

# CUBA

ABSOLUTELY.

WHAT'S ON  
**HAVANA**

APR  
2010



## THE MONTECRISTO CUP AND ESENCIA CUP

23rd AND 24th APRIL, 2010  
Varadero, Cuba

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH **CUBAISM** TRAVEL AGENCY

# WHAT'S ON HAVANA - APR 2010

April 1, 2010

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

This month has to be one of the busiest of the year with a packed calendar of events including the street dance festival in Old Havana, the Spanish ballet festival and the International low budget film festival in Gibrara which is so good we have ignored the fact it is Gibrara (near to Holguin). Our featured event struggles to call itself cultural and is not even in Havana but I like it and given that it is all part of Cuba's nascent Golf Revolution we are not going to be put off. The 2nd annual Montecristo & Esencia Cup will take place on the 23-24 April, 2010. If you can make it and did not come to Cuba to escape from golf do pop in to take a look.

*We have also included an article on Cuba's surfing future which should not necessarily be taken entirely seriously.*

Charlie Thompson



Visual Arts →

PAGE 6-10

MUSIC →

PAGE 11-17

EVENTS →

PAGE 18

THEATRE →

PAGE 18

DANCE →

PAGE 19

A PREVIEW OF THE  
COMING MONTHS →

PAGE 20

# 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)

## VISUAL ARTS

**SIN TÉCNICA NO HAY TÉCNICA YA**

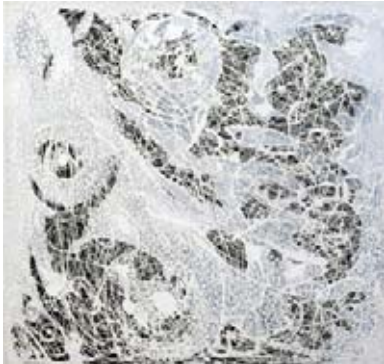
Throughout April / 2010

Taller de Serigrafía René Portocarrero

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

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

Exhibition of illustrations by the artists Fabián Ruiz, Javier García, Andy Paneque, Yaimel López, Miguel Leiva, Gabriel Lara, Andel de la Campa, Yusel Quesada, Nelson Ponce, Carlos Manuel Vargas, Abel Pérez, Josué Pavel, Carlos Candía and Edel Rodríguez.

**ABSTRACTA MINERVA YA**

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 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

This retrospective of the work of draughtsman, engraver, illustrator and art critic Jorge Rigol on the centenary of his birth pays tribute to an artist who assimilated the contributions of the first avant-garde in the island in line with a true Cuban character.

**LA MEMORIA ENCOFRADA YA**

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería Galiano

Galiano esquina a Concordia, Centro Habana

Tel. +(53) 7 862 5365

The artist Julio Neira exhibits his most recent production that includes a part of his work during his three-month stay in 2008 at the International Studio in Denkmalschmiede Hofgen, Grimma, Germany. According to the poet Liudmila Quincoses, "Julio Neira suggests a new story, a personal and changing universe. For this, he uses a construction technique, that of formwork, which is the set of wooden forms in place to hold wet concrete until it sets...The insular and profound Cuban character, in the form of sin and schism, are suggested in this discourse, which makes reference to loneliness as a gratifying element...Neira may put a formwork around a flower, a bird, light, the island's landscape and show that everything has to be changed, that everything deserves a new beginning."

**TRAZOS YA**

Through 17 April / 2010

Galería Servando

Calle 23 esquina a 10, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 833 9599

A collective exhibition of paintings and drawings by a group of with a very personal and renovating aesthetics within the current panorama of Cuban art: Lidzie Alvisa, Frank Martínez, Alejandro Campins, Orestes Hernández, Niels Reyes and Adislen Reyes.



## A FLOR DE PIEL: ANTOLOGÍA DE UN AUTORRETRATO YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 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 through her self-portraits provides a strong emotional feeling to the ups and downs of her own personal history.



## PAISAJE EN LA ACACIA. DE LA ACADEMIA A LA CONTEMPORANEIDAD YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería La Acacia  
San José 114 entre Industria y Consulado, Centro Habana  
Tel. +(53) 7 863 9364 / 861 3533

An excellent opportunity for appreciating aesthetics, intentions and resources--paintings, drawings, engravings, photography and mixed technique--from different perspectives.



## LA ANUNCIACIÓN YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería 23 Y 12  
Calle 23 esquina a 12, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 831 1810

Hanoi Pérez Cordero has explained the genesis of his exhibit: "The idea of representing a pregnant Cuban flag as a symbol of the gravid situation of a nation, which beyond any crisis is always ready to 'give birth' arose from the symbiosis between concepts that are connected to a nation, the richness and the eternal imperative to create."



## VIAJES, VIAJES, VIAJES... YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 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.



## 2 X 7 YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería Espacio Abierto  
Revista Revolución y Cultura  
Calle 4 número 205, entre Línea 1 11, El Vedado

Two contemporary approaches to abstraction: the Hungarian artist Niké Nagy and the Cuban artist Aziyadé Ruiz.



