

Ritmo y Cultura

A Newsletter by Puerto Rican Folkloric
Dance & Cultural Center

Fall 2003

Volume 2, Issue 1

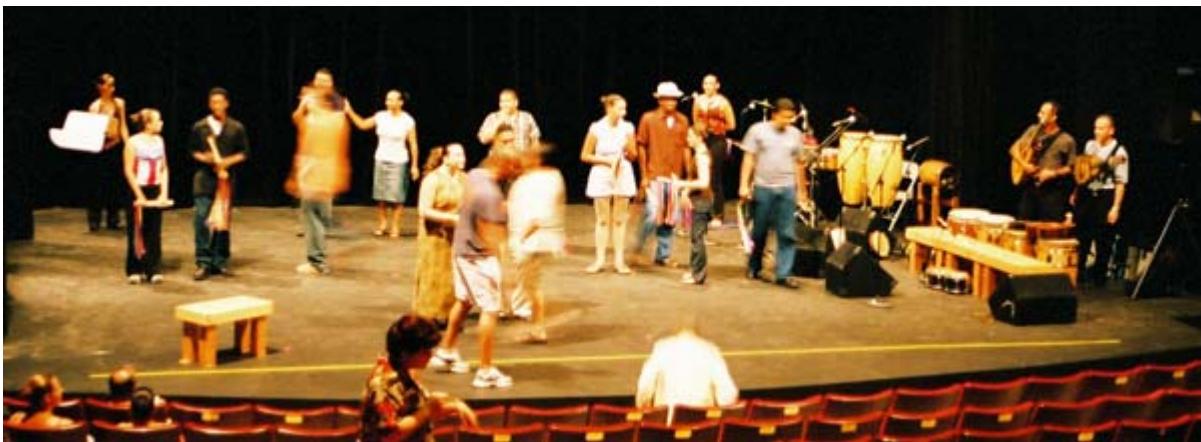
Celebrando con Guateque!



What an honor to bring long time mentor, teacher, and friend Joaquín Nieves, director of Guateque de Puerto Rico, to Austin to meet our performing company "Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance!" Joaquín and members of Guateque came in January 2003 and gave a master-level workshop of traditional dance and music from the mountains of Puerto Rico.



Here is a pictorial of our joint performance, which culminated this project. All was made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Austin, Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, and others.



Getting
Ready for
the Show!!

(Pictorial
continues on
page 3).

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Saludos from the Founding Director

Dear PRFDance Familia Sponsors!

As you know, PRFDance had a TREMENDOUS last season and this year is starting up with GREAT PROMISES of more to come. Here are only some of the highlights:

Last Season:

- ♪ opening of a physical location in Feb, 2003 -- 5 years ahead of schedule!
- ♪ exciting growth in our youth traditional dance program,
- ♪ added an informal Salsa class -- by repeated request from the community!
- ♪ growth of music program in professional-level ensemble
- ♪ began a formal Youth Choir and a drumming/percussion class
- ♪ held first Spring Gala for major contributors and center participants
- ♪ successful State Theatre performance with master artists from Puerto Rico
- ♪ support and recognition by the National Endowment, Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, PR Fed Affairs, City of Austin Arts Commission and others!

New Season - since August (already!):

- ♪ added an annual Familia picnic to programming
- ♪ enrolled *70* participants in our performing arts programs
- ♪ added a preteen traditional dance class to meet class demand!
- ♪ confirmed new season support from City of Austin Arts Commission

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

Café Con Libros . . . Recommended Readings

As you turn the pages of this issue of *Ritmo y Cultura*, you will notice a spotlight on our native Taíno roots. Because the Taíno culture was not able to thrive after the Spaniards' arrival to the island, finding detailed information nowadays can be difficult, but there is some out there. If you want to read up on the Taíno Indians of Borikén, here are some titles to get you started:



The Taínos: Rise and Decline of the People Who Greeted Columbus by Irving Rouse (Yale University, 1992).

Arqueología Lingüística: Estudios modernos dirigidos al rescate y reconstrucción del arahuaco taíno por Manuel Álvarez Nazario (Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1996).

Borikén para niños por Dra. Daliana Muratti (2003).

