



Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Inc.
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Celebrando 2004: "The Pirates of Puerto Rico"

The State Theater 719 Congress Avenue

Saturday, June 26, 8:00 pm

Sunday, June 27, 2:00 pm

Plan your summer vacation with PRFDance!

This summer, the PUERTO RICAN

FOLKLORIC DANCE performing company

brings the rich culture of Puerto Rico to Austin in *Celebrando 2004, "The Pirates of Puerto Rico!"* Special guests this year is 25-year old, world-renowned Puerto Rican folklore ensemble and recording artists Paracumbe. Be with us as Paracumbe joins PRFDance dancers and musicians in the debut of our original mini-musical that tells of the exciting adventures of the Pirates of Puerto Rico! Then PRFDance joins Paracumbe in a celebration of Afro-Puerto Rican Plena and Bomba music and dance, in a style from Puerto Rico's southern coast.



Spring 2004

Volume 2, Issue 2

Art Show & Vejigante Mask Workshop



Inside this issue:

Artist Bio Lucy Llera	3
Inside Dance Teens Mix it Up	3
Poema: De Rafael Cancel Miranda	5
Boxeo: Trinidad y Cotto	7
Upcoming Events	7

On January 31st, 2004, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center held an Art Show & Vejigante Mask Workshop as part of the "Workshops on Puerto Rican Studies" program. Featured was Artist Lucy Llera. Over 50 adults and children attended this fun event. Thanks to our massive mailing list, promotions by the Austin Chronicle, and radio stations around town, over half the attendants were new faces to our cultural center and to our culture! Some drove in from as far away as San Antonio to attend this event!

Adults enjoyed Lucy's van-load of paintings, rich in Puerto Rican cultural themes and beautiful carnival masks from Puerto Rico. The children colored pictures of dancing vejigantes, learned the significance of mask-wearing, and the history behind the vejigante masks of Puerto Rico. The children also enjoyed making vejigante masks of their very own, and danced with a "real" vejigante who made a surprise visit!



The Art Show & Workshop culminated in a celebration of the PRFDance Cultural Center's first birthday. While our organization has been ongoing since 1997, our physical location opened its doors on February 1st of last year (2003). The children gathered around a big birthday cake and sang happy birthday to the Escuelita in Spanish and English. Their favorite part was when they ALL got to blow out the candle!

We are so proud that this event was so well received by our community. We plan on having Lucy back to do a more complex workshop on mask-making in the future!

(Continued on page 3)

Saludos from the Founding Director

Saludos and Happy 1st Birthday to our Cultural Center!

Although PRFDance is in its 7th year, it was only one year ago that our Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center opened its first physical location. I am sure those who have been with us since before this great accomplishment will agree -- it has been an exciting year of growth and change!

Before "Our Escuelita" opened, our programs took place in locations rented on an hourly basis. The difficulty in finding consistent and available studio time limited our growth. Thanks to our new home, we are now proud to offer over 10 distinct programs in cultural and performing arts education, which have greatly expanded the number of participants we serve. Over 60 each week enjoy programs such as our traditional dance classes for children through adults. The dance program expanded this year when we graduated our first group of children into a new Preteen class that challenged their increased skill-level and made room for new young children.

Our music program expanded this year to include not only a music ensemble but a youth choir and a percussion class. We also now offer fun, non-performance classes such as Salsa and Ritmo Aerobics for those in our community who want to enjoy informal programs set to high-energy music! With a permanent location, our Workshop on Puerto Rican Studies can once again engage the community in cultural education beyond performing arts -- an Art Show and Vejigante Workshop was presented this spring.

"Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance," our 24-member professional-level performing company of dancers and musicians, now has a permanent home to rehearse and store costumes, props and instruments. Although we are excited about our program growth, we are the most proud of the feeling of community our new Cultural Center home has created. Over the last year I have enjoyed watching friendships bloom -- children through adults alike. It's been exciting to hear the plans for pajama parties, dance-club outings, and lunch dates that ring through our hall!

The presence of our Cultural Center brings a unique spotlight to Austin and the State of Texas that did not exist before. There are few places in the country where the local community can enjoy what we offer. The accomplishments of this last year alone has been TREMENDOUS and there are GREAT PROMISES of more to come. Thank YOU for your investment in this unique slice of hispanic culture we bring to Austin. I know you are just as proud as we are!

