



EL OBSERVADOR

Celebrating the Diversity of Cuban Music and Dance

Coming to Portland for five magical nights, the Milagro Bailadores unveils the Cuban spirit in "Noches de Cuba," an exciting journey of music, folkloric and modern dance.

"Noches de Cuba" celebrates the unique blend of Africa, Spain and the Caribbean influences that exist in Cuban music and dance.

From the Yoruba or Lucimí people from West Africa brought to Cuba a pantheon of deities or orichas personifying the forces of nature. Eleguá is the keeper of the gateway to the spirit world and a mischievous trickster who determines our fate. Ogún is the divine blacksmith whose mariwo (raffia) protects the forest in which he dwells.

Ochún, goddess of the rivers seduces with her arousing laugh and sweetened honey. Changó, temperamental and amorous, is the owner of fire and thunder.

La rumba, developed in Cuba among the Congolese and Carabali peoples brought from central Africa and Eastern Nigeria, is now a national dance with several forms: Yambu, for the elders, played on cajones or box drums, the sensuous guaguancó, and the rhythmic, storytelling mimeic rumbas, such as "La-la," the young woman who dislikes housework

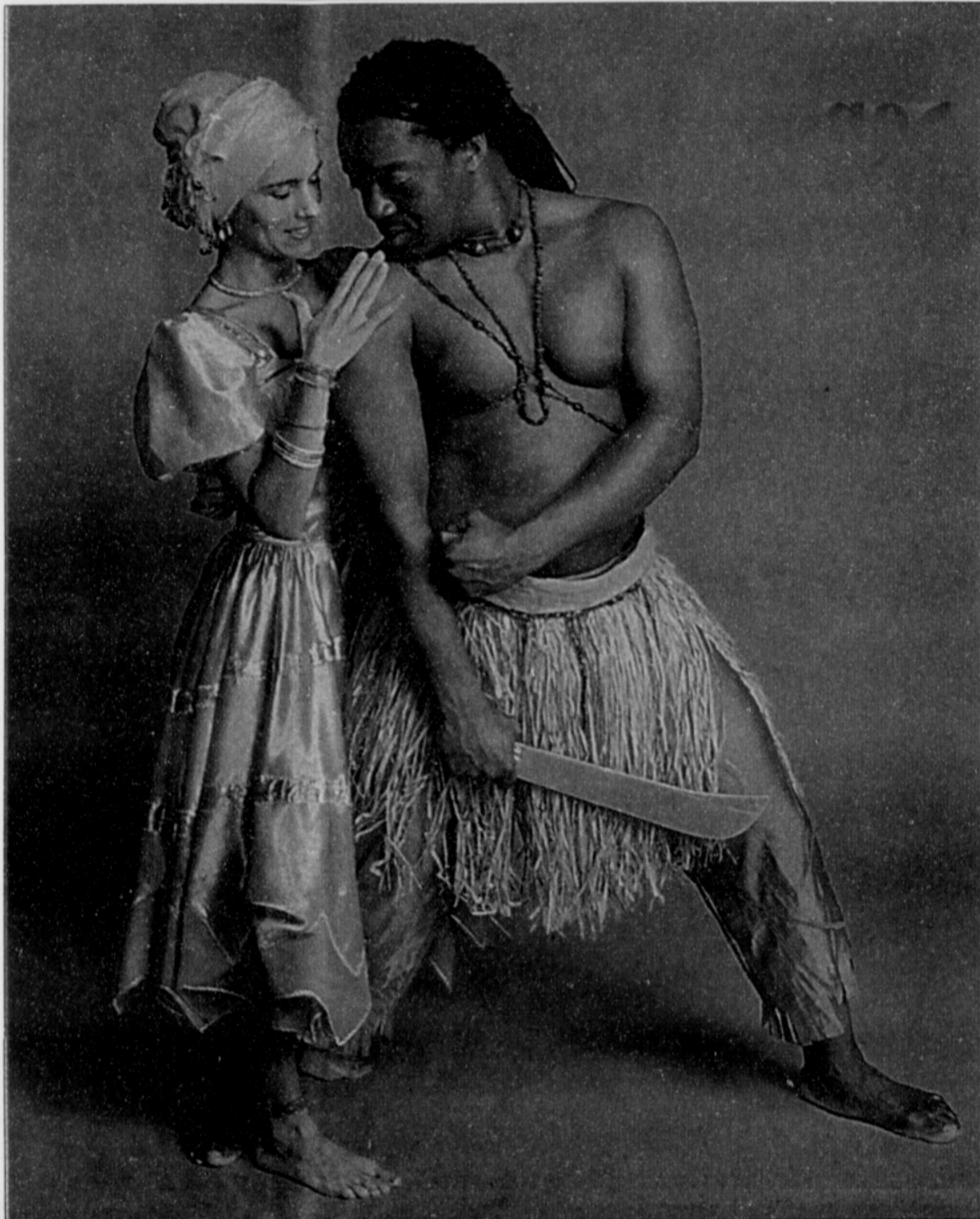
and would rather sing and dance. Makuta and yuka, traditional dances brought centuries ago to Cuba by the Congolese people, celebrate sexuality and vigor. From the Yoruba people of West Africa, "Noches de Cuba" features music and dance of the orichas (deities) such as Eleguá, mischievous keeper of the crossroads, and Ochún, seductive goddess of the river.

