



# Ritmo Y Cultura

A newsletter by  
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2009

Sembrando 2009

## The Journey Back

**Inside this issue:**



Sembrando Herencia is our annual full-length performance that passes on our heritage to a new generation! On December 7th, 2008, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance proudly debuted "The Journey Back," our newest bilingual musical, a mystical, action-adventure-comedy about a young woman who travels back to Puerto Rico to recover her lost Taino heritage. This original story by PRFDance Director Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard was based in personal experience and Puerto Rican history, and was in collaboration with her teacher and mentor Rupert Reyes, Director of Teatro Vivo.

<i>Director's Saludos</i>	2
<i>1st Annual Taino Family Camping Trip &amp; Octavitas</i>	3
<i>Coqui Class Update</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Performance</i>	5
<i>Classes and Programs</i>	6
<i>Sponsors &amp; Familia Members</i>	7
<i>Recipe</i>	8

Mariá was an ordinary waitress in Spanish Harlem until her life became filled with mystical dreams and adventure. Who is this Taina woman who appears in her dreams offering a maraca? Where did her long-lost cousin Bakeiro (Warrior) really come

from, and what is he hiding? Only travelling back to Puerto Rico would solve the hidden mystery that will give birth to a new generation! Everyone had a part in this year's lively performance showcasing 30 of our own, beginner children through professional adults performing traditional Puerto Rican live music and dance - Bomba, Plena, Seis and Taino – featuring 3 cuatros, 7 bomba drums, panderos de Plena, guitars, Taino mayohuacanes, pots and pans, and an amazing variety of percussion! We were especially proud to share several music and dance numbers with our new Junior Company. Many of these dancers, singers, and percussionists have been with us since they were 4 years old! We were honored to welcome special guests Cherokee David Hoskins & Family, now of Oklahoma (Indian Country), and Robert Bass of Eagle Point Drum to our musical that celebrated traditions and cultural pride! In the weeks leading to the show, we enjoyed a [Cover Photo Shoot](#) with our main characters, as well as a very special rehearsal where our Performing Company shared their talents with our Youth Performing Arts Students to prepare them for this joyful celebration of traditional dance, live music and song. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance is very proud of our mission to teach our cultural traditions to the next generation. This year's expanded two-hour musical gave our youth students a unique opportunity to perform in a complex musical production. It was a joy to watch them rise to the occasion to learn the complex material in traditional dance, choir, percussion, and acting!

Sit back and enjoy this harvest from our amazing semester!!



## *Saludos from the Founding Director*

Saludos!

We are on an exciting, fast moving train to the end of our 12th season that has been filled with great classes, memorable events, and the preparation of our end of season performances that are right in front of us.

This spring brought special events that our entire community enjoyed including Octavitas with Los Parranderos de Austin which filled our cultural center to brim with visitors, and our San Valentine Salsa Party where parents enjoyed a night of Salsa Dura with their children. Our annual Celebrando Spring project brought master workshops in Bomba and Plena by our Maestros from Mayagüez, Los Tambores de Felix Alduen. From our youth students to our professional company, we enjoyed dance and percussion workshops in high energy Bomba and Plena that the Alduen Family is known for.

In March, I was surprised and honored to be recognized by the Taino community with an Areito Award for Dance and Theatre. When they first contacted me, I turned it down. (I don't do "this" to be rewarded.) But they called and asked me to PLEASE take it, so I accepted it so that our cultural center can feel proud of the work we do in our community. To formally accept the award, PRFDance Youth dressed in Taino atuendo (native dress) and appeared with me in the filming of a short acceptance speech which was played during the awards ceremony at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York City on March 28th.

As I look back on all the exciting events over the last several months, the one thing I will forever remember is that this was "The Year of the Family." This spring sparked a new evolution of growth for PRFDance that is deep and meaningful. While we have always taken great pride in our cultural arts classes for children through adults, and program offerings that create a wonderful family atmosphere, this semester took a turn of "family" in ways I could never have imagined.