### ARTE NAIF YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería Roberto Diago

Muralla 107 esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 3577

Group exhibition of naive art.



### SAD BLUE CHILD YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería Villa Manuela

Calle H número 406 entre 17 y 19, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 832 2391

The well-known photographer René Peña has gathered works that are printed on large canvasses. The expert Sandra Contreras has said that "On this occasion, René Peña has discarded the use of the human body as the basis of his discourse and has taken up again, although in a different manner, objects as the central theme."



### UN RUIDO AZUL YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Galería Habana

Línea 460 entre E y F, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 832 7101

Faithful to the interest shown from her very first works of transgressing narrow boundaries between the different manifestations in art and exploring not only visual resources but acoustic, too, Glenda León, one of the most famous Cuban contemporary artists, has combined sculpture, installation and "acoustic drawing."



### MEMORIA INSTRUCTIVA PARA PENETRAR LA PIEL YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 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*.



### LA INTRATABLE BELLEZA DEL MUNDO YA

THROUGH 8 APRIL / 2010

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam

Empedrado esquina a San Ignacio, La Habana Vieja

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

Ten audiovisual works from the New media Collection of the National Art Museum, Pompidou Centre in France, curated by the collection's principal curator. Both young and acclaimed artists are here united in a medium that each day gains new spaces within current visual arts: Isaac Julian, Jennifer Allora-Guillermo Calzadilla, Ciprien Gaillard, Nicolás Moulin, Chris Marker, Jean Luc Godard, Laura Waddington, Rachel Reupke, Johan Grimontprez and Clarise Hahn.



## LAS CUBANAS SON LAS BARBIES DEL EDÉN YA

THROUGH 11 APRIL / 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

With a title that ironically makes reference to the launching of the famous Barbie dolls in March of 1959, and to the stereotype that is implicit in the refrain from an old song by Ignacio Piñero that says "Cuban girls are the pearls of Eden," the American photographer Jacqueline Hayden has photographed 11 different women from the island who seem to care very little about beauty archetypes.



## MEMORIA DEL PERÚ: TEXTILES Y CERÁMICAS PRECOLOMBINAS YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 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.



## FESTIVAL 5 X 7 YA

OPENS 6 APRIL / 2010

Centro Cultural Pablo de la Torriente Brau  
Muralla 63 entre Oficios e Inquisidor, La Habana Vieja  
Tel. +(53) 7 861 5162

Selected among 144 photographs sent from 10 out of the 14 Cuban provinces, the works of the 37 prize-winning artists will be exhibited at the Pablo de la Torriente Brau Cultural Centre, organizer of the 5 x 7-inch format competition. The 37 photographers will take pictures of different people in the city and the resulting images will be exhibited at a public space in Old Havana, hanging from clotheslines.



## POÉTICA DE LA LÍNEA YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

Convento de San Francisco de Asís  
Oficios y Churruca, 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.



## ¿QUÉ ES LO QUE HACE A LOS ESPEJISMOS DE HOY TAN DIFERENTES, TAN ATRACTIVOS? YA

OPENS 9 APRIL / 2010

Galería Factoría Habana  
O'Reilly 308 entre Habana y Aguiar, La Habana Vieja

A collective exhibition by artists from Cuba and Spain: Gisele Beigelmann, Joan Fontcuberta, David Trujillo, Lino Lago, Glenda León, Gisela Motta & Leandro Navarro, and Enrique Marty.



## NUEVA GALERÍA YA

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 YA

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, who were not represented in the museum's collections: Camille Pissarro, Pablo Picasso, Marcel Duchamp, Joan Miró, André Masson, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol.



## SENCILLAMENTE KORDA YA

THROUGH 4 APRIL / 2010

Memorial José Martí  
Plaza de la Revolución  
Tel. +(53) 7 882 0906 / 884 0551

The artists Enrique Ávila, Jorge Luis Ballart, Nelson Domínguez, Francis Fernández, Javier Guerra, Lorenzo Linares, Kadir López, William Pérez, Mabel Poblet and Ernesto Rancaño have recreated anthological photographs taken by the famous Cuban photographer Alberto Korda, author of the famous picture of Ernesto Che Guevara which has travelled the world over since 1967.



## ARTE Y MODA 2010 YA

12-18 APRIL / 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

Sixth edition of the popular event in which the creations of fashion designers are inspired by works of art, this year under the theme "Linking cultures." Besides the traditional clothes that are designed based on works by national artists, three Cuban couturiers will design theirs based on the work of three Austrian artists. Also, designers from Italy, Bolivia and Austria will be present with their creations during the event. The much awaited fashion show will be held on the 17th and 18th of April at 9:00 pm. Several collateral events will also take place, including a photographic exhibition by Alex Castro and Alfredo Cannatello and the lecture "The 20th-Century Figure. The Ideal Female Figure and Models" by Sjouk Hoitsma, curator at the Rotterdam Historical Museum.



