedigree musical background—his father is *jazzista* Bobby Carcassés—Roberto moved from percussion to piano, composition and into the jazz scene straight after graduating. In the early 90's, with guitarist Elmer Ferrer and bassist Descemer Bueno, he formed the Estado de Animo band. Later the experimental umbrella group, Interactivo, was collectively assembled with Carcassés as its group director, band leader and pianist, and incorporating other multi-talents such as Ferrer, singer-songwriter Yusa, and poetess/rapper Telmary Díaz. This outfit continues to

Iván Sosa

inspire and serve as a safe, but experimental home-base for many of Cuba's young talent. Interactivo plays what is called timba-funk—a vibrant mix of hip hop, rock, jazz and blues that is very influential and popular especially among an alternative music-listening public.

SÍNTESIS

This renowned family-based group—led by bassist/composer Carlos Alfonso and his wife, vocalist and keyboard player Ele Valdés—celebrated their 30th birthday in 2005. Daughter and singer Eme, and award-winning musician/composer son X Alfonso are also a part. Known as Cuba's first progressive rock band, with early influences of Genesis, Pink Floyd and Yes, they have been described as "...one of the few musical groups who have truly moved with the times weaving rock, pop, jazz and hip-hop styles into their melodious and rhythmical music." Steeped in a seriously-studied Afro-Cuban tradition, they released the first example of a fusion that combined their own experimental rock style with Afro-Cuban Santería ritual music and jazz—the very fine *Ancestros* (Vol. 1). Also recommended is *Habana a flor de piel* and the two other volumes of *Ancestros*.



CUBAN CONTEMP



TELMARY (DIAZ)

With bags of personality, attitude and stage presence—a kind of hippy Missy Elliot—this former founder of Free Hole Negro (early hip-hop fusion band) has been developing her solo career at a pace. With songs that talk of love and the trials and tribulations of everyday Cuban life, Telmary's husky and expressive raps use an innovative mix of Cuban styles (especially rumba) with dashings of contemporary funky sounds, and are influenced by her long and ongoing collaboration with Roberto Carcassés and the Interactivo group. She has toured extensively in Canada and Europe, is signed to the Bis Music label and her latest album, *A diario*, which won the 2007 Cubadisco award for Best Rap/Dance/Hiphop album, has gone down a storm, especially the very sassy hit "Qué equivocado estás de la vida." Always worth catching if she's in town.

DESCEMER BUENO

In many people's book, Descemer Bueno is one of the finest contemporary Cuban songwriters around. From boleros, guarachas, son, trova to R&B, his songs have been described as "modern classics, beautifully crafted and with melodies to die for." Part of the acclaimed Afro-beat band, Yerba Buena, he now concentrates more on his own work, writing for film (best original music—Goya Award—for *Havana Blues*), and producing much of the multi-talent on the island. In the 90s, he was head-hunted, among others, by David Byrne, and now moves between the US and Havana. Also a fine bass player, his emotive, almost broken voice makes his rare live concerts very popular. Listen to the sweet-voiced Haydee Milanés for some of the best renditions of his songs and check out his acclaimed 2006 album of boleros.



Iván Soca

CONTEMPORARY FUSION

X ALFONSO

Music prize upon film scores upon albums upon video clips, X Alfonso has swept the boards in these last few years. Born into the musical and creative hothouse of family group Síntesis, he is known as a consummate artist and wows a mainly younger audience with vibrant energy and an innovative mix of Afro-Cuban/hiphop/rock/reggae and popular Cuban styles. His performances are celebrated for being "...beautifully and cleverly presented, with stunning light, sound and visuals." Admired for his wide musical range, he is signed to EGREM and his cutting-edge production company—DNA—supports his own and the family's creative work. Look for the albums *X Moré* (his tribute to Cuban musical giant, Benny Moré), *Civilización* and *Delirium Tremens* (dance/theatre performance). He recently won a shared Goya prize for the soundtrack of the film *Havana Blues* and promises a feature film for 2008.



Iván Soca