This spring, our Coqui Class is exploding with a bumper crop of active 2-1/2 year olds, truly the hope of the future! What is even more exciting is that we are discovering that both parents AND grandparents, extended families, are being drawn to this family-style, mixed-age class based in our cultural traditions targeted for young children and their favorite adult. Parents are remembering their childhood singing along to the Canciones Infantiles (traditional childhood songs). Grandparents are taking center-circle (with or without their grandchildren) and reliving their youth playing Juegos Infantiles (traditional children's games). Each week, a lively party ignites when it's time to learn the rudiments of rhythm and dance in the context of Puerto Rican Bomba and Taino traditions! What is the most exciting is that our little students are eagerly watching the Youth Dance classes and are enthusiastically looking forward to graduating into our Youth Dance and Music Programs in another year!

We also had a lot of excitement and many beautiful memories this semester preparing for Camp Mabry's performance on April 19th that brought 13,000 out to honor the American Heroes. Our Youth Choir, Junior Company dancers and percussion students performed with our professional company, PRFDance, for this special event. What made this semester of preparation a heartfelt surprise was watching Dads sign up for percussion class, and Moms joining the choir and musician ensemble, to help us prepare a "large" show for this important performance we would put on for thousands of attendees.

They say "it takes a village to raise a child." In this Year of the Family, we all – together – created that village at PRFDance. In this day and age when there are too many "bad" influences out in the world pulling on our children, it's been a wonderful blessing that PRFDance has become a rare place in this City where parents can participate with their children in music and dance classes and performances, in a wholesome, clean, family atmosphere!

Music and dance is a very important part of Puerto Rican culture. 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. 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!

Con cariño, naboria daca (su servidora),  
Dr. Ana María Tekina-eirú Maynard, Founding Director

## Fall 2008/Spring 2009 Highlights

### 1st Annual Taino Family Camping Trip

On Oct 10-13, 2008, our students and their families enjoyed a 1st Annual Taino Camping Trip for the whole family at Granger Lake, Texas. This 4-day family campout was the last event in our [Celebrando 2008 - Taino Project](#) that brought the Concilio Taino Guatu Ma Cu A Boriken to Austin so that our community could come to know the traditions of our Taino heritage – for most, for the first time.



El Concilio's Cacike Cacibaopil and Abuela Arani had educational activities that taught us how to sculpt in clay (vasijas de barro) and make maracas Taino Style. The Cacike taught us one of his favorite sports (beyond batu) – Jibaro Fishing! We made casabe bread in 1000 year old formal tradition, and, held a beautiful Naming Ceremony in front of sunset waters. At night we danced Areitos and sang Taino songs.



### Octavitas 2009 with Parranderos de Austin

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance partnered with The Parranderos de Austin for the largest "Octavitas" celebration Central Texas had ever seen! This performance event was free and open to the public. Hundreds attended from our local community, as well as families from as far away as Dallas, Killeen, and San Antonio.



This celebration and performance event demonstrates once again our commitment to share our culture with our community and pass down our beautiful heritage to a new generation!



### Coquí's "Brinca y Canta" Class



Maybe we should say "Adults bring your favorite child!" We are discovering parents are having as much fun as the kids in this program targeted for young children (0-4 years) and their favorite adults – parents, grandparents, whole families! This class is teaching preschoolers to develop pre-musical and pre-dance skills and concepts through a culturally relevant curriculum.



### Todos Disfrutamos en la Clase de Coquí!!



"Coquí, Coquí" dice la ranita de Puerto Rico. "Coquí, Coquí" dicen mis hijas gemelas de dos años al recordar su clase favorita de todos los sábados. Cuando la clase comienza los niños y padres se sientan en el piso y todos cantamos "Mi Escuelita" mientras la maestra toca la guitarra. Mis hijas observan cómo todos los adultos se saben la canción y se dan cuenta que no es otra invención loca de su madre. En cierto momento sus ojos se concentran en las cuerdas de la guitarra y yo sé que están disfrutando la canción. Es un momento de felicidad inexplicable.

Después jugamos nuestro juego favorito: "Chequi Morena". Luego, los niños eligen un instrumento para aprender a identificar lo que es el ritmo. Después viene el baile. Es lo más chulo del mundo. Aquí nadie se salva. Todos bailan: adultos y niños. Es un buen ejercicio cultural y es súper divertido!

"COQUÍ, COQUÍ, CO-  
QUÍÍÍÍ!!!!!!!!!!"



