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magazine

KIDS

!!!

JUN | 2017

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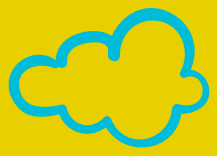
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EDITORIAL



If I had to give an image of Cuban boys and girls, I immediately... see a girl and a boy smiling and playing in the street... going to school, having access to health care... But the fact of being able to play in the street gives us the measure of the environment of safety in which they are growing up.

—Anna Lucia D'Emilio, UNICEF Representative in Cuba

Welcome to our June, which is dedicated to Cuban children, their games, their hobbies, their favorite sports, their cultural life, their love of nature... Two other interesting articles around this topic deal with the preferences of different generations of parents when naming their children and how long the period in life we call childhood lasts nowadays.

Cuban cinema has always been closer to the European art-house tradition than to the formula movies of Hollywood. Moviegoers will be able to catch up with this cinematography through films from European countries that our infrequent in our cinemas, such as Switzerland, Austria or Greece to be screened during the Cine Europeo en el Centro Histórico event, June 1-11.

The Festival Internacional Danzón Habana 2017 (June 24-28) is devoted to Cuba's national musical genre and dance. Check out for performances by popular orchestras and a dance competition.



And one festival that is enjoyed by both kids and adults is Circuba, which returns this year from June 25 to July 2, with performances first at Havana's Trompoloco Big Top and then in several provincial cities.

Classical music lovers will have a treat during the V Encuentro de Jóvenes Pianistas (June 1-7), eight days of continuous piano concerts with an attractive and varied repertoire of Cuban and international music.

If you happen to be in the eastern part of Cuba, the cities of Santiago de Cuba and Las Tunas will host two of the oldest traditional festivals in Cuba: Boleros en Santiago, June 21-25 and Jornada Cucalambeana, June 29-July 2, respectively.

See our Listings for other events in June: World Environment Day, the Traveling Caribbean Film Festival, the Ernest Hemingway International Colloquium, the Habana-Habanos Symposium and the IMASUB 2017 photography competition.

Enjoy! The LaHabana.com Team





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LA COLMENITA: AN ENRICHING ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

by Marilyn Bobes

photos by Ana Lorena

Since 1990, the children's musical theater group La Colmenita (The Little Beehive) has been passionately involving Cuban children, becoming one of the most fascinating projects to be seen on Cuban stages.

It all began when Carlos Alberto "Tin" Cremata, then a young student theater director, conceived the idea to put together a traveling theater company that would tour the most underprivileged neighborhoods in Havana and in remote locations throughout Cuba.

At first there were fourteen young people but given the situation that Tin and his mother Iraida Malberti were directing a TV program called Cuando yo sea grande (When I Grow Up), children began to join these performances and they soon created La Colmenita. Initially they had small roles in the youth productions and then they had their own performances.

And so April 1994 became a memorable date for Cuban culture: in the enormous Karl Marx Theater in Havana a group of children presented the show "Meñique", thus being the only show with just child actors to ever have been seen in Cuba.



As of that moment, La Comenita, as it is today, was founded. Its aim is not to train professional actors but basically to contribute to the formation of human values through artistic creation.

The great interest of boys and girls wanting to join the company resulted in the past decade that other groups bearing the same name were put together in many of the country's municipalities. These days the group has also taken over other regions in Latin America and, in general, in Third World countries.



The group also includes children with special education needs because Tin believes that art should be enjoyed by everyone, seeking unity in diversity and attaining personal growth.

The community-based nature of this enterprise has helped it to become popular with Cuban audiences everywhere on the Island and to promote the active participation of children and teenagers in society.

The influence of this group has been so overwhelming on the Cuban cultural scene that in 1998 the Ministry of Culture decided to integrate it as an atypical project in the National Theater Arts Council.

From 1996, La Colmenita has had its headquarters in a grand old mansion in the heart of Havana's El Vedado district. In November of that same year, the Taller Colmenero (the beehive workshop), or the La Colmenita de Plaza, was born; this has been doing the most sustainable work after that of La Colmenita Central.