Con cariño, su servidora,
Dr. Ana Maria Maynard, Founding Director



Puerto Rican Mojito

A tangy salsa made from tomatoes, capers and cilantro...not Cuba's national rum cocktail!

Puerto Rican Mojito is traditionally served as a dipping sauce for plantain chips and tostones. It's also great for dipping tortilla chips, and it makes an uncommon cocktail sauce for shrimp and other seafood.

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|---|---|
| 6 aji dulce peppers, or 1 ½ tsp diced red bell pepper | 1 ½ tsp dried oregano |
| ½ green bell pepper, diced | ½ cup washed and stemmed cilantro leaves |
| 5 garlic gloves, coarsely chopped | ¼ cup tomato paste |
| 2 shallots, coarsely chopped | 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil |
| 1 ripe tomato, peeled and seeded | 1 tbsp lime juice |
| 1 ½ tbsp capers, drained | salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste |

Combine the peppers, garlic, shallots, tomato, capers, oregano, and cilantro in a food processor and grind to a smooth puree. Work in the tomato paste, olive oil, lime juice, and salt and pepper.

Transfer the sauce to a clean jar with a nonreactive lid. Refrigerated, it will keep for 1 week.

Makes 2 cups.

from *The CARIBBEAN Pantry Cookbook* by Steven Raichlen

BOXING

Tito Trinidad: A Legend Returns

It's official...the news we've all been waiting for: Tito Trinidad has announced his return to boxing! Look to see his comeback fight on October 2nd, 2004 against Ricardo Mayorga, 12 rounds at middleweight. The 31-year-old Cupey Alto native last fought on May 11, 2002 (a TKO 4th round victory over Hacine Cherifi). But we've seen from his many appearances at the big fights this year that he's been keeping in shape. Trinidad's record is 41-1-34 KO's.



BOXEO

Miguel Cotto: The Rising Star

The 23-year-old Caguas native is universally rated in the world top-ten, and is ranked No. 1 by the WBA and WBO, fighting at 140 pounds. Cotto fights next on May 8th against Juan "Pollo" Valenzuela for Cotto's WBC International Super Lightweight title. Cotto won his last fight by knockout in February against Victoriano Sosa, making his record 19-0-16 KO's.

**Have you renewed your Familia membership?
If not, this may be your last issue of Ritmo y Cultura.**

Upcoming Events

May Festival Plaza Saltillo (412 Comal Street), May 7th, 5:30pm
The Teens Dance & Culture Class will perform!



2nd Annual Spring Gala & Recital The Red Lion Hotel Ballroom, May 23rd, 2004, 2-6pm
The Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center celebrates the end of our most exciting academic year yet. This exclusive, semi-formal event invites families and friends of the Performing Arts students and participants, Performing Company, Board and Staff for an elegant ballroom celebration! This proud afternoon of music and dancing features special performances by our Performing Arts students and Performing Company. Honored guests include our high contributing Familia and area Sponsors who will be recognized for their generosity! Cultural Center participants and large donors will soon receive their exclusive, detailed invitation.

Celebrando 2004: "The Pirates of Puerto Rico" The State Theater, June 26-27, 2004
(See back page for description)

On the Horizon...

Sembrando Herencia 2004 Journey Theatre, December 12th, afternoon.

No son princesas, son algo mas

por Rafael Cancel Miranda
Sembrando Patria y Verdades

Cuentan mil cuentos de princesas,
de primeras damas y major vestidas,
nada cuentan de doña Petra,
que fregando platos educó sus hijas.

Y nada cuentan de doña Pastora,
que murió jamona cuidando su madre,
y nada cuentan de doña Ramona,
madre protectora de niños sin padres.

Y nada cuentan de Juana la campesina,
que talaba tierra desde el amanecer,
y menos cuentan de la negra Josefina,
que robó para dar a sus hijos de comer.

No, ellas no eran de las mejor vestidas,
ni brillaban en las páginas sociales,
pero yo ante ellas rindo pleitesía,
¡porque eran verdaderas majestades!

Get Fit With Ritmo Aerobics!

Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm.
All levels welcome.

Classes are held at the
PRFDance Cultural Center.

Only \$5 per class!

Thanks for your Support!

