



Ritmo Y Cultura

A newsletter by
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

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Fall 2010

Celebrando 2010 Con Cuerdas, Bailes y Costumbres

Inside this issue:



On December 26th & 27th, 2010, we presented our bilingual musical *Cuerdas, Bailes y Costumbres*. The musical was presented at Reagan High Theater and we received an especial guest: Guateque Ballet Folklórico from Puerto Rico.

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In this occasion our musical was based on a representation of different Puerto Rican scenes or estampas. The picture on the top is a representation inspired by *El velorio* (1893), a famous painting created by one of the most remarkable Puerto Rican painters, Francisco Oller. *El velorio del angelito*, talks about a long tradition of velorios that ended in a party and which were mostly practiced in the Central area of the enchanted island.

Another colorful scene was the *pelea de gallos* or cock fights, which, using a little bit of imagination, music and choreography, was beautifully presented. Nowadays, this tradition is enjoyed in a more regulated space called *galleras* and is considered a sport. Their motto is *el deporte de caballeros* or gentlemen sport. The families and friends that joined us had a blast between history, culture, music and fun.

See inside for more pictures and information.



Saludos from the Founding Director



Semign cacona guari (God bless)!

We are half-way through one the most event-filled Fall semesters in our history, including interesting lectures, energizing classes, memorable events, and the preparation of a brand new musical right in front of us! Our Fall Season opened in August with a double-weekend that brought native heritage, education and awareness, front and center.

"Taino 101: History, Myth and Reality" shared Taino history and enlightening truth about Taino past and present to blood descendants, as well as other native and non-natives interested in learning about the Taino of Boriken. "And the Dead Shall Rise" documentary film debut and panel event, in partnership with the Indigenous Cultures Institute, hosted Carlos Aceves and Gabriel Gaytan for an AMAZING turnout of over 70 native and non-natives who appreciated hearing the voices of Elders and learning about indigenous traditions once thought lost in a remote time. September's 13th Birthday celebration attracted people from Houston to Dallas, even a visitor from Puerto Rico, who enjoyed live music and dance performances by our Company and Students, traditional dances by guest FOLKLORE Y RITMOS DE PANAMA, and a surprise appearance by proud sponsor Fiesta's Pepe the Parrot! The event ended with a Taino Areyto (ceremonial dances) that thanked Semign (God) for the many blessings we have received. Also in September, PRFDance Founding Director, Dr. Tekina-eiru' Maynard, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by delivering an invited talk to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) entitled, "Puerto Rican History through Music and Dance" to support DSHS's

interest to increase employees' appreciation of Hispanic culture and sensitivity when dealing with Hispanic clients in the communities. In October, our cultural center enjoyed a 3rd Annual Taino Camping Trip that flew (Chief) Cacique Caciba Opil and (Medicine Man) Bohike Majuri of El Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-Cu A Boriken to Austin for a special 4-day weekend that celebrated Taino heritage and gave families an "outside the classroom" experience in Taino traditions. Activities included hiking Taino style to the beautiful Perdenales Falls, 1000 year old ball games of batu, a Taino cooking contest, discussions on traditional Taino foods and medicinal plants. Our warriors enjoyed a two-part, hands-on Macana workshop that taught the history of ancient Taino warfare, and how to make and use an authentic Taino Macana, the hardwood war club our Ancestors used to defend our yukayekes (villages) in hand-to-hand combat. Families also enjoyed meaningful ceremonies including an Areyto that celebrated the children (Guaili' Caribo) and recognized new Concilio members, a beautiful Taino Naming Ceremony in the river, and a tearfully-sentimental Coming of Age Ceremony (Guaili'-Charo) for 14 year old Ili-coa (Nolan Irizarry.) With this amazing number of special events behind us, we are in exciting rehearsals for "500 Years", my newest, original tri-lingual musical (English, Spanish and Taino), written in collaboration with Rupert Reyes (Director, Teatro Vivo). As each year, this "way-out-there" heartwarming story is based in Puerto Rican traditions and history. EVERYONE at our cultural center will have a part of this live music and dance production that passes on a heritage to a new generation and showcases our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students of all ages. As 2010 comes to a close, I thank Semign for our cultural center Family Members who have discovered this rare place in our City where parents can participate with their children in a clean family atmosphere of wholesome music and dance programs, a place where you can be adopted by our cultural center family if you are alone in town without any! Music and dance is a very important part of Puerto Rican culture. PRFDance is dedicated to those who come seeking a world-class education in culture and folklore, who wish to discover and celebrate their identity, who yearn to become connected to a community, who will inspire and be inspired by role models, mentors and friends, and who, inside our walls, find a sense of pride and a dream for the future. We have been named the Ambassadors of Puerto Rican culture in Central Texas. We are all very proud to share the joy of our rich traditions with our community, and hand down our cultural heritage to the next generation, and to our children! Thank you for being a part of it!

