

## PiraguaMan to the Rescue

Inside this issue:

Our annual full-length performance, *Sembrando Herencia*, took place December 2006 and debuted a mini-musical called *PiraguaMan*. This lively performance incorporated our students' recital



and the professional company performance in a delightful display of our hard work all year round. Ana Maria Maynard authored *PiraguaMan* and produced it in collaboration with Rupert Reyes who directs *Teatro Vivo*, a bilingual theater serving the Austin community. The musical was full of historical references to Puerto Rico's diverse influences and roots. Dancers and musicians brought to life our past and tied it into the present while displaying their skills as they proudly performed colorful *bomba*, *plena*, and modern moves that clearly enchanted the audience. We enjoyed and admired the musical's superhero, played by Israel, a talented company member. *PiraguaMan* was

sent by "El Gran Tostón", the great spirit in the sky, to find his forgotten Puerto Rican heritage. It was only by learning about the history of Puerto Rico and how to perform period appropriate dances that this superhero was able to attain a sense of pride in his rich cultural background. Every story needs a villain and "Mr. Vainilla" was wonderfully portrayed by Rupert Reyes who kept setting obstacles in *PiraguaMan's* path. Mr. Vainilla finally accepted defeat at the end as *PiraguaMan* learned the value of his beautiful culture.

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### *Saludos from the Founding Director*

Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance! We can hardly believe we are here, celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year in our brand new home! Last month my long-time teacher Joaquin Nieves, Director of 30 year old Guateque de Puerto Rico, came to Austin for a master-level workshop in music and dance. He was very impressed with the level and talent of our musicians, dancers, and teachers and was proud to see our new cultural center! It was so exciting to hear him say that what we have managed to create in only 10 years what took him 20 years to accomplish!

It seems likely only yesterday...the year was 1997 and my 6-month-old son William Pasqual and I watched the traditional dance performances from Mexico, Japan and other countries at Concordia's International Festival. I remember that day, looking down at my baby son and remembering how rich my childhood was, filled with Puerto Rican traditions and lively celebrations with congas, guiros, and maracas, and dancing all night long! On that day, a mother's dream to bring her culture alive for her baby son and her community was born.

In ten years, PRFDance has grown up to be one of four active cultural centers on the mainland US affiliated with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture for our offering of authentic, high-quality cultural programming. How have we gotten to this place in such a short time? It takes never-ending hours of artistic creation, educational planning and teaching, rehearsals, grant writing, promotions, and day-to-day administration that is being carried out by an ever growing number of volunteers. But at the very core, we have God to thank for His constant energy behind all the accomplishments we enjoy today, and the force that keeps us going when things are tough. Our reward is the realization that we have created a wholesome family-place that is nurturing the growth of all of our students and company, our staff, and especially the children. We are also grateful to Ruta Maya Importers and the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division -- without their support of our relocation and beyond, we would not be enjoying this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would also like to thank the National Endowment for the Arts for our just-announced 2007 NEA Chairman's Award that will support the continued growth of our program. Last but not least, we would like to thank the growing number of people in our community who give of themselves in small and big ways everyday.

Although there is still construction work to be done to finish our Cultural Center (this summer!), we are ready to take on the future! We are creating an anchor in the Southwest United States for Puerto Rican culture as one of the few cultural centers in the country, and the only in all of Texas and the four surrounding states, offering ongoing performance and educational programs in the full cross-section of traditional dance, music ensemble, percussion, youth choir, and cultural education for children through adults, as well as a professional-level performing company under one roof. With regular participants from San Antonio to Killeen, and an extended audience from Houston to Dallas, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center 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. Thank you for being a part of it!

Con cariño, su servidora,

Dr. Ana María "Tekina-rú" Maynard, Founding Director

# Sembrando Herencia Performance Piragua Man



# SEMBRANDO HERENCIA STUDENT RECITAL

As part of our cultural education, the PRFD offers choir, dance and percussion classes to children and adults. This year, the first half of the Sembrando Herencia show included performances by children, pre-teen, teen, and adult students. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends attended the show and were awed again and again by the children as they sang familiar Puerto Rican children's songs and danced to the music of the island. The importance of these classes to our community cannot be understated. We were proud to watch the performers shine as they presented this performance and displayed the skills they worked so hard to learn all semester.



Choir Student sing Traditional Puerto Rican Song Accompanied by the Musicos

## DANCE RECITAL



# OCTAVITAS – A COMMUNITY EVENT

Christmas in Puerto Rico is a grand celebration. It starts in November, (or before) and continues until the middle of January. On Sunday, January 14, 2007, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center hosted a community celebration called "Octavitas." In the island, Octavitas marks the official end of the Christmas season. It is celebrated for eight days starting January 9<sup>th</sup>, the day after the last of the Three Kings Days (January 6, 7 and 8). (The Three Kings Days celebrate the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to worship Jesus.) The Octavitas event consisted of informal performances by the musicians and the dancers, singing along to traditional Puerto Rican songs and playing traditional games. This was a great way to begin the new year of classes in our escuela!



Everyone participated to make this event a great success!!





