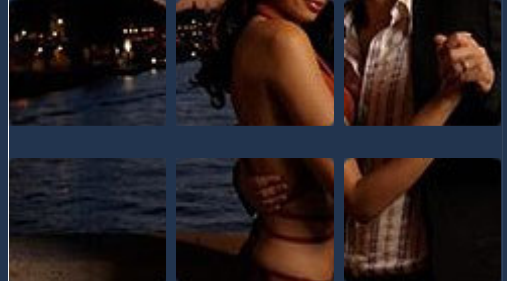


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WHAT'S NEW AT MAMBO PRODUCTIONS?

Students Salsa Party!

It's party time again! Our Students Salsa Party is held at Juan's Mexican Restaurant on Friday November 2nd. It's open to everyone, cover charge \$5.00, dress code casual. Door opens at 9:30pm, Show starts at 10:00pm. Please make sure to dance with at least one person you have never danced with before and if you see someone sitting by themselves invite them over to your table. Create Unity Through Salsa!

November 5th – "Bring a Friend" Week

November 5th marks the beginning of our new Fall#2 Session. It is also our first "Bring A Friend" week (from Nov 5th – Nov 12th). Each student is welcome to bring one friend to class during this week to either watch or to participate (drop-in fee is only \$15.00). So, don't forget to invite your friends or family members!

*** New - Nightclub Survival Class ***

We would like to introduce a **new instructor at Mambo Productions: Alexis Miguel Mora Blanco**. He is straight from Cuba where he studied Cuban Salsa & Rumba with Yoruba Andabo. In this class, Alexis will teach (along with Alexandra Sell) the basic Rueda, Cuban Style Salsa, Bachata, Cuban Rumba and Merengue. **This has become a very popular class**, available to all levels, so register early!

Remembrance Day

Just a reminder, YWCA will be closed on Monday, November 12th in observance of Remembrance Day. Somehow, we get the feeling that our students might pick celebrating

the holiday over dance class! The Monday classes will be postponed until the following week.

UPCOMING DANCE CLASSES

Fall Session 2 (Nov.5 - Dec.14, 2007)

Day / Time	Class / Level	Start Date / Duration	Location	Cost
Monday 6:30-8:00pm	Beg./Int. Salsa (level 2)	Nov.5 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Monday 8:15-9:15pm	Beginner Salsa (level 1)	Nov.5 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Tuesday 6:30-7:30pm	Nightclub Survival (Beg.)	Nov.6 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm	Beginner Salsa (level 1)	Nov.7 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Thursday 7:00-8:00pm	Beginner Salsa (level 1)	Nov.8 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Friday 8:15-9:15pm	Beginner Salsa (level 1)	Nov.9 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Tuesday 7:30-8:30pm	Advanced Salsa	Nov.6 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00
Thursday 8:15-9:15pm	Intermediate Salsa	Nov.8 (6 weeks)	YWCA Fitness on 5th 320 - 5th Ave. SE	\$82.00

ARTICLE – HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU DANCE?

Many of you just starting to learn salsa are curious how much time should be allocated to dancing. I guess that depends on how fast you want to improve.

If all you do is take a one-hour salsa lesson once a week, you will likely not learn too quickly and it may be difficult for you to go out salsa dancing and feel comfortable on a dance floor.

The general rule of the thumb is 3-4hrs of practice for every 1 hour of class time. That may seem like a lot of time but keep in mind that one evening of salsa dancing will fly by and before you know it, you have put in the required practice time without it feeling like homework! That is the beauty of salsa dancing – you end up having so much fun that you don't realize you're working out. Also, keep in mind that just going out and watching people on the dance floor is a lesson in itself – it may not feel like it but by merely observing others dance you pick up things such as styling and musicality. On top of that, once you go out a couple of times and get used to the salsa scene & you will find it fun, social, energetic and life-changing. Alternatively, coming to different dance classes more than once a week is a sure way to get your confidence up.

Other ways of practicing include dancing at home with a partner or on your own. You can use a DVD or just a mirror and some music. You have YouTube to assist you visually and you should try to listen to salsa music wherever you go. Try attending salsa socials in both Calgary and Edmonton. If there is a salsa concert, you will most likely find salseros there to practice with. You may want to research different local dance forums, or sign up on Mambo Productions on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2360967156>) to find out what's going on in town & where people go out. Really get involved and you will find an amazing new world that is social, musical, fun and exciting!