Nabori' Daca!

-- Dr. Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard, Founding Director



Spring 2010 / Fall 2010 Highlights

3rd Annual Taino Family Camping Trip

Every year is amazing and we will do it again! In October, our PRFDance & Cultural Center members, our cultural arts students and their families will be enjoying our 3rd Annual Taino Camping Trip for the whole family. As each year, we flew Cacique Caciba Opil of The Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-Cu A Boriken to Austin for a special weekend that will celebrate Taino heritage and give our families an "outside the classroom," experience in Taino traditions.

Enjoyed activities will include hiking Taino style -- with mayohuacan (log drum) and maracas! -- Naming and Coming of Age ceremonies, 1000 year ceremonial old ballgames of Batu, workshops in Taino traditions, authentic Areytos (ceremonial dances), and more! Don't miss this camping event in the tradition we enjoy on Boriken! This family event is sponsored by Ruta Maya Coffee, Fiesta Mart and many private donations.



13th Birthday Party, PRFD Center and Panamá Guests



PRFDance celebrated its 13th Anniversary birthday-style with cake and candles on Sunday, September 12, 2-5pm. As every birthday party, we received our friends. On this occasion, we received Folklore y Ritmos de Panamá.

over the last 13 years with an authentic Taino Areyto (ceremonial dance), which included an Areyto Guaytiao (friendship dance).



Celebrando Con Cuerdas, Bailes y Costumbres

The Musical

In this section we include a collage of Pictures from some of the scenes of our play. We believe that an image can transmit the real essence of the play. In our left, you have a couple dancing and, as the movement of their bodies suggests, it's one of our Afro-Caribbean dances. On the bottom, we have 4 different pictures that were performed in *el velorio del angelito*.

PRFDance focuses on children and teaching them about our heritage and that is why our plays are filled with children characters. For us, they are the future and the reason for our work.



Upcoming Performances

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE presents:

Sembrando Herencia 2010

Theatre—School for the Deaf

December 5, at 3 pm



This year's theme is a carefully guarded secret! In December, our performing company will once again debut another original, bilingual musical by PRFDance Director Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard in collaboration with Rupert Reyes, Director of Teatro Vivo. These inspiring and heartwarming musicals, featuring traditional music and dance, bring to light untold stories and unsung heroes in Puerto Rican history. Showcasing more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students, Sembrando Herencia passes on a heritage to a new generation and gives our students a real-theatre experience through a shared performance with our professional-level performing company.

Octavitas meets Chinese New Year

January 23, 2011, 2-5pm

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Do you know why Puerto Ricans are such joyful people? It's because we celebrate the Christmas season (Las Navidades) longer than any culture on the planet! Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance will once again throw the largest "Octavitas" celebration Central Texas has ever seen on Sunday, January 23, 2011, 2-5pm. As if this wasn't already exciting enough, this year we will be partnering with Love of China and will be celebrating the Chinese New Year as well!