## EL MUNDO MINOICO-MICÉNICO Y LA OBRA DE EMILE GILLIÉRON E HIJO YA

THROUGHOUT APRIL / 2010

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 y 863 9484

Original works from the Conde de Lagunillas Collection of the Fine Arts Museum of Cuba--the largest collection in Latin America focusing on ancient times--and of the Dihigo Museum of the University of Havana will join the magnificent copies made by Emile Gilliéron and his son based on archaeological findings in Crete, made available in Cuba thanks to the collaboration of the Winckelmann Institute in Berlin.

## MUSIC



### LA NOVIA DE CLAUDIO YA

Through 4 April; Fri and sat, 8:30 pm; Sun, 5:00 pm / 2010

Teatro América  
Galiano entre Concordia y Neptuno, Centro Habana  
Tel. +(53) 7 862 5416

A musical comedy by the company Musical Habana, under the artistic lead of Karelía Bécquer and the general direction of Alexis Vázquez.



### GALA-HOMENAJE YA

30 April, 4:30 pm / 2010

Vitrina de Valonia  
San Ignacio entre Teniente Rey y Muralla, La Habana Vieja  
Tel. +(53) 7 868 3561

Gala-tribute on the 81st anniversary of the Belgian singer songwriter Jacques Brel, composer of one of the most beautiful love songs ever written, *Ne me quitte pas*.



### VIAJE A LA GUITARRA YA

30 April, 4:00 pm / 2010

Sala Galich, Casa de las Américas  
Calle 3ra. y G, El Vedado  
Tel. +(53) 7 838 2706-09

Guitarists Vladimir Ibarra (Mexico) and Eduardo Garrido (Spain) will play works by Leo Brouwer, Joaquín Turina, Maurice Ohana, Davide Notartomaso and Carlos Chávez.



### EL JARDÍN DE LA GORDA YA

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.



### ENCUENTRO CORAL CUBA-CANADÁ YA

3 April, 5:00 pm / 2010

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

Performances by the Eko Singers from Canadá, directed by Paula Roberts; Schola Cantorum Coralina, directed by Alina Orraca; and Vocal Leo, directed by Corina Campos, both from Cuba during this Cuban-Canadian Choral Meeting.



### I FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE MÚSICA Y TRADICIONES CELTAS EN LA HABANA YA

6-13 April / 2010

Havana's Historical Centre

With the participation of Cuban, Asturian, Galician, Irish and Canadian musicians the event will include gala performances, a bagpipe band parade, concerts and informal musical meets at bars, cultural institutions and tourist facilities.



### PEÑA DE LOS KENTS YA

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.



### TALLER INTERNACIONAL LATINOAMERICANO DE COMPOSICIÓN YA

13-18 April / 2010

Havana

A meeting of contemporary Latin American composers where the technical and aesthetic trends of musical creation in the continent will be discussed. Concerts and recitals will be held during the event.



### PEÑA DEL AMBIA YA

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*.



### LA BELLA CUBANA YA

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 DE ORO YA

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 YA

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 YA

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.



**Anfiteatro  
del Centro Histórico**

### LA VUELTA AL MUSICAL EN 70 MINUTOS YA

Opens 24 April; Sat and Sun, 9:00 pm / 2010

Anfiteatro de La Habana Vieja

Avenida del Puerto entre Cuba y Peña Pobre, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 33 1718

*Around Musicals in 70 Minutes* is the suggestive name of Alfonso Menéndez's latest work, a tour of famous works, many of them based on the animated film versions - *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Anastasia*, *The Lion King*, *Hercules*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Aladdin*.



### LA CITA YA

28 April, 5:00 pm / 2010

Biblioteca Pública Rubén Martínez Villena

Obispo 59 entre Baratillo y Oficinas, La Habana Vieja

Tel. +(53) 7 862 9037-39

On this occasion, the musical meeting *La Cita* will be dedicated to the greatest of the old Cuban *trovadores*, Sindo Garay, who composed anthological songs such as *Perla marina* and *La tarde*, with the performance of the duet AICanto.



### TARDES DEL JAZZ YA

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 YA

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

#### 9 April, 7:00 pm

Concert by the violoncellist Yaisel del Puerto, a member of the Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble, and guest musicians.

#### 22, 23 and 24 April, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Workshop on the music of Esteban Salas, organized and directed by Carmen Collado, director of the Coro Polifónico de la Habana, and Teresa Paz, director of Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble, as part of the Corhabana 2010 choir festival.

#### 23 April, 7:00 pm

Concert by the Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble as part of the La Huella de España Festival.



### TROVANDO YA

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 YA

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 YA

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

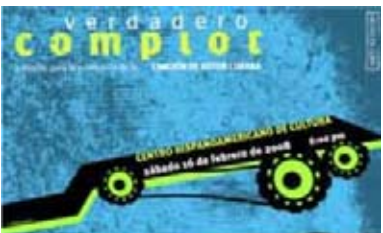
Different generations and styles converge in a natural combination of traditional, new and very new *trova*.



### FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE COROS CORHABANA 2010 YA

21-25 April / 2010  
 Teatro Amadeo Roldán y Basílica Menor del Convento de San Francisco de Asís

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.



