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## **Se celebra el festival de cultura cubana más grande que jamás se haya visto en Europa**

Cuba50, el festival más grande de la cultura cubana que jamás se haya visto fuera de La Habana ofrece un fin de semana espectacular que servirá de escaparate de todos los aspectos de la cultura de la isla. Tendrá lugar en los días 27 y 28 de junio en el Barbican Centre de Londres.

El festival será el punto culminante de más de 200 eventos que se celebrarán a lo largo del 2009 por todo el Reino Unido. Habrá actuaciones de los Van Van, la orquesta de baile más célebre de Cuba, de Pablo Milanés, leyenda de la nueva trova, de la dinámica compañía afrocubana de rumba, Yoruba Andabo y de muchos más de los mejores artistas de la isla. Al mismo tiempo que tendrán lugar dichas actuaciones en el escenario principal del Barbican, durante todo los días del sábado y del domingo habrá otras funciones gratuitas con música en vivo y actividades para la familia.

A lo largo de este año del 50 aniversario de la Revolución, Cuba50 está celebrando y promoviendo la diversidad de la cultura cubana del medio siglo pasado hasta el presente. El festival reúne el mayor número de exposiciones, actuaciones y actividades, tanto en gran como en menor escala, que jamás se haya visto y abarca el cine y el teatro, la música, el baile y las artes plásticas. Asimismo incluye un gran número de trabajos de escritores e información sobre el deporte, la enseñanza, los viajes y las iniciativas que se toman en Cuba para asegurar la sostenibilidad ecológica.

Entre los conferenciantes habrá invitados especiales que incluyen a Aleida Guevara, hija del Ché, y Mariela Castro, directora de CENESEX, activista para los derechos de los gays, las lesbianas y los transexuales e hija de Raúl Castro, presidente de Cuba.

El festival Cuba 50 ([www.cuba50.org](http://www.cuba50.org)) que se celebrará por todo este país se ha ampliado por el interés que ha suscitado y más de 200 eventos se están promoviendo por todas partes del Reino Unido a lo largo del 2009.

Su excelencia, René Mujica Cantelar, embajador de Cuba en el Reino Unido, comenta: “Espero que a través de Cuba50 se vea un incremento del interés y de la comprensión que el pueblo británico tiene de la cultura y la sociedad contemporánea cubanas. Es mi deseo también que se fortalezcan los lazos entre los pueblos de nuestros dos países.”

Rob Miller, director del festival Cuba 50 añade: “Cuba está rebotante de talento en todos los aspectos de la cultura. En ese país se cultiva el talento de cada individuo en todos los niveles, desde los ciudadanos más jóvenes hasta los más mayores. El espectacular festival Cuba50 va a dar crédito de forma adecuada a la



abundancia de creatividad que sigue floreciendo y desarrollándose en la isla. Esperamos que este año todos se unan a nosotros para asistir a las numerosas actividades que se celebrarán por todo este país y que todo el mundo vaya disfrutando y aprendiendo algo de la cultura cubana.”

**Para obtener más información, entrevistas y billetes para la prensa, póngase en contacto con Natasha Hickman o Trish Meehan en el +44 (0) 20 8800 0155,**

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**Note to Editors:**

Cuba50 is an initiative of, and coordinated by, the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, an NGO which campaigns for an end to the US blockade of Cuba and for normalisation of relations between the UK and Cuba. For more information see [www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk](http://www.cuba-solidarity.org.uk)

Cuba50's sponsors and supporters include Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Cuba Tourist Board, Air Cubana, the Cuban Embassy in the UK, Havanatour UK Ltd, Cuban Ministry of Culture, Unite the Union, UNISON, Thompsons solicitors, OH Parsons & Partners solicitors, the Music Fund for Cuba charity, ComoNo productions, Havana Club, SoyCuba Contemporary Art.

**For details of all events mentioned and more plus cultural news from Cuba see [www.Cuba50.org](http://www.Cuba50.org)**

**DETAILS ON BARBICAN FESTIVAL ACTS AND OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday 27 June**

**Cuba50: Pablo Milanés + Harold Lopez Nussa + Son del Tropicico**

7.30pm, Tickets £10/15/20

**Pablo Milanés**

An emotional genius. No one else can write love songs quite like the great singer-songwriter Pablo Milanés. His unique voice is known throughout the Spanish speaking world, his songs sung by heart. One of the great composers of *nueva trova*, his bitter sweet love songs engender a mood that does not exist elsewhere in Cuban music, as such he helped to redefine Cuban song.