Puerto Rico's Holiday Season begins with Thanksgiving and ends with Octavitas, the last holiday of the season, beginning 8 days after the Epiphany and lasting for 8 days (no kidding)! In Puerto Rican tradition, if you received a visit from a friend or relative on Three Kings' Day, you are supposed to return the visit eight days later. So bring your instruments and come sing along -- one last time -- to joyful Puerto Rican holiday songs and traditional dance and music performances by PRFDance's Professional & Junior Company and Performing Arts Students. This celebration, free and open to the public, will take place at our Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillary Street, in Austin, Texas 78702. This family event is sponsored by Fiesta Mart.



PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

Performing Arts & Culture Programs

Traditional Dance Classes with Cultural Lessons

- Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Youth Beginner/Intermediate - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Intermediate/Advanced - Saturdays, 11-12pm
- Junior Company - Saturdays, 12-1pm
- PRFDance Company - Mondays, 7-8pm

The Coquis "Brinca y Canta" Class - Saturdays, 12-1pm

Music Program

- Youth/Beginner Percussion - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Choir, All ages - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Company Percussion - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-9:30pm

Salsa Socials & Workshops - See website for schedule.



Class Descriptions:

TRADITIONAL DANCE & CULTURE - (ages 5 and up, schedule above). These naturally bilingual classes teach traditional dances such as *Bomba*, *Plena*, *Seis* and *Danza*, as well as *Salsa* and other modern dances relevant to our culture and celebrations. Class material is taught at an age/skill-appropriate pace and complexity. Lessons begin with the basics, building on knowledge from previous classes towards a full-length choreography. Lessons on Puerto Rican culture, history, games and songs are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

THE COQUIS "BRINCA Y CANTA" CLASS - (ages 0-4)

Saturdays, 12-1pm. Adults are having as much fun as the children in this program targeted for young children and their favorite adult (parent, grandparent, etc.). This program teaches early childhood music including songs in Spanish, basic rhythm, creative movement and traditional childhood games in a family-style, mixed-age class based in our cultural heritage. This non-performance program gives children a musically rich learning experience from which (starting at age 5) they can graduate into our Youth Dance, Choir Program, or both! To encourage family togetherness, note that an accompanying adult is welcomed and required for this class.

YOUTH CHOIR - Saturdays, 9:00-10am. This naturally bilingual class teaches traditional and popular Puerto Rican songs to children and teens. Semesters culminate in a recital with our very own PRFDance Musicos.

PERCUSSION CLASS - Youth/Beginner (Saturdays, 10-11am) and Company (Thursdays, 6-7pm) classes cover traditional percussion rhythms from Puerto Rico, such as *Bomba* and *Plena*, as well as other afro-caribbean percussive rhythms relevant to our culture. Instruments taught include *bariles*, *panderos*, *congas*, *tambores* and small percussion. Lessons on Puerto Rican food, language, history, and more are added to enhance the base appreciation of Puerto Rican culture. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE PROGRAMS - Students (Saturdays, 9-10am) and Advanced/Professional (Thursdays, 7-9:30pm). These programs teach Puerto Rican compositions to those demonstrating a proficiency in instrument, percussion, or voice. They are targeted for students through professionals interested in learning authentic orchestration of Puerto Rican music and traditions. The Professional Music Ensemble (professional-level musicians already fully skilled and knowledgeable in Puerto Rican music, folklore, and traditions) offers opportunity to work on performance quality material, keep polished, or improve technique and orchestration skills. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

For more information and registration, call 512-251-8122 or see our Website: <http://www.prfdance.org>



2010/2011 PRFDance Sponsors & Familia Members



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- Fiesta Mart Stores
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In-kind Support & Volunteers:

- María Capestany
- Yolanda Maisonet



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Austin, Texas 78728

We're on the web!
www.prfdance.org



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Sofrito

Por: Yadira Izquierdo

Ingredientes:

2 Cebollas

15 dientes de ajo

1 ramillete de cilantro

4 Pimientos Verdes

7 a 10 ajies dulces

3 a 4 hojas de culantro

Lave todos los ingredientes. Luego pique la cebolla y los pimientos. Coloque los ingredientes, uno a uno, en un procesador de alimentos. Para finalizar, eche el sofrito en un envase limpio y colóquelo en la nevera o el congelador.