### VERDADERO COMPLIT YA

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

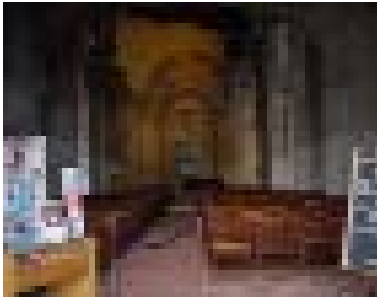
A space for young *trova* talents, and the live recordings of their performances. This month with the *trovador* Reinier Aldana.



### CHARANGUEANDO YA

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 YA

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

**3 April** The Havana Chamber Music Orchestra, conducted by Iván del Prado, will play works by Mozart.

**7 April, 4:00 pm** Graduation concert of the oboist Lauren Ríos, a student of the Instituto Superior de Arte de La Habana.

**9 April** The chamber music orchestra Música Eterna, conducted by Guido López-Gavilán, will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a program that includes works by Bach, Vivaldi, Paganini and Gershwin, with the guest performance by the pianist Aldo López-Gavilán.

**10 April** On occasion of the 10th anniversary of theel Coro Polifónico de La Habana, directed by Carmen Collado, will sing works by Francis Poulenc, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Leonard Bernstein and contemporary Cuban composers.

**16 April, 6:00 pm** The chamber music orchestra Solistas de La Habana, conducted by María Elena Mendiola, will play Serenata for string orchestra by Josef Suk, and Concert for clarinet and orchestra by Aaron Copland, with the special performance of the clarinetist Aristides Porto.

**17 April** The wind quartet Ventus Habana conducted by Alina Blanco will celebrate their 6th anniversary with a varied program that includes works by Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Malcolm Arnold and Cuban composers.

**21 April, 4:00 pm** Graduation concert of the student of the Instituto Superior de Arte de La Habana, the saxophonist Hugo César Mendoza, who will be accompanied on the pianist by María del Henar Navarro.

**22, 23 y 24 April, 6:00 pm** Choral festival Corhabana 2010.



### RETRETAS EN LA PLAZA DE ARMAS YA

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.

**9 April** Al Generalísimo by Gonzalo Roig, Danza lucumí by Ernesto Lecuona, Robin Hood by Michael Kamen, Tres lindas cubanas by Antonio María Romeu, and the medley Cubanazteco.

**16 April** Symphony March by John Williams; a selection from the zarzuela La corte de faraón by José Serrano, ragtime The Entertainer by Scott Joplin, Nosotros by Pedro Junco, and others.

**23 April** Zacatecas by G. Gomina, a selection from Coppelia by Leo Delibes, Amor by Pablo Milanés, Fefita by José Urfé and other well-liked pieces.



### PEÑA DE LYNN MILANÉS Y SU GRUPO YA

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 YA

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

Sede provisional del Museo Nacional de la Música  
Obrapia 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*.



### LÍRICOS EN SAN FELIPE YA

7:00 pm unless otherwise indicated / 2010

Oratorio San Felipe Neri  
Aguiar esquina a Obrapia, La Habana Vieja

**1st April, 7:00 pm** Lírica Intramuros proposes a recital with the soprano Mayda Galano accompanied on the piano by Pura Ortiz.

**3 April, 4:00 pm** Recital by cellist Amparo del Riego and guitarist Víctor Pellegrini, with the guest performance Coro Polifónico de La Habana, directed by Carmen Collado.

**6 April, 3:30 pm** Graduation concert by the oboist Ailed Calvo, a student of the Instituto Superior de Arte de La Habana.

**8 April, 7:00 pm** Artd'Voces will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban National Choir, which is directed Digna Guerra.

**10 April, 4:00 pm** Concert by the soprano Johana Simón and the pianist Haylin Pla.

**17 April, 4:00 pm** The Symphony Orchestra of the Lyceum Mozartiano de La Habana will play works by Cuban composers.

**20 April, 3:30 pm** Graduation concert by the bassoonist Mónica Acosta, a student of the Instituto Superior de Arte de La Habana.

**22, 23 y 24 April, 4:00 pm** Choral festival Corhabana 2010.

**28 April, 7:00 pm** Recital by the versatile guitarist Luis Manuel Molina.

**29 April, 7:00 pm** The trumpet player Yoel Pérez and the pianist Pura Ortiz in concert

**30 April, 7:00 pm** The soprano Johana Simón, accompanied by the pianist Haylin Pla, will sing works by Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Ravel and Dvorak.

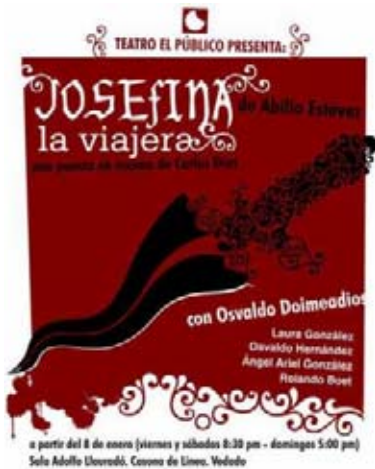
## THEATRE

**TALLER INTERNACIONAL DE TEATRO DE TÍTERES**

12-18 April / 2010

Matanzas

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.