Celebrando 2003...

(continued from page 1)



Celebrating the Coffee Harvest



PRFDance and Guateque Musicians



Bailes De Salon



Guateque presents mountain dances



Guateque treats us to Plena

Grand
Finale
brings
everyone
on stage!



Inside Dance . . .

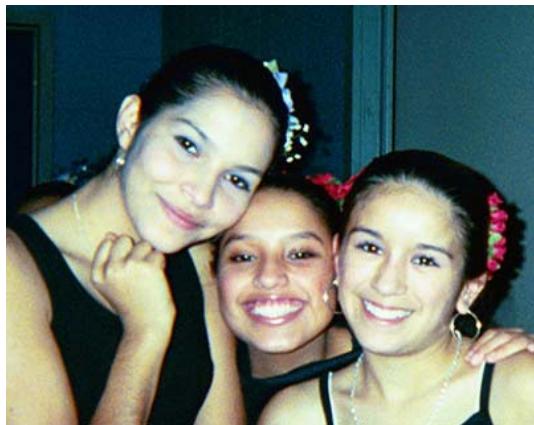
PRFDance continues to bust at the seams! As noted in the *Saludos* on page 2, an additional class was formed for our young dance students due to the great number of participants enrolled this semester. Now, a young dance student can be enrolled in either the Children's class (age 5-7), the Pre-Teen class (age 8-10), or the Teen class (age 11 & up).

Dance Teacher China Smith has seen a wonderful response from her students. Before the addition of the Pre-Teen class, the Children's class was growing to be quite large with a wide range of ages. Says Smith, "We often had to slow down the pace for the younger kids, so the older kids were not as challenged. Now with the Pre-Teen class, the students are taking to more complex choreography and really like the challenge."

The positive vibes are felt throughout the PRFDance Familia...parents of the students are happy to see increased individual attention that comes with the smaller class size.

This semester, all the classes, Children through Adult, have focused on Bomba, from our West African roots, and Seis, dances from the mountains. The Teen class was introduced to the Bomba rhythm *yuba*, as well as a *Seis de Palitos*, a mountain dance where they beat a rhythm with sticks while dancing.

The dance students will join the Youth Choir, Drum students and Performing Company to showcase their talents on December 6, at *Sembrando Herencia 2003*.



Herencia Taína

By Brenda Acosta

On November 19, 1493, Cristóbal Colón discovered the island of Puerto Rico. He named it San Juan Bautista. The island was inhabited by the Taíno people. The Taínos called the island Borikén, which in their language means "Great Land of the Valiant and Noble Lord."

By the end of the XVI century, the Taíno population on the island was drastically reduced. The Spaniards forced them into slavery and during the colonization period, many of the Taíno people died due to genocide, battles, illnesses and mass suicide, and the few remaining had fled to the mountains. In spite of all, the Taíno legacy is still present in several aspects of our culture.

The most obvious are in the names of our towns like Guaynabo, Bayamon, Vieques, Guayama, etc. Many conserved a variation of the name of either the yucayeque or the cacique that governed in that area. Similarly, many other words that we currently use to name foods, musical instruments, plants, trees and other aspects our daily lives have Taíno origin. The love for the music and dance has remained intact along the centuries. Maracas and Güiros were some of the instruments used by the Taínos on their areytos. Who does not like to take a nap on a Hamaca, drink a cold glass of Maví or eat a tender piece of Yuca?

Though the Taíno culture has, to a great degree, been lost through assimilation, some folks "Around the world" still call themselves Taíno, and have carried on some Taíno customs and traditions, including ceremonies. In recent testing of DNA at the University of Puerto Rico, studies show that a large percentage (over 50%) of a random number of Puerto Ricans have shown to have indigenous blood. Today, modern Taínos don't dress the same as our ancestors did, nor do things exactly the same way, but they do their best to honor them by keeping them present in our memories.

Upcoming Events

Performance

Sembrando Herencia 2003

Saturday, December 6, 2003, 7:30 pm
 Journey Theatre, Fine Arts Center at
 W. Charles Akins High School
 (see back page for more details)

Workshop

Lucy Llera Art Showing & Vejigante Mask-Making

Saturday, January 31, 2004, 1-3:00 pm
 This workshop will display Ms. Llera's artwork rich in Puerto Rican cultural themes and provide a hands-on art project: children will make a vejigante mask. Fun for every member of the family. Early registration will be taken to help estimate class materials and refreshments.

