



LOS MUÑEQUITOS DE MATANZAS

SPRING 2011 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

Hailed as the “reigning regents of rumba” by the San Francisco Chronicle, “the essence of Cuba’s musical soul” by the San Diego Union Tribune and “truly keepers of a sacred flame” by Latin Beat, Los Muñequitos de Matanzas are amongst the highest regarded percussionists in the world and masters of Afro-Cuban ritual and rumba music and dance. Founded in 1952, the group currently spans three generations of an extended family of musicians, singers and dancers.

From 1992- 2002, Los Muñequitos thrilled U.S. audiences and built a devoted fan base with their performances and workshops throughout the country. MAPP International Productions is proud to produce what promises to be an electrifying return tour in Spring 2011. They will perform *Tambor de Fuego*, featuring work from their latest recording, tributes to legendary members and new pieces created especially for this eagerly awaited tour.

Matanzas, Cuba is the most vital African city in the Western Hemisphere, and the music of Los Muñequitos de Matanzas keeps alive 500 years of drumming, chanting and dance, preserving the vibrant culture of the African Diaspora intrinsic to Cuba’s living legacy. While sustaining these cultural traditions, the group’s choreography and new musical compositions continue to innovate from the African roots of Cuban culture. In one evening’s concert, Los Muñequitos may play the rhythms and drumming of the Santeria religion which originated with the Yoruba tribe; the songs of the Abakuá, a secret fraternal organization originally from Nigeria; and contemporary Cuban rumba in its varied and ever evolving forms.

Los Muñequitos has performed in more than 50 cities across the U.S., from intimate (and packed!) shows in community centers and dance & music clubs to full-scale theatrical productions in grand concert halls. Whatever the setting, their complex drumming, captivating vocals and spectacular dancing transport audiences to the vital streets of Matanzas and the soul of Cuba.

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*The chance to study along side these
master drummers and dancers
is an opportunity to drink from a
pure stream.*



- East Bay Monthly

Offstage, Los Muñequitos de Matanzas brings the energy and exuberance contained in their performances to a host of residency activities ranging from dance and percussion workshops to lecture-demonstrations and youth performances. These activities provide an even greater opportunity to experience the richness of Cuban culture and are designed for people of all ages and levels of experience.

Cuban Dance Traditions: Rumba

In this intense experience with master singers, drummers and dancers, participants are introduced to three forms of Cuba's most famous dance tradition, the Rumba: yambú, guaguancó and columbia. Participants are familiarized with songs, rhythmic patterns of the claves and the drums, and the specialized movement sequences that characterize Rumba forms.

Cuban Dance Traditions: Yoruba

An introduction to the dances and chants for the African Orishas found in Cuba. Singers, drummers and dancers from Los Muñequitos train participants in the coded gestures of the deities from the Yoruba tradition.

Cuban Drumming Styles

For intermediate and advanced percussionists in specific musical forms and in the Cuban style of performing. Master stylists and improvisers from Los Muñequitos conduct workshops on yambú, guaguancó and columbia Rumba forms and comparsa/conga and Yoruba material from the bata drumming tradition.

General Workshop

An opportunity to experience the dynamic Afro-Cuban style of Matanzas. Members of Los Muñequitos introduce various songs and dance forms from several traditions of Cuban music. Community members, beginning, intermediate and advanced drummers, dancers and singers are welcome.