**JOSEFINA LA VIAJERA**

Fri &amp; Sat, 8:30 pm; Sun, 5:00 pm / 2010

Cine-teatro Trianón

Línea entre Paseo y A, El Vedado

Tel. +(53) 7 830 9648

Directed by Carlos Díaz, Teatro El Público continues this month with 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 of French descent, which comes from the eastern part of Cuba...She says she is 120 years old with 103 on her own since she was 17 and left her parent's 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, but the play is also about man's ability to live, to give density and risk to his existence."

## EVENTS

**COLOQUIO Y FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE MÚSICA Y POESÍA NICOLÁS GUILLÉN**

UNIÓN DE ESCRITORES Y ARTISTAS DE CUBA (UNEAC)

CALLE 17 ESQUINA A H, EL VEDADO

TEL. +(53) 7 832 4551-53

TEATRO AMADEO ROLDÁN

CALZADA Y D, EL VEDADO

TEL. +(53) 7 832 4521-22

INSTITUTO CUBANO DE LA MÚSICA

CALLE 15 NÚMERO 452 ENTRE E Y F

TEL. +(53) 7 833 3503-04

Through 2 April

This International Colloquium/Festival of Music and Poetry 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. The focus of the scientific event will be "Inequity and Diversity" (race, gender, generations, education, etc.) and will be dedicated to the 80th anniversary of book of poems *Motivos de son*.

## DANCE



### ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ACADEMIAS PARA LA ENSEÑANZA DEL BALLET Y CONCURSO INTERNACIONAL THROUGH 12 APRIL / 2010

Gran Teatro de la Habana and National Ballet School, Havana

Organized for the first time in 1993, this meeting of ballet academies has made it possible for dancers, teachers and students to become familiar with the technical and stylistic peculiarities of the Cuban School of Ballet through workshops, courses, and methodological and master lessons. Similarly, dancers and pedagogues from other countries have conveyed their experiences in a fruitful exchange with their Cuban colleagues.



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

7-11 APRIL / 2010

Casa de la Comedia (Baratillo y Jústiz, La Habana Vieja)

Casa del Benemérito de las Américas Benito Juárez

(Obrapía 116, entre Mercaderes y Oficios, La Habana Vieja. Tel. +(53) 7 861 8166)

Casa Oswaldo Guayasamín (Obrapía entre Oficios y Mercaderes, La Habana Vieja.

Tel. +(53) 7 861 3843)

This unique International Urban Dance Festival: "Old Havana, City in Movement" 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.

#### 7 April

11:00 am, from Plaza Vieja to the different venues: Passacaglia by Tropazanco Cubensi

4:00 pm: Passacaglia by the group Gigantería

9:00 pm, wooden street at Plaza de Armas: Opening of the festival with a premiere by the Retazos dance company

10:00 pm: Performances at the patio of the Casa de la Comedia

#### 8 April

11:00 am, from Plaza Vieja to the different venues: Passacaglia by Tropazanco Cubensi

1:30 pm-3:00 pm, Sala Teatro Las Carolinas: Guest lectures

3:00 pm, from Plaza Vieja to the different venues: Passacaglia by the group Gigantería and performances by guest companies in streets, parks and plazas

6:00 pm: Performances at the Casa del Benemérito de las Américas Benito Juárez.

7:00 pm: Performances at the Casa Oswaldo Guayasamín.

8:00 pm: Performances at the Casa de África.

9:00 pm: Performances at the Sala Teatro Las Carolinas

10:00 pm: Performances at the patio of the Casa de la Comedia

#### 10 y 11 April

11:00 am, from Plaza Vieja to the different venues: Passacaglia by Tropazanco Cubensi

11:00 am a 1:30 pm: Program for children

#### 11 April

3:00 pm, from Plaza de Armas to the different venues: Passacaglia by the group Gigantería and performances by guest companies in streets, parks and plazas

9:00 pm: Closing performances

10:00 pm: Performances at the patio of the Casa de la Comedia

#### Festival Internacional de Videodanza

##### Through 3 April

International Video-Dance Festival: workshop, lectures and showings (at the Cinematógrafo Lumière)

## A PREVIEW OF THE COMING MONTHS



### ROMERÍAS DE MAYO

HOLGUÍN CITY

2-8 May

Continuing a tradition that dates back to colonial times, in 1993 a group of young artists decided to organize these romerías with the arrival of Spring. This festival, which was held for the first time at the foot of the cross which Father Antonio Alegría placed on 3 May, 1790 at the top of a hill, 275 metres above sea level, is presided over by the Hacha Taína (the Taino Axe) and the Cruz de Madera (the Wooden Cross), symbols of the mixture of elements that constitute the Cuban culture. Following this spirit, every year musicians, actors, researchers, artists, writers and dancers come together to share their artistic endeavour during intense days and nights in which the diversity of their propositions is exhibited, and Cuban and foreign artists join the locals to enjoy a marathon-like programme in various parts of the city.