*Passing on  
the Culture!!*



Well deserved bow by hardworking Miss Chinall

## Upcoming 2007/08 Performances & Events



### **Celebrando 2007 - June 23-24, 2007**

#### **10th Anniversary Maestros Reunion**

**June 23, 2007, 8 pm; June 24, 2007 2 pm**

**THIS IS THE BIG ONE - mark your calendars so you won't miss it!**

An ALL-STAR cast of Puerto Rican Masters who have trained us since our founding is coming to Austin to celebrate our 10th Anniversary. This event will take place at the Theatre at Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman Dr, in Austin. Admission \$15 Adults. \$10 Children (12 & under), lap children free (2 & under). Tickets on sale May 15th. Directions to Theatre: Take I35 to HW 290East. Turn east on 290, exit Berkman. Turn left on Berkman (to go under 290E).

### **5th Annual Spring Gala and Recital - May 19, 2007, 2-6pm**

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE brings the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to Austin with a full-length live music and dance production and showcases more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students. Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 3pm at the St. Louis Catholic Church, Wozniak Theatre, 7601 Burnet Road.

Admission general seating - \$10 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, lap children free (2 & under). Tickets at the door will be \$12 adults, \$5 children, lap children free (2 & under). For more information and to purchase tickets, see our website:

<http://www.prfdance.org/perform.htm>

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's performance season is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture.



## PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

### Performing Arts & Culture Programs

#### Traditional Dance Classes with Cultural Lessons

- Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Children - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Preteens - Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am
- Teens - Saturdays, 11:30-12:30pm

#### Music Program

- Percussion Class - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Youth Choir - All ages Youth.  
Saturday, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays,  
9-10am
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thurs,  
7-9pm

#### Class Descriptions & Schedule:

##### TRADITIONAL DANCE & CULTURE

(all ages, 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.

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

**PERCUSSION CLASS** - Thursdays, 6-7pm —This music class for all ages and expertise teaches 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 barriles, 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, 7-8pm)—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, for 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>



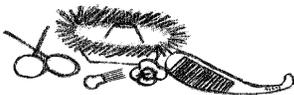
# Thank You for your sponsorship!

## 2007/2008 PRFDance Familia Members

- 
- **Padrinos (\$1000+)**
    - José & Rose M. Irizarry
    - David & Ana Maria Maynard
    - Rupert & JoAnn Reyes
  - **Padres (\$500+)**
    - Ed Flecha
    - Luis & Elida Bonet
  - **Hermanos (\$250+)**
    - Isabel & Robinson Bassat-Ortiz
    - Federico & Julia Subervi
    - Pedro & Melinda Rivera
  - **Tios (\$100+)**
    - Jenny Deleza
    - Jackson Cruz
    - Lizbeth "Yadira" Landrau
    - Gertrude Maynard
    - Brenda & Carlos Acosta
    - Vicmarie Arocho & Freddie Santiago
    - Roger & Maricarmen Nasr
    - Wayne & Desiree Hollingsworth
    - Sandra & Ramon Acosta
    - Adam Rosario
    - Elaine at MusicaBoricua.com
  - **Amigos (\$25+)**
    - Eunice Tanco
    - Ana Eva Lopez
  - Hilda Ramos
  - Jacobo & Joann Vargas
  - Zera Thompson
  - Karl Miller Lugo
  - Elsa & Carmelo Melendez
  - Mr. & Mrs. Greg Pappas
  - Ray & Susie Rodriguez
  - Jaime Leon
  - Diana Salazar
  - Kevin & Dayna Manning
  - Ernesto Munoz
  - Pat Brian
  - Armando Alvarado
  - Marjorie Hanshaw/Hanshaw's of Texas
  - Beatrice Aguilar/Made You Look Hair Salon
  - Eva Franklin/Season's Hair Salon
  - Habana, 6th Street, Inc./Yesbel & Ron
  - Chris Wilson/ A&A Appliance
  - Al Hollenbeck/Irongate
  - Jorge Tamayo/Health & Life
  - Tesoros/Dale Wilson
  - Vilma Lopez, Fairlady Salon
- **Volunteers & Significant InKind**
    - Ruta Maya Importers
    - Aurea Luisa Negron Pagan
    - Josefina Flores
    - Lucy Kerr
    - Cynthia Gebhardt
    - Rosa Montoya
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**We're on the web!**

**[www.prfdance.org](http://www.prfdance.org)**



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### **Piragua Recipe**

**(FRUIT - FLAVORED SNOW CONES)**

**by Eunice Tanco**

- 2 c. finely crushed ice
- 3 tbsp. fruit flavored syrup

Put the crushed ice in a sieve and drain a little. Place ice in a cup or glass and drizzle syrup over cone. Serve.

You can crush ice by putting it in a heavy plastic bag, pounding it with a hammer. It can also be crushed in the blender. Fill the blender with 2 cups cool drinking water. Add ice cubes made with pure water to four cups level. Cover the blender and turn to FRAPPE. Drain and follow instructions above.

Frozen cones can also be made from frozen Kool-Aid or other prepared drinks.

#### **SNOW-CONE SYRUP**

- 2 c. sugar
- 3/4 c. water
- 1 pkg. unsweetened Kool-Aid

Bring sugar and water to boil. Remove; add Kool-Aid. Cool. Refrigerate until ready to use. Pour over shaved or crushed ice.