Familia members make it possible to offer weekly classes on traditional dance, music, culture and history, sponsor performances, costumes, props, and instruments, even sponsor student scholarships!

PRFDance is an all volunteer, nonprofit 501(C)(3). Your donation is tax deductible and every dollar goes directly to support the mission!



Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance

2004 Educational Programs

- Children Dance/Culture**—Saturdays, 10am
- Pre-Teen Dance/Culture**—Saturdays, 10:30am
- Teen Dance/Culture**—Saturdays, 11:30am
- Adult Dance/Culture**—Mondays, 7pm
- Salsa Dance**—Mondays, 6pm
- Ritmo Aerobics**—Tuesdays, 7:30pm
- Youth Choir**—Saturdays, 9:30am
- Teen Drumming**—Tuesdays, 6:30 pm
- Music Ensemble**—Thursdays, 7pm
- Performing Company** (audition required)

Bilingual programs teach traditional dance, music and song (bomba, plena, seis, and danza), games, history and culture.

Classes are held at the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 507B Pressler Street in downtown Austin, between MOPAC and Lamar off 5th Street. For more information, visit www.prfdance.org or call 251-8122.

Art Show & Vejigante Mask Workshop

(Continued from page 1)



Artist Biography Lucy Llera was born in Cayey, Puerto Rico. She received her Bachelor's degree in Art and Education from the University of Puerto Rico, and was an Art teacher for over 13 years in Cidra. In 1982, she moved to Texas where she studied Art at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Afterwards she continued her teaching career in Bilingual Education, for which she has received awards. From 1984-93, Lucy studied Painting with Warren Hunter, a respected artist in San Antonio, and later with Daniel Green and Dalhart Wingberg. She is a member of the Water Color Society, the Calligraphy Guild, and the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts. In Coppini, she received awards such as Artist of the Month and 2nd prize in Oil Painting. Since 1986, she has been a member of Sociedad Herencia Puertorriqueña, a San Antonio-based Puerto Rican cultural organization, for whom she has created cultural-themed posters for their annual festivals.

Photo Credits We would like to thank Sasha Haagensen, photographer from UT Austin's *Daily Texan* for photographing our event. She is a senior at the University of Texas at Austin majoring in Journalism with a concentration in Photography. Her post-graduation plans (May 2004) are to work for a major publication as a photographer. Sasha can be reached at aeh1125@hotmail.com.

Inside Dance . . .

One of the wonderful things about PRFDance is that one does not just learn about culture and folklore "of the past" . . . one can experience Puerto Rican traditions such as Bomba and Plena on a given Austin weekend. That's what some students in the PRFDance Teen Program recently found out during a social outing to an informal Bombazo BBQ.



Teacher China Lott expressed the importance of connecting the classroom with every day life. The Teen Program continues to grow and take shape in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of teens today. Mrs. Lott understands that kids who have positive adult role models are less likely to drop out of school, become pregnant, or otherwise succumb to unwanted peer pressure. "All the kids I work with are such great kids. In our social outings, they are very thoughtful...I want to be there for them as an adult friend and positive influence."

And the Teens are keeping busy—Early in the semester, PRFDance offered a 1-day teen dance workshop open to new and current students. "We wanted to put a fun spin on salsa by adding hip-hop elements," said Mrs. Lott. The successful workshop has opened the door to more ideas and events to come (Mrs. Lott currently leads an Aerobics class every Tuesday).

On Friday, May 7th, you can cheer on the Teens as they make an appearance at the May Festival at Plaza Saltillo. ¡Y pa' lante, muchachos!

Sembrando Herencia 2003—Las Caras de la Navidad

Sembrando Herencia is our Annual Recital that passes on our heritage to a new generation! In this joyful celebration of traditional dance, music and song, more than 50 of our own performed as our professional-level performing company shared the stage with the children, teens, and adults from our performing arts programs.



This year we took our audience on a journey through Puerto Rico's beloved Christmas traditions, from the mountains of our Island to the city of New York.



Sembrando Herencia 2003—Las Caras de la Navidad

The audience cheered loudly for the debut of Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's own "Coro de Angeles" Youth choir and our new Percussion Students!



The performance ended with a sing-along to traditional Puerto Rican Christmas songs as our lively performance culminated in a Parranda!!!



Enjoy these memories!