### MAYO TEATRAL

CASA DE LAS AMÉRICAS AND THEATRES IN HAVANA, PLUS THEATRES IN OTHER PROVINCES

7-16 May

Mayo Teatral began in the 1960s as the Latin American Theatre Festival, sponsored by Casa de las Américas. Late in that same decade, the festival, which had already become an international event, was no longer held until 1998 when the Theatre Department of Casa organized Mayo Teatral, a yearly event until 2000, when it became biennial. International companies plus the most important Cuban theatre companies have participated in this festival throughout the years. The event also includes workshops, lectures and exhibitions.



### FERIA INTERNACIONAL CUBADISCO

DIFFERENT AREAS OF HAVANA

15-23 May

Nothing to do with discotheques, this fair was begun in 1997 as a way to bring to national and international attention what the Cuban recording industry has been up to. It includes concerts, recitals, symposia and exhibits. The event this year will be dedicated to música campesina, Cuban country music, which has its roots in Spanish music.



### XIV FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE POESÍA

HAVANA

24-30 May

A gathering of poets from every continent, the International Poetry Festival includes a number of activities, such as seminars, readings and exhibitions. This year, the World Meeting of Poets in Defence of Humanity will be celebrated during the festival.

## GOLF REVOLUTION

MAY 2009

by Charles Briscoe-Knight



Cigars, communism, Castro, the Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, USA Embargoes—just a few subjects that people think about when it comes to Cuba, so we'll stay in this part of the world and talk golf! Now that might cause a few blank stares, but they had golf (and courses) up until 1962, when 'Che' Guevara beat Mr Castro in a game in Havana.

Ernesto, to give Guevara his correct name, had been a caddy in his native Argentina before he became a guerrilla icon, so he knew a bit about our Royal and Ancient game. Sadly for Cuba's golfers, following his defeat, Castro had one golf course turned into a military school and another into an art school, and a Cuban journalist who wrote about the defeat of Cuba's leader was fired the next day and quickly left for Miami.

Before the 1959 Revolution, Cuba had nearly a dozen golf courses, including two Donald Ross-designed gems: the Havana Biltmore Golf Club and the Country Club of Havana, for 11 years a PGA Tour stop. Now it has just the one—Varadero. However, in a report about golf's prospects in Cuba, Bob Hunt of the UK's PGA Design Consulting Group considers there are sites for approximately 400 golf courses.



The Varadero course is 6,856 yards and has a par of 72. That tells only a bit of the story as the features of the course will severely test anyone not on their game.

In May 2009, the Conran Group, Esencia and their Cuban partners Palmares (a local development organisation) and Habanos Cigars put on the Montecristo Cup, the first major amateur golf tournament at Varadero. It attracted an oversubscribed field of 77 participants from Canada, Spain, Andorra, Korea, Vietnam, Japan, the UK and Cuba. The winner was Xavier Espot Miró, Andorran Ambassador to Spain, with a net score of 67 off a handicap of 14. Among his prizes was a framed photo of Che Guevara playing golf, presented to him by the guest of honour, Ernie Els. Paying tribute to the forethought of Esencia, Palmares and Habanos (the makers of the Montecristo cigar brand), Ernie said: "I'm very pleased to see so many people enjoying a wonderful day on this great course, and I look forward to coming back and seeing much more Cuban golf." Perhaps a new Els course is in the offing, somewhere down the road?

Back to the course itself. First there's the wind. This might not be a 'links' in the strict sense of Turnberry or Ballyunion, but it has the same unpredictable breezes. Architecturally, Varadero is probably best summed up as tropical parkland meets with Florida lakes, via a piece of beachfront links. On a generally flat, but sometimes undulating piece of ground called the San Bernardino crags, are the two loops of nine holes re-designed by Canadian les

Furber. They are interspersed with salt water lagoons that connect directly with the sea. The front nine can be considered slightly easier, as 10 to 18 require a decidedly cautious piece of course management.

The three finishing holes stand out. The 16th is a par 5 of 557 yards, with your white orb having to make three lagoon crossings. Perhaps a confident striker with a long game to match could try it in two strikes but for mere mortals, judging the lay-up distances in the wind is the key to success. Then there's the other game: putting. A huge, undulating green means there are many potential pin placements, so pray the greenstaff are kind on the day you play. The 17th has to be one of the most beautiful and tricky par 3s anywhere—215 yards into a cross wind, up hill, to a green surrounded by bunkers. Take at least two clubs more than you think and hit a career shot. Then if all that goes well, make sure you have an uphill putt.



Then you wander around the corner to the 18th (409 yards) to take on a shot that will leave you breathless. Apart from the Gulf of Mexico on your left, you will see Xanadu in the distance, a fairway, sloping hard to the right and a huge rocky ethnic-style statue near where your ball might reasonably land. Having negotiated all that, the second shot is all uphill to a flagstick perched on what looks like the horizon. You will not be able to see any green, so getting coupled with measuring the wind is vital. Good luck with putting as you'll now be on the most exposed green on the course. Stunning.