Cremata's kids went on their first international tour to Haiti in 1998 and since then they have followed up with highly successful tours to Venezuela, Belgium, Spain, Mexico, Panama, Japan, the United States and other countries where they have been acclaimed by audiences who marvel at these young artists and their powers of communication and talent, capable of interpreting everything from Beatles' music to songs originated by the famous Cuban band, Los Van Van.

Perhaps that is why UNESCO has made them Goodwill Ambassadors, thereby becoming the first theater group in the world bearing that title.

But all has not been easy for the company. In 2001, after doing a show for one million people in Havana's Revolution Square, a devastating fire at their headquarters destroyed three quarters of the company's costumes, adding up to losses of over \$40,000. By 2004, they had rebuilt their headquarters.

This children's company has performed in schools, hospitals and some very remote locations. They have worked with the famous clown Patch Adams and they have also served as a bridge for exchanges between Cuba and the United States.

Their first visit to the United States took place in 2003, sponsored by Global Exchange, giving this very unique theater group yet another resounding success. A second visit took place in 2011 with performances in New York at the UN headquarters, Washington, D.C. and California.

All of us who have seen these children perform have been touched by the magic that surpasses their talent and goes straight to the heart. La Colmenita is not just another theater group, it constitutes a reservoir of the best human values, tempered by the touch of art.





HEY MOM, I WANT THAT BOOK!

by Victoria Alcalá

Coming from the mouth of my young son, those words were music to my ears. Ever since I learned to read I have never abandoned a hobby which, in my case, took on the trappings of a vice. I always hoped that it would get passed down through my genes. Because of our jobs, my son has always accompanied either me or his father (or both) to the book fairs—including a very memorable one in Santa Clara where he stopped using his pacifier and slept for the first time in a bed without railings. As the offspring of book editors, his behavior is a natural one but not exactly exclusive to him; we saw the scene of little children literally dragging adults towards tables laden with books repeated so often it seemed commonplace to us.

In spite of the tempting offers of the digital world, books on paper continue to excite the imaginations of children. Many subjects have changed. There are now topics dealing with the separation of parents and sexual diversity and there are even crime stories with pint-sized heroes. But obeying that mysterious reason which turns certain books into classics, we parents have been reading Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella or Puss in Boots to our children they never go out of style.

For some time, I felt guilty that my son would not read to himself because he had gotten used to me reading for him. Night after night we would go to bed together and he would ask for one tale after another. When I thought he was already asleep, his obstinate “Go on!” would quickly remove any doubt and in the end I had to leave him awake and protesting. If my husband tried to be my substitute, he would refuse with a devastating “Dad always falls asleep.”

Right from a very young age his “readings” revealed his future personality. My voice would always break up with “Heart” by Edmondo de Amicis but he would always propose a less