From the Congoloses of Central Africa, makuta and yuka, celebrate sexuality and vigor. Classical compositions find their roots in Spanish flamenco. La rumba, which has developed into the national dance of Cuba, brings to the stage the infectious rhythms of the wildly flirtatious guaguancó.

Experiments with choreography in the spirit of Cuban modern dance invigorate the presentation. Join the Milagro Bailadores as they bring the spirits to life in "Noches de Cuba!"

A special preview will be held on Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. Opening night is Friday, March 30 at 8 p.m.

The performances will continue through Thursdays, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 p.m. All performances will be held at El Centro Milagro, 525 SE. Stark. Call 503/236-7253.



The Milagro Bailadores dancers will be performing folkloric and modern Cuban dance at El Centro Milagro theatre.

Tri-Met's online Trip Planner Goes Bilingual West Coast's First Spanish Trip Planner

Tri-Met is making it easier for Spanish-speaking riders to take transit. Beginning March 1, it will launch a Spanish version of its popular new online Trip Planner, which averages about 600 visits a day. Tri-Met is the first transit agency on the West Coast to offer trip planning in Spanish. "We've added Spanish to our website to make it easier for the growing Latino community to ride transit," said Fred Hansen, Tri-Met General Manager.

Planning A Trip
Using the online Trip Planner at www.tri-met. Is easy in either English or Spanish - just enter this information:

- * Your starting point and destination.
 - * When you either want to leave or arrive
 - * Personal preferences, like the fastest trip or fewest transfers.
- Once entered, the program gives several trip options and instructions, including:
- * Directions to the nearest bus stop or MAX station
 - * When you need to board
 - * Where to transfer or get off
 - * Walking distances/directions, fares and travel times
- Other Spanish Website Topics
Tri-Met's internet site, which gets more than 100,000 visits a month, includes Spanish versions of many of its popular topics:
- * Servicios Accesibles de Tri-Met (Accessible Service)
 - * Boleto de la Aventura
 - * (Adventure Pass)
 - * Bicicletas en Tri-Met (Bicycles on Tri-Met)

Latino Population Growing

By JORDANT PINE
DIVERSITYINC.COM

The U.S. Latino population grew so fast since 1990 that it's now roughly the same size as the African-American population, a statistic originally predicted for 2010. Latinos now number 35.3 million, or 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, having grown by almost 60 percent over the last decade, according to The Washington Post. Meanwhile, there are 36.4 million African Americans in the United States, representing 12.9 percent of the population. However, 1.7 million of these African Americans also checked some other race on the census form.

Post demographers arrived at these numbers by manipulating data from a March 2 report by the Census Bureau's Executive Steering Committee for Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Policy (ESCAP). "But they aren't much different from what we will release officially," said Jorge Del Pina, assistant division chief for the Census Bureau's population division. Market researchers see the new numbers as a wakeup call for companies whose focus on the Latino market may have been half-hearted in the past. "I think a number of marketers are still reticent about this market. They're still thinking, 'This whole Hispanic thing will pass,'" said Juan Faura of Dallas-based Grupo Samba, which does research and consulting on the Latino market for clients such as Pepsi, Hershey and Procter & Gamble.

"This [new report] basically puts that idea to rest." "If anything, the Hispanic market will continue to grow exponentially, not pass," he added. "To not address it is tantamount to sealing your fate." Latinos are now the second largest population in the United States, and 80 percent of them are under the age of 44, Faura said. That means companies that are targeting Latinos now are building a long-term relationship with those will dominate consumer buying in 20 years.



Es el segundo estado más grande en los EE.UU. Y todos los residentes están tratando de salir.

Es más grande que Texas, Florida o Nueva York, pero no lo encontrará en ningún mapa. Tiene más habitantes que Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nueva Jersey y Nevada combinados, pero parece que no cuentan. Es el hogar de una de cada once familias en este país. Es donde vive uno de cada seis niños ahora. Es donde están cruelmente atrapadas más de 32 millones de personas desesperadas. Es el estado de pobreza en los Estados Unidos. Si usted fuera pobre, ésta sería su casa.

LA POBREZA.
El estado olvidado en los EE.UU.

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