Retire now to the bar a mere 20 yards away, overlooking the green and the beaches to the west, tot up your score, and sip a cool traditional mojito (or three). Cuba is certainly a different—and superb—place to visit for the golfer. But please, be careful who you beat.





## THE SECOND ANNUAL

## MONTECRISTO CUP AND ESENCIA CUP GOLF COMPETITION IN CUBA

### International Golf Event Returns to Varadero Golf Club, April 23-24 2010

Havana, Cuba - October xx, 2009 -- Following the great success of the 2009 tournament, the Second Annual Montecristo Cup and Esencia Cup for 2010 will be held April 23rd and 24th, at the Varadero Golf Club in Varadero, Cuba. The exciting two-day event will include:

- **Friday April 23rd:**

- The Montecristo Cup event - a Pro-Am competition

- **Saturday April 24th:**

- The Esencia Cup event - a Team-play Competition

- Spanish golfer Alvaro Quiros is scheduled to appear at both events and play an exhibition match against another world class golfer

- Closing event - a Saturday evening gala prize giving dinner at the DuPont family Mansion, Xanadu

The event is being hosted by the Varadero Golf Club and Palmares SA in association with Esencia Hotels and Resorts. The Montecristo Cup is being sponsored by Habanos, the purveyors of the world's finest cigars. Additional information and regular updates are available at [www.themontecristocup.com](http://www.themontecristocup.com)

British golfer Tony Jacklin, winner of The Open and the US Open, says: "Cuba is an ideal location for golf tournaments and has a bright future with regards to courses. The Montecristo Cup and Esencia Cup tournaments lead the way, offering a challenging and enjoyable game... plus where else can you light up a cigar and strike the ball!"

#### Highlights from 2009

Guest of honour, Ernie Els, a three-time major championship winner and former No.1 World Golfer, said "I look forward to coming back and seeing much more Cuban golf."

Sandino Fernandez, the representative of Palmares, said: "It was an exciting tournament and the first of many."

The event was a truly international competition, with golfers representing many countries including the UK, Canada, Spain, Andorra, Korea, Vietnam, Japan and China as well as Cuba.

The event was covered by publications such as Golf Monthly, GolfPunk, as well as the networks CNN, NBC and BBC among others.

"We look forward to sponsoring the second Montecristo Cup in 2010 after such a great success in May 2009," said Ana Lopez, Director of Marketing for Habanos.

Andrew Macdonald of Boisdale, CEO of Esencia Hotels & Resorts, said, "As a British company from the original home of golf, we are excited to work with Palmares in the development of golf in Cuba. The tournament is a great launch of a new era for the game in Cuba."

#### Details of 2010 event

The Second Montecristo Cup will be held on Friday, April 23rd, 2010 at the Varadero Golf Club. Limited to 72 competitors, the 18-hole tournament will be open to both amateur and professional golfers with a handicap under 28 who come to test their skills on the beachfront golf course and the winner will receive the opulent Montecristo Cup as well as prizes from the sponsors.

Day 2 of the tournament - Saturday 24th April - will feature The Esencia Cup 2010. A team-play competition, the event will have no handicap limit and will be played by a maximum of 18 teams each with 4 players.

The awards dinner will take place following the competition on Saturday April 24th at the Xanadu Mansion, which was built in 1930 and was once the luxurious residence of the Dupont family, and is within the grounds of the Golf Club. Guests, who will include international golf professionals as well as Cuban officials, can look forward to enjoying the Habanos cigars from The Montecristo Open range.

For more information and registration for The Montecristo Cup and The Esencia Cup 2010 and to see the images of the 2009 event please visit: [www.themontecristocup.com](http://www.themontecristocup.com)

For information about travel arrangements and hotel rates please contact Floridita Travel by visiting [www.floriditatravel.com](http://www.floriditatravel.com) or call The Montecristo Hotline: +44 20 7148 5591.

For press enquiries or to receive images please contact Johnny Considine:

Tel +34 914262053 Mobile + 44 7793451652 Email. [Johnny@esenciahotelsandresorts.com](mailto:Johnny@esenciahotelsandresorts.com)

#### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Varadero Golf Club & Xanadu Mansion**

With a design that meets the highest international standards, the Varadero Golf Club has presently the only professional, 18-hole par golf course in Cuba. It is a par-72 course running 6,856 yards (6,269 meters) and features several salt water lakes that connect directly with the sea, a rare feature in golf course design. This is the first and (currently) only 18-hole Cuban golf course, designed by Canadian golf architect Les Furber (President of the Canadian company Golf Design Services Ltd. and also once an associate with Robert Trent Jones), which offers luxurious surroundings and an entertaining round of golf, both for beginners and experts. The course opened in 1998 and hosted two European Challenge Tour Grand Finals in 1999 and 2000. It is challenging yet extremely fair with wide fairways and few hidden hazards. The signature hole is the par-5 18th, which runs along the ocean with an elevated green protected by bunkers and with the wind sweeping in from the north. The course offers practice facilities with a driving range, two putting greens, a chipping green, and two practice bunkers. Club rentals are available as well as a Golf Academy.

