

Ritmo Y Cultura,

A newsletter by
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

Volume 2, Issue 5
Fall 2004

Celebrando 2004 - The Pirates of Puerto Rico with Special Guest Paracumbe'

Inside this issue:



On June 26-27th, we culminated our multi-phase Celebrando 2004 project with an annual season-ending, full-length performance.

As always, Celebrando was a lively performance of traditional dance, music and song featuring our professional-level company of dancers and musicians and masters from Puerto Rico.

This year's special guest was Paracumbe' direct from Puerto Rico who brought us Bomba and Plena from Puerto Rico's southern coast.

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In the first half of the show, PRFDance dancers and musicians enjoyed merging with Paracumbe in a celebration of our island's

Afro-Puerto Rican traditions! In the second half of the show, Paracumbe's musicians joined PRFDance in our debut of "The Pirates of Puerto Rico" our original mini-musical about the exciting adventures of Cofresi. This year's Celebrando was two years in the making! We hope you enjoy these photos of the show, as well as our joint performance with Paracumbe!



Saludos from the Founding Director

Saludos and welcome to a new season at the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center! This year we begin our 8th season with 60 participants enrolled in over 10 performing arts programs! WOW!

Our season kicked off with fun and music as 100 of our cultural center participants, families, and friends enjoyed our annual Familia Picnic, featuring a Bombazo to live drums, domino games, and a DJ spinning Salsa Vieja, Merengue, and more!!

Early this fall, our Cultural Center was honored by a visit from Nick Rivera, Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Houston. He was delighted by the quality of our programs and our students' joy and enthusiasm. Our families were proud to hear that we are the only performing arts and cultural education institution in all of Texas and our four surrounding states -- New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana -- offering 10 ongoing performing arts programs and a professional-level performing company of dancers and musicians under one roof.

This semester, we are proud to offer new classes to our already exciting roster of traditional dance for all ages, music ensemble, youth choir, and aerobics. This season we bring our "drum class" out of pilot-phase. It is now a full, weekly percussion class that is training our next generation! Youth, teens, adults, even parents are having fun learning the rhythms of our culture. We are also experiencing great joy and satisfaction with our new adult beginner/intermediate dance class that is training a new generation of very enthusiastic future dancers!

The semester has only just begun and already there is so much to be thankful for! The amount of daily, hard work required to keep a school of this size running (on voluntary cycles) is tremendous! But when I watch the "little ones" every joyful Saturday morning, when I see our participants of all ages having fun learning about or sharing our heritage, and leaving our "escuelita" with smiles of happiness, the promise of our bright future makes it all worthwhile!

Con cariño, su servidora,

Dr. Ana Maria Maynard, Founding Director

From the Classroom ...

The Thompson Girl's Love for Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance



One day I was looking for a dance class for my girls. I wanted to find a dance class that was different; I found the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance Company.

I talked to Dr. Ana Maria Maynard about the dance classes; they sounded different from others. Dr. Ana Maria Maynard told me about how the dance company is a big family. All cultures are involved.

The first time we came to visit, my girls loved the music and the dancing. I enjoyed what I saw. The music is soul filling, and the dance moves are deep in roots. So we enrolled.

I have seen a big change in my girls from the first day of class. Kailani loves to dance in front of a crowd now. The Bomba is one of her favorite dances. The bomba

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From the Classroom ...

dance has helped build her confidence. She can go out and move her skirt, knowing she controls the drum. She loves having new friends. Watching all the kids dance is wonderful.

Every parent is involved with helping. When there are costumes and little special things to be done, the families come together and make it happen. The culture lessons every Saturday morning during the class time is great for all to learn.

One lesson, Cheque morena, was about how the children in Puerto Rico would sing a song and dance in a circle around one child. The child would cover her eyes and turn around until she stops; whomever she is pointing to will be the next in the circle.

I have talked about PRFDance to so many people. All of my children are in the dance class; my niece is also. I am excited to continue growing with our new familia.

Thank you

Zera Thompson and Family

We all love to eat good food and listen to great stories!

PRFDance is compiling an anthology of traditional multicultural recipes (not necessarily Puerto Rican) and heart warming stories to go along with them.

This anthology will be published to raise funds for PRFDance's performance and educational programs. So if you can remember how to cook a traditional ethnic meal your family enjoyed while growing up, send in your favorite recipes and tales.

If your story or recipe is published, your copy will be free.

Please send your tales and recipes to:

C. Chernow

c/o Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance

15228 Quiet Pond Court

Austin, Tx 78728

or e-mail me at :

cathycherow@earthlink.net



Las Flores del Flamboyán

By Carmen G. Ortiz-Frogui 1999

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Manto rojo que de lo alto
lágrimas de sangre brotan.
Gotas minúsculas tus pétalos
que pintan la tierra toda.

Como un tumulto de gentes
de caras pintadas todas,
de un rojo y brillante color
que gritaran al unísono cosas.

Son las flores como ángeles
que en el espacio se notan.
Paseándose en los abismos
como una alfombra de rosas.

Simbriante con cierto ritmo
al roce del viento todas,
se mueven y se perciben
cual bandadas de palomas.

Otras flores a ti te miran
todas de envidia , rojas
pues por encima de ellas,
cubres con tu sombra a todas.

Crecen en lo alto
junto a las luces y alondras.
que vuelan a tu alrededor,
para posarse en la copa.

Flores del Flamboyán
Flores lindas, flores rojas
Pintas a mi Puerto Rico
Pintas a mi isleta, toda.