(512) 251-8122, dance@prfdance.org
www.prfdance.org

Sopa de Letras

Find some of the taino words that are still used today.

Achiote	batata	canoa	guayaba
Hamaca	iguana	jobo	juey
Manati	Piragua	yautia	yuca

G	L	M	S	E	Y	U	C	A	G	A
U	R	P	S	W	M	K	P	F	C	X
A	A	M	D	E	A	I	I	M	H	R
Y	D	A	K	T	N	P	I	E	Y	R
A	A	N	G	U	A	O	O	E	B	O
B	I	A	B	E	T	Y	U	M	A	A
A	T	U	O	E	I	J	E	M	T	C
U	U	G	M	C	A	N	O	A	O	A
A	A	I	A	T	A	T	A	B	O	M
O	Y	L	A	N	L	I	U	G	O	A
P	I	R	A	G	U	A	M	S	Ñ	H

First Annual Spring Gala 2003

Our 1st Annual Spring Gala 2003 was an exclusive dinner-dance at the Red Lion Ballroom where students, performing company, board members and their families celebrated our year of accomplishments with our large Industry and Government sponsors and top-level Familia donors. Those attending this semi-formal event enjoyed a Puerto Rican Buffet courtesy of the PRFDance Families, and special performances by the PRFDance Performing Arts Students and Company. When the Recital was over we enjoyed our buffet of arroz con gandules, pernil, and other wonderful dishes. A bombazo (bomba dance) culminated the event and dancing was enjoyed by all!



Cultural Lesson: Areyto

"...El Areyto o baile se componía de muchas gentes; unas veces bailaban los hombres solos, otras mujeres solas, otras mujeres y hombres, todos juntos formados en dos filas asidos de las manos y una guía que llevaba el compás y la voz, a quien respondían todos repitiendo la historia que cantaba"

Fray Iñigo Abbad y Lassierra

Areytos were religious ceremonies held by the Tainos often involving neighboring yucayeques. Ceremonial dancing was one of the principal activities. Music and feasting accompanied the ritual dance. Dressing up for an Areyto meant donning colorful body paint, parrot feathers, seashell and coral jewelry, gold nugget earrings and nose jewelry. The caciques and bohiques wore capes decorated with feathers. The areytos celebrated different achievements, rituals, and social activities, such as the birth of a cacique's child, marriage ceremonies, death, or a visit by important guests. They were used also as a way to pass along tribal histories, genealogies, tales of great conquests and battles. The maraca and güiro were played, as well as large drums. Conch shell trumpets and flutes made from bones or reed were played. Roasted iguana was served along with cassava bread, yams, and perhaps pineapples. Corn beer was a favorite during areytos. Areytos often lasted several days.

Las Navidades vienen prontito! And what better way to welcome the holidays than with a glass of "the Puerto Rican eggnog..."

COQUITO

2 ripe coconuts, shelled, grated	1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 14-oz can sweetened condensed milk	5 egg yolks
1 5-oz can evaporated milk	3 cups dark rum

- Place grated coconut in a pot with warm water to cover. Let it sit for 5 minutes.
- Wrap moist coconut shreds in cheesecloth. Squeeze tightly so that coconut milk is strained into saucepan. Discard grated coconut when done extracting milk.
- In a large bowl, combine condensed milk, evaporated milk, cinnamon, egg yolks, coconut milk, and rum. Pour in blender and blend 10-20 seconds.
- Pour in soda bottles (1 liter or 1 quart) and cap tightly. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
- Serve in glasses with a sprinkling of nutmeg or cinnamon. ¡Salud!

From *Puerto Rican Cuisine in America* by Oswald Rivera

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance

2003 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 Class - Mondays, 6pm

Youth Choir - Saturdays, 10:45am

Teen Drumming - Mondays, 6:30pm

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.