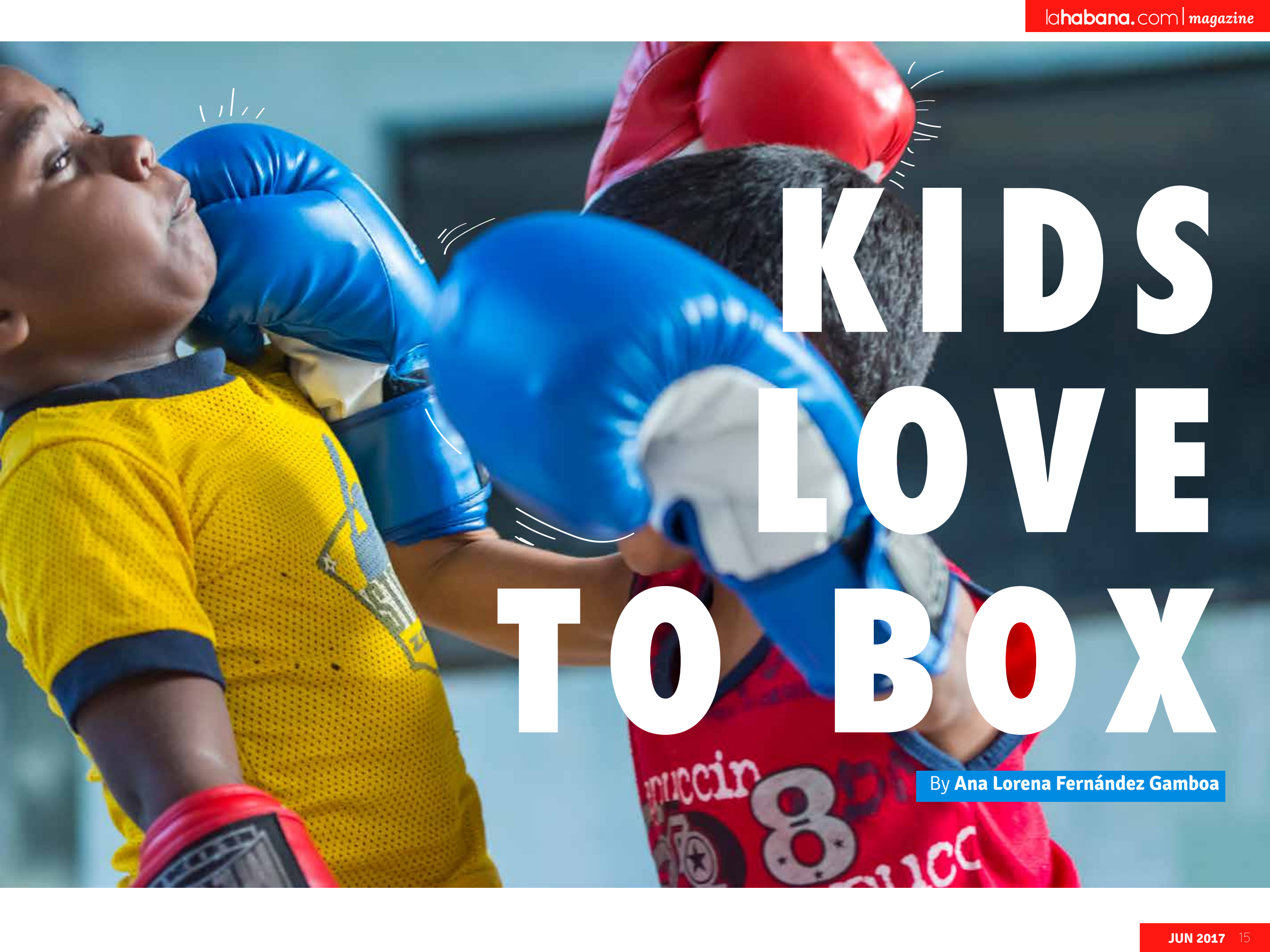


dramatic solution to the conflicts; he couldn't stand Platero; he adored the lovely Cuban edition of "Pinocchio" not just for the adventures of that immortal little fibber but because of the Roberto Fabelo illustrations; he loved word games thanks to which he quickly memorized several poems by Mirta Aguirre; he would go out of his way for stories telling about evil deeds and mischief or those whose hero was a cat. His favorite book for years was that caustic satire on authoritarian and vertical education, "Little School of Horrors." It was the first book he read completely on his own and he enjoyed recognizing some of his own teachers in it. He would go back to it over and over —the last time when he was in high school!

From what I can see among the younger children of my friends, there are new Cuban and foreign authors who already have a broad fan base, perhaps using more colloquial and carefree language and matters that relate more to the present, although the Harry Potter saga shows us that magic and fantasy still present an attraction that is hard to resist and some of our "classics," like José Martí in the 19th century and Dora Alonso in the 20th century, have not lost their validity. So many editions have been run of La Edad de Oro's four volumes of the magazine of the same name published by Martí and they immediately sell out. The same happens with Alonso's *El cochero azul* or *El valle de la pájara pinta*. And we have to mention that the same goes on with *Había una vez*, a wonderful selection made by Herminio Almendros of stories written by Hans Christian Andersen, Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, and of other tales and poems. This book has remained at the top of the list of favorites of the youngest readers for over half a century and parents hunt for it in the bookshops.