Celebrando 2004- The Pirates of Puerto Rico Photo Album



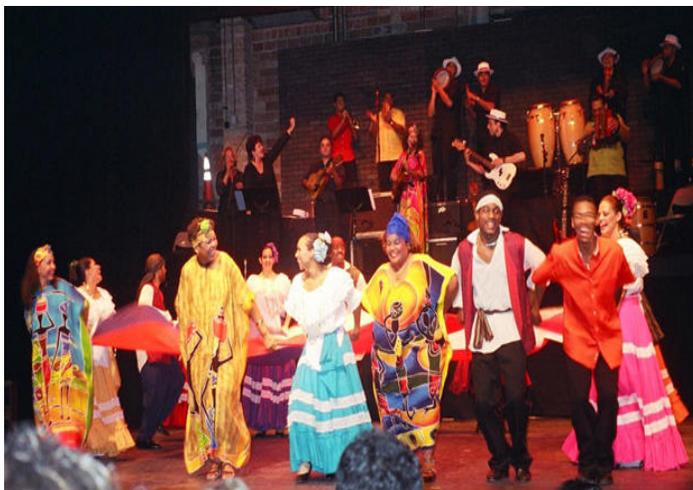
*Lively
Performance
of Bomba
and plena!*



Adventures of Pirate Cofresi!

What an exciting night, after years of research, to debut our mini-musical about the exciting adventures of Cofresi, the pirate and legendary hero whose story we brought to life in "The Pirates of Puerto Rico."

According to popular legend, Pirate Cofresi was the "Robin Hood" of Puerto Rico, stealing treasure from wealthy ships carrying riches to and from the Caribbean and sharing it with the poor. We had a wonderful time presenting this, our first mini-musical, and were honored to have Paracumbe from Puerto Rico join our musicians in this exciting adventure!



 PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

Spring 2005 Class Schedule - Begins January 8, 2005

Traditional Dance Classes with Cultural Lessons

- Beginner/Intermediate Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Intermediate/Advanced Adults - Mondays, 7-8pm
- Children - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Preteens - Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am
- Teens - Saturdays, 11:30-12:30pm

Informal Classes

- Ritmo Aerobics - Tuesdays - 7:30-8:30pm

Music Program

- Percussion Class - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Youth Choir - Children & Teens. Saturdays, 9:30-10am
- Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-8pm
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-8pm



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 the previous class towards a full-length choreography. Lessons on Puerto Rican culture and history, games and song are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

RITMO AEROBICS - Tuesdays - 7:30-8:30pm

This exciting, high energy class is targetted at increasing cardio and endurance, strength and flexibility. Get in shape to the explosive sounds of Salsa, Merengue, and more!

YOUTH CHOIR - Saturdays, 9:30-10am

This naturally bilingual class teaches traditional and popular Puerto Rican songs to children through 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 - Thursdays 7-8pm.

These programs teach Puerto Rican compositions to those demonstrating a proficiency in instrument, percussion, or voice. They are targeted for advanced students through professionals interested in learning authentic orchestration of Puerto Rican music and Puerto Rican 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>

Be 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



PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

Opportunities for Investment & Development Team Forming

The Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center is one of the few in the country, and the only performing arts and cultural education institution in all of Texas and our four surrounding states, offering ongoing performance and educational programs in the full cross-section of traditional dance, music and culture for children through adults, as well as a professional-level performing company under one roof.

Opportunities for investment include:

- 1 - **Sembrando 2004** - Puerto Rico Ever After, Dec 12, 2004. Seeking performance sponsors, industry and private donors.
- 2 - **Celebrando 2005** - sponsors for multiphase project for 2005 and next year's mainstage production with masters from Puerto Rico
- 3 - **Cultural Center** - operations support, scholarships, capital funding for eventual/larger facility

We are also forming a Development Team to drive these efforts. At this time, we are seeking one or more who are well connected, have a natural talent and enthusiasm for development, and would be excited to contribute their talent and energy to work with this unique, nationally visible program in Central Texas as we take it to the next level! Leadership opportunity for someone who already has a good vision for development and the hands to help execute. We can train enthusiastic, organized, reliable person(s) who have the enthusiasm and would like to be trained to be a leader in this area.

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Austin, Texas 78728



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



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Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance
presents
Sembrando Herencia 2004,
PUERTO RICO EVER AFTER

Journey Theatre
Performing Arts Center at Akins High
December 12, 2004, 3pm



PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE brings the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to Austin, Texas with a unique performance entitled Sembrando Herencia 2004 - "Puerto Rico Ever After."

Join our company of dancers and musicians for this lively performance of traditional dance, music and song, as we debut our newest mini-musical "Puerto Rico Ever After," the fun adventures of a Prince from a far-off land who falls in love with our beautiful island. Our joyful tale of happily-ever-after features special guest, writer and bilingual storyteller Elida Guardia Bonet. Sports-lovers will roar with excitement when we perform our high-energy estampa "Plena Baseball" !!!

Our full-length performance will pass on a heritage to a new generation as we showcase more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students. This lively celebration of Spanish, Taino and West African roots will take place Sunday, December 12, 3:00pm at Journey Theatre, in the Fine Arts Center at W. Charles Akins High School, 10701 South First Street, near Slaughter Lane, in Austin, Texas. Admission general seating - \$10 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, lap children free (2 & under). Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's season of performances is annually funded in part by the City of Austin under the Auspices of the Austin Arts Commission, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration, IBM, Garcia Communications, and others.

For more information call 512-251-8122, or visit our website, www.prfdance.org.

For advance tickets contact AustTIX at 474-TIXS (8497) or buy tickets online at www.austitix.com