## Upcoming Performances

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE presents:



### Esperanza de la Herencia 2009

In partnership with the Mexican  
American Cultural Center

May 16, 2-4 pm @ the

Mexican American Cultural Center

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance brings the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to Austin with a new performance event, Esperanza de la Herencia, dedicated to our cultural center Youth. This live music and dance production will showcase more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians,

and performing arts students, and will include special performances by our professional-level performing company, PRFDance. Children are the hope of the future. We hope that the children who participate in our programs develop a love for our culture that will last a lifetime, and will continue to celebrate and transmit this joyful heritage to future generations. This event will be in partnership with the Mexican American Cultural Center and will be free to children of all ages under 18. Adults, \$5 suggested donation.

### Celebrando 2009-The Bomba and Plena of Mayagüez

With special guests from Los Tambores de Felix Alduén

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance celebrates the rich culture of Puerto Rico each year with a unique performance "Celebrando" with Puerto Rican folklore masters direct from Puerto Rico! This year, in a once in a lifetime performance PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE will merge with Los Tambores de Felix Alduen for an exciting performance of Bomba and Plena from Mayagüez. Mark your calendar and join our performing company of dancers and musicians for this exciting performance that will feature Bomba, Hot Plena, Taino music and dance and some surprises we will keep to ourselves. If you love percussion, this will be an amazing show you won't want to miss! This program will be sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture.



# PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

## Performing Arts & Culture Programs

---

history, games and songs are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

### 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

- See



**Socials & Workshops**  
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,



## 2007/2008 PRFDance Sponsors & Familia Members

### SPONSORS

- Ruta Maya Coffee
- National Endowment for the Arts
- City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division
- The Texas Commission on the Arts
- The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture
- Target
- Fiesta Mart Stores
- IBM

### FAMILIA MEMBERS

#### Padrinos (\$1000+)

- Anonymous Donor
- José & Rose M. Irizarry
- David & Ana Maria Maynard
- Gladys & Ty Oksuzler (Chevere)

#### Padres (\$500+)

- Victoria Crawford
- Stephen Pruitt
- Mickey & Judy Golden-Bentley

#### In-kind Support & Volunteers:

- Don Yojan
- Rosa Montoya
- Ruta Maya Importers

#### Hermanos (\$250+)

- Noe & Rosa Montoya
- Pedro & Melinda Rivera

#### Tios (\$100+)

- Roger & Maricarmen Nasr
- Elizabeth & Brandon Mirabel, I9 Sports
- Federico & Julia Subervi
- Jenny Deleza
- Meliza Manzano
- Gertrude Maynard
- Roxanne M. Howell
- Meli

#### Amigos (\$25+)

- Jessica Montoya
- Edwin Baez
- Mr. & Mrs. Robinson Bassat-Ortiz
- Julian & Sylvia Zuniga
- Michelle Enriquez
- Jaime León
- Jeannette Marrero
- Penny Wilson
- Ray & Susie Rodriguez
- Ernesto Munoz
- José Santiago
- Rupert & Joann Reyes
- Melanie Daude
- Al Hollenbeck/Irongate
- José Camarena/Arandas Taquería
- Chris Wilson/A&A Appliance
- Eva Franklin/Season's Hair Salon
- Jorge Tamayo/Health & Life
- Hilda Hernandez/Falcon Motor Co.
- Yesbel & Ron/Habana 6th Street

**We're on the web!**

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



*Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Inc*  
Copyright © 2008

### **Recipe for Maduros (FRIED SWEET PLANTAIN BANANAS)**

**By: Emelis Bermudez**

Sliced Maduros (sweet plantain bananas) are fried. They are served as a side dish.

Ingredients:

3 ripe plátanos

Oil for frying

Cut the ends and the peels off of the ripe plátanos. Slice the plátanos into 1/2 inch thick pieces.

Pour oil in a frying pan to 1/2 inch deep (the same thickness as the plátano slices). When the oil is hot (a drop of water boils on contact), carefully place a single layer of plátanos in the oil. Fry the plátanos until they turn dark.

Traditionally these sweet fried plantain bananas are served to accompany any other Puerto Rican food like white rice and beans or yellow rice with fried pork.

One variation of this dish is frying the whole sweet banana and after it is cooked, it can be sliced in the middle (not the whole way), just enough to put in cooked picadillo meat (already cooked with Puerto Rican spices like Adobo, Sazón con Achiote, and Sofrito). This dish is a meal in itself and it is called a "Canoa".

Enjoy!