The course runs from the San Bernardino Hill, the highest point at Varadero beach, all the way down. On the hilltop is the clubhouse - the monumental Xanadu Mansion, former residence of multi millionaire Irenée Dupont de Nemours which has been refurbished strictly respecting its original construction in 1930. Upstairs is the Casa Blanca Panoramic Bar featuring cocktails and live music and a great view of the beach. The mansion has six guestrooms, each with private balconies, featuring 1920's classical furniture. Pure air, lush vegetation and peacefulness characterize the green and blue environment of the Varadero Golf Club, the grounds on which the Mansion Xanadu is set.

Varadero is Cuba's primary tourist destination, 120 kilometers (75 miles) from downtown Havana with a series of all-inclusive hotels stretching along the beachfront of the peninsula. The Varadero Golf Club caters almost exclusively to the hotels located along a 3.5 km resort strip along Varadero Beach. For more information visit [www.varaderogolfclub.com](http://www.varaderogolfclub.com)

The main sponsors of The Montecristo Cup & The Esencia Cup are Habanos SA, the world's leading premium cigar company and purveyor of the famous Montecristo brand and Esencia Hotels and Resorts, one of the supporters and developers of golf in Cuba. The event is hosted by Palmares, a Cuban organization supervised by the Ministry of Tourism.



#### **Palmares S.A.**

Palmares is a Cuban organization supervised by the Ministry of Tourism. Palmares has developed over 1,000 projects throughout Cuba, including the Cabaret Tropicana, La Bodeguita del Medio, El Floridita and the Varadero Golf Course.



#### **Habanos S.A.**

Habanos is responsible for the manufacture, promotion, distribution, and export of Cuban cigars and other tobacco products worldwide. The word habanos means literally (something from Havana), and is the word used in the Spanish-speaking world for Havana cigars and, sometimes, cigars in general. Habanos S.A. owns the trademarks of every brand of Cuban-made cigars and cigarettes.



#### **Esencia Hotels & Resorts, associated with Havana Holdings Group**

Esencia Hotels & Resorts is a British company dedicated to the development of golf resorts and boutique hotels in Cuba. The company embraces mainly well known British brands such as Conran, PGADC, Savills and Camper & Nicholson.

## HUGE WAVES HINT AT CUBA'S SURFING FUTURE

APR 2010

By Freddy Thomas



Freak weather conditions generated the mother of all swells off Cuba's Northern coast (between Matanzas and Varadero) early Thursday morning (April 1, 2010) leading to surfing opportunities these local Cubans never dreamed of. In fact the 50 ft waves are the largest ever recorded in the Caribbean and have led some to predict a boom in surfing trips to the largest Caribbean island. An unusual lunar position combined with the perfect combination of tidal movements and cold fronts pushing down from the normally staid North Western coast to produce a succession of these monsters which crashed into the Northern shoreline of Cuba causing some heavy damage to beaches on the outskirts to Varadero along with delight for these enthusiasts.

Taking advantage of this possible climatic change a Spanish group of foreign investors is taking the lead in pushing a surfing development. The plans include a specially designed 373 room surf hotel in Varadero which will be designed in the shape of a surfboard. This resort will also feature the Caribbean's first artificial wave generating pool which will be used to teach surfing on becalmed summer days. The CEO of the group, Juan Lopez Never Never pointed out that the Dominican Republic already has developed 234 specially designated surfing sites along with the associated fashion industry which will typically multiply any investment by a factor of seven in calculating the net returns to the country's economy.

He also pointed out that there was a natural fit with Cubans and surfing given that the Cuban people are the world champions of rhythm which is an essential component of the sport. When asked when we would be likely to see the first Tropicana dancer surfing into the Malecon he smiled and lit another big fat cigar. For those eager to be first in line for the opening of this resort it is possible to secure membership today of the Never Never surf club today for a small fee in advance of the general opening currently slated for October of 2010 following an intensive three month period of construction and the typical one week Cuban authorization process.

Another competing group from Brazil, Surf Imagination, is seeking to take advantage of warming relationships between Cuba and the South American giant to develop a US\$ 100 million multi-use 2,000 bed mega water sport themed resort by El Morro on the Eastern side of Havana harbor which will bring world class Brazilian talent to Cuba's shores. In addition to the 6-star hotel itself the complex will feature a horizontes pool which will be built out into the ocean allowing surfers to actually surf right up to the hotel pool bar if the initial publicity is to be believed as well as Cuba's first ice hockey ring which is likely to appeal to Canadian snowbirds desperate for some ring side action. The group CEO, Ignacio Manana explains that while projects between Brazil and Cuba have been slow to take off to date this could well be the glue to bind these countries together. He also pointed out that the Surf Imagination model has been approved (by his mum) and that the first phase of capital raising (of US\$ 262) had already successfully been completed which leaves the modest sum of US\$ 99,999,738 to find in the subsequent phases. The company is looking to list in the autumn on the BS index with the stock already tipped by analysts for a meteoric ascent. Watch this space.

For amore details of surfing in Cuba please see [www.Havanasurf-Cuba.com](http://www.Havanasurf-Cuba.com)