



Suelta el Moño: The Herstories of Bomba Culture

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Suelta el Moño: The Herstories of Change Agents and Perpetuators of Bomba Culture

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ABSTRACT

This monograph gives voice to generations of women who live on through the many performers and culture bearers who represent bomba today. Excerpts of more than twenty-five interviews and personal communications with artists, practitioners, eyewitnesses and descendants of bomberxs will help detail different roles women have taken in both bomba practice and performance over the last 100 years. This text draws on ethnographic and genealogical research to provide insights into place making, inclusion rituals, the use of the *enagua* in traditional 20th century bomba dance, the roles of families in perpetuating this practice, knowledge transmission and challenges to male-dominated representations. It also draws attention to the diaspora and some of the ways women outside the Island are working to stay connected to bomba history and performance. [Key words: Bomba, women, petticoats, Villodas, Bomberas, Ponchinela, Mason]