ARTICLE - YORUBA ANDABO REVIEW

Sacred and Profane, Ancient and Modern

by Joyce Corbett with photos by Roger Humbert

Yoruba Andabo is a renowned troupe of singers, dancers and percussionists born out of a weekly gathering of drummers and dancers on the docks of Havana. Not only are they keepers of African and Afro-Cuban traditions but they perform those traditions as fine art. In his introduction, Michael Marcuzzi, drummer and teacher at York University, tried to impress upon the audience the cultural significance and artistic mastery of Yoruba Andabo, all the while appearing to know that no brief description of their work could ever be adequate. When Cuban singer-rapper Telmary took over the microphone as M.C., the glow and pride with which she introduced these "defenders of tradition" raised our expectations even higher. Shortly into the show, it would become obvious why Yoruba Andabo has won so many awards (Latin Grammy 2000, Cubadisco 2005 among them) and gained such prestige.

The Yoruba were the largest ethnic group among the slaves brought to Cuba. The name also designates their religion, their language and the territory in West Africa from whence they came. "Andabo" means follower, admirer or friend in the Caribali language of the Calabar region, another of the origins of African peoples exploited as slaves. Yoruba Andabo celebrates the varied African traditions of the Cuban people, both religious and popular, striving for authenticity while creating a powerful stage show. They also perform the popular music and dance which developed from the meeting of the African and European cultures.

The first piece of the show was titled "Congo" in the program. It opened with a woman carrying a clay pot containing greenery on her head, interacting with other, cigar-smoking, women, then launching a series of agile stick dances. An outburst of the fast and exciting Congolese makatu rhythm, ancestor of guaguancó and Columbia volleyed forth from the percussionists. Dancers danced erotic and portrayed a spirit possession.



“Yoruba”, arguably the most magnificent piece of the show followed. It was a vivid portrayal of the deities or orishas of Yoruban religion as they are known in Cuba. Each deity is associated with a traditional style of costume, representative colours and specific symbolic objects. Yoruba Andabo’s costumes and accessories were brilliant and sumptuous.

Particular types of movements are used for each deity. The Yemayá, or goddess of the sea, in this performance was expert at swirling the skirt of her dress, transforming its white horizontal stripes into waves moving through the blue sea of cloth. She would eventually leave the stage for the floor, still swirling in front of the beach of chairs and people. Of course this was after the playful trickster Elegguá, opener of the ways, had delighted us with his dance, strutted the stage and mirthfully sprayed beer from his mouth.



Yemayá

The powerful god of iron and war, Oggún, was portrayed by a suitably large and powerful man resplendent in green, black and gold, clearing the road with his machete. As with all of the dancers we would see that night, not only were his movements flawlessly executed but the control over and use of facial expression was extraordinary. He would later strike his weapon against the axe of the virile Changó, god of thunder and lighting, but Obatalá, the essence of purity, justice, and clear thought, suitably clothed in cool white satin, would enter into no such strife. The orishas were convincing in their roles, illustrating their characters through movement, costume and expression, backed by the sounds of the ceremonial b́atá drums and haunting ancient chants.

After intermission, we were immediately stirred by new sounds of equally ancient drums and chants, then startled by the appearance of the iremes, spirits of the dead from the secret societies of the Abakuá tradition. With their elaborately trimmed legs and long mask faces of black cloth tapering into a topknot, these were the most striking costumes of the evening. Very unique. After this surreal sensory experience came the secularly sexy rumba. For the guaguancó, Yoruba Andabo was joined by dancer Felix Pupy Insua, now based in New York City. Pupy and a perfectly sculpted female dancer displayed their sexiest moves in front of as well as on the stage; competitive, flirtatious and proud. Ending the show firmly in the present with a hip-swivelling connection to the ancient past, two young women in camouflage-patterned capris and two young men dressed in white, danced, rapped and sang to commanding rhythms. They flowed down onto the floor pulling people up to dance with them, then danced down the aisle with audience members following in a conga line. It was a light and fun ending to a wondrous evening, a rich experience of a complex culture, the sacred and the profane, the ancient and the modern.

Contact Us

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