**Harold Lopez Nussa**

Pianist Harold Lopez Nussa was born into a family of musicians in Cuba, and is nephew of famous pianist Ernan Lopez Nussa. His mesmerising Cuban jazz piano style reveals him to be following in the great tradition of Chucho Valdes, Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Roberto Fonseca.

**Son del Tropicico**

The nine members of Son del Tropicico, from Havana and Santiago, are masters of the Son style, the predecessor of Salsa and so many contemporary Latin styles.

**Sunday 28 June**

**Cuba50: Los Van Van + Yoruba Andabo**

7.30pm, Tickets £ 10/15/20

**Los Van Van**



Juan Formell, bassist and founder of Los Van Van, is one of the most important figures in the history of Cuban music since the revolution. In the late 1960s, he formed Van Van and developed a whole new rhythmic approach. They created the *Songo* rhythm which brought the power and drama of rock and funk into Cuban music making Van Van the premier dance group on the island – and influencing all the Cuban dance acts who followed. Their hugely popular songs, full of wry observations and street slang, always capture the Cuban zeitgeist as seen from the streets of Havana.

#### **Yoruba Andabo**

Yoruba Andabo is a company of singers, percussionists and dancers performing original West African music styles preserved since the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Loosely translated as '*Friends and followers of Yoruba lands and culture*', the group emerged out of spontaneous musical get-togethers held at Havana harbour in 1961 by a group of dock workers, turning professional in 1980. Their dynamic performance celebrates the irresistible power of Cuba's African rhythms, the source of the countless dance styles which Cuba has given the world.

Both concerts are produced by the Barbican in association with Cuba50.

#### **June: Daughters of the Revolution**

Talks by Aleida Guevara, daughter of Cuba Guevara and Mariela Castro, Director of CENESEX, LGBT rights campaigner and daughter of Cuban President Raul Castro.

#### **Other associated events**

##### **Sunday 21 June**

##### **Cuba50 in Victoria Park: Orquesta Aragon + Changüí de Guantánamo + other artists**

from 1pm

A free open-air Cuban music spectacular. Paradise Gardens, Victoria Park, London E3

##### **Orquesta Aragon**

Now marking their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, Orquesta Aragon were founded by bassist Oreste Aragon in Cienfuegos and became international stars during the cha-cha-cha boom of the 1950s; they have come to exemplify the charanga tradition of the island – riffing strings and flutes giving a lighter, folkier and more rural sound than the brass sections of salsa.

##### **Changüí de Guantánamo**

Guantánamo was the birthplace of *changüí*, a style of Cuban music, at the beginning of the 20th century, generally seen as the first contemporary music to merge the Spanish guitar sound with African rhythm. The group have been performing together since before the revolution and are still based in Guantánamo.

##### **Thursday 25 June**

##### **Cuba50 at Hackney Empire: Orquesta Aragon + Yoruba Andabo**

8pm; Tickets £ 17.50

A showcase of the African and rural roots of Cuban contemporary music and dance styles. Hackney Empire, London E8. Box Office: 020 8985 2424 [www.hackneyempire.co.uk/](http://www.hackneyempire.co.uk/)

##### **Saturday 27 June**

##### **Cuba50 in Gillett Square: Yoruba Andabo + Changüí de Guantánamo**

4pm – 8pm

Open-air performance near home of the Vortex jazz club. Gillett Square, London N16

All above are produced as part of the Barbican's summer music series BLAZE09 (see Barbican website for details).

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#### **JULY HIGHLIGHTS**

**CineCuba 3-9 July.** A major Cuban film festival at London's Barbican featuring contemporary films and documentaries, accompanied by special events and an exhibition of classic Cuban film posters.

UK premiere of Cuban salsa and timba band **Bamboleo** at London's **HMV Forum, 18 July.**

Cuba's greatest male ballet star **Carlos Acosta** performs at **Manchester International Festival 9-11 July** and at the **Coliseum, London, 22-25 July.**

**Tolpuddle** music and politics festival in **Dorset 18-19 July** has a Cuba50 focus with live Cuban music and workshops.

#### **AUGUST-SEPTEMBER**

Cuba50 film tour of UK cinemas July – September.

#### **OCTOBER**

11-piece **Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club**, including remaining members of the original Buena Vista Social Club and other top musicians performing their traditional Cuban son on a nationwide tour **2 Oct-8 Nov.**

Berwick upon Tweed holds a day's festival dedicated to Cuba on **4 October.**

The Cuban community in London comes together to celebrate Cuba's National Day of Culture, **20 October.**