During the hardships of the Special Period, publishing books for children was especially hard hit. These are books that cry out for good illustrations and lush colors. Inexpensive foreign publications could sometimes be found at the book fairs but these days, Cuban publishers have been considerably increasing their stocks of children's books in both quality and quantity. The lost custom of giving good books as presents for birthdays has been revived and once again we can hear young voices saying: "Hey Mom, I want that book!"





KIDS LOVE TO BOX

By Ana Lorena Fernández Gamboa



Mens sana in corpore sano -a sound mind in a healthy body -is a slogan that is much used when providing the most complete education possible to children in Cuba. From the very moment they enter grammar school, children are encouraged by the school to practice a specific sport apart from taking physical education. The various kinds of physical activity promote the physical development and well-being of the children.

At school, children are introduced to traditional major sports, but clearly there is preference for sports that come from the culture and traditions of the country. Cuba, like any other nation in the world, has its “star” sports, so to speak, and these are baseball and boxing. Both have left their mark on the international stage with names that represent milestones in sports history. The love for boxing and the performance of its boxers is so great, that it was no wonder that Cuba was chosen to hold the first World Amateur Championship in Havana, in 1974.





Names like Kid Chocolate, Cuba's first world professional boxing champ, or Teófilo Stevenson, who won all the Olympics and world championships in which he took part, or Felix Savón, another star boxer who also fascinated the crowds, are inspirations to many would-be boxers today.

Boxing is so popular among the young ones that gyms have sprouted throughout the country in every municipality, with specialized trainers who hold bachelor degrees in exercise and sport sciences. These local gyms are the natural place for scouting for future athletes. The children who prove to have a special talent for a specific sport will go on to sports schools at the elementary and middle levels, EIDE and ESPA, respectively.

But before these children decide to tackle something serious, the Rafael Trejo gym in Old Havana offers them a place where they can give free rein to their youthful vitality. Not all of the kids who come to this gym are driven by the desire to become fighters in the future or to embrace the sports world as a profession. Many come here for fun, pure and simple -the fun of learning the moves or giving a few punches like their boxing idols.

Although now getting into the boxing ring may just be wholesome recreation for these children, as with any type of systematic physical activity (including physical education at schools), it helps to lay the foundations in youngsters for long-term health and improved quality of life, providing them from an early age with discipline and notions of organized life.

Cantandole al Sol:

A BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN'S SONG FESTIVAL

MARILYN BOBES

photos by Ana Lorena



No, it's not the Cuban version of The Voice Kids, although there is as much quality here as anywhere else in the world. No cultural event better enhances the presence of children on Cuban Television than the Cantándole al Sol —Singing to the Sun—Children's Song Festival, which reached its 25th edition in 2017.

Children from all Cuban provinces compete singing songs composed by adults for this age group that, regrettably, in recent years, had been fond of choosing adult genres, like reggaeton, as a result of the neglect in which children's songs fell for some time.

This is why Cantándole al Sol has become the best expression of an amateur movement that has a valuable reservoir among the young that is effectively promoted each year by the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television in alliance with the José Martí Pioneer Organization, and the Ministries of Education and Culture.

According to the president of the pioneer organization, Aymara Guzmán Carranza, Cantándole al Sol teaches us that more than an event it is a place of formation where creators, performers and audiences come together.

This initiative allowed composers to find a way to rescue the genres of Cuban and universal music with rhythm and sounds for the most diverse tastes, and always with lyrics suitable for children and adolescents. Year after year, the young performers show their talent accompanied by youth orchestras from Cuban music schools as well as numerous children's choirs that also abound in Cuba.

The Cuban population participates conferring their vote once Cuban Television airs the names of the finalists who will be defending their songs. The show takes place in a theater and is usually broadcast live by the Cuban Institute of Television.

Some specialists consider that Cantándole al Sol is the culmination of