Padre Nuestro Taino

*Source: Prehistoria de Puerto Rico 1493:
Dr. Cayetano Coll y Toste*

Guakia baba, turey toca,
guami-keni, guami-caraya-guey
guarico-guaki-a tai-no-ti-
bo matun;
busica; guaki-a para yucubia,
aje-cazabi-, Jurakan-uÃ;
maboya-uai, Yukiyu-jan,
diosaj nabori--daca.
Jan-Jan catu.

Nuestro Padre, que en cielo estar,
Señor de tierra y agua,
Señor de luna y sol,
ven a nosotros, bueno,
grande, generoso.
Da a nosotros lluvia, planta y pan.
espiritu malo no, fantasma no, espiritu bueno
si,
de Dios siervo yo.
Asi- sea.

Be a Part of the Future!

Become a sponsor today and become part of the PRFDance & Cultural Center, a growing institution offering one of the few nationally-awarded educational and performance programs in Puerto Rican traditional arts and culture in the country. We are building a legacy that will be a focal point for Puerto Rican culture and education in Central Texas.

Join the “PRFDance Familia” and receive wonderful benefits:

- Subscription to our cultural newsletter
- Insiders emailing list
- Exclusive invitations
- Complimentary passes
- Shirts, totes
- Special backstage tours
- Free tickets, and more!



<u>Title</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Description</u>
Angelitos	\$5,000 and higher	Angels bring gifts from heaven
Padrinos	\$1,000 and higher	Godparents care for us as their own
Padres	\$500 and higher	Loving parents encourage and support
Hermanos	\$250 and higher	Brothers/sisters share happy family memories
Tíos	\$100 and higher	Uncles/aunts love to bring you presents
Amigos	\$25 and higher	Special friends can always be counted on
Coquí	\$15	Our precious treasures

Editors' Note: Don't miss the next issue of *Ritmo y Cultura*! Be sure and renew your Familia Membership today. Thank you for your continued support.

Brenda A. Acosta
Jennifer Rush



Our sincere appreciation goes out to Armstrong McCall Professional Beauty Supply, who provided the printing of this edition of *Ritmo y Cultura*. ¡Mil gracias!

Don Luis A. Ferré 1904—2003

“Ser joven no es tener pocos años. Es conservar viva la ilusión en el alma y despierta la capacidad en el espíritu para soñar; es vivir con intensidad y lleno de fe el corazón”.

A great philanthropist, humanitarian, art patron, successful businessman and politician, was born in Ponce in 1904. He earned an Engineering degree from MIT in Boston. Over the course of his life, Luis A. Ferre was involved in the family business, newspaper publishing, and university development. He also built and donated Ponce's Museum of Art and free public library. He was the founder of the New Progressive Party and governor of Puerto Rico 1969–1973. Admired for all his contributions to Puerto Rico, to humanity and for his integrity and modesty. He is one of four Puerto Ricans to have received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Died in Puerto Rico at the age of 99.

Descanse en Paz

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Dance & Cultural Center

15228 Quiet Pond Court
Austin, Texas 78728

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



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Sembrando Herencia 2003

Journey Theatre, Fine Arts Center at Akins High
December 6, 2003, 7:30pm

Join us for a joyful evening of traditional dance, music and song as we pass on a heritage to a new generation! The annual *Sembrando Herencia* features our Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance performing company of dancers and musicians, and showcases the participants of our performing arts programs. More than 50 of our own students, dancers, and musicians will take the stage in this lively celebration of Puerto Rican culture.



Come enjoy this year's *Sembrando* as we celebrate the faces of Puerto Rican Christmas from the mountains of our Island to the city of New York! Cheer loudly for the debut performances of our new Youth Choir and Drum Students! Sing along to traditional Puerto Rican Christmas songs as the performance culminates in a Parranda!

This lively presentation of traditional dance, music and song from Spanish, native Taino, and West African roots will take place on December 6, 7:30pm at the gorgeous, high-tech Journey Theatre, Fine Arts Center at W. Charles Akins

High School, 10701 South First Street in Austin, Texas. Admission \$7. Lap children free (2 & under).



Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's season of performances is annually funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, City of Austin under the Auspices of the Austin Arts Commission, the Texas Commission on the Arts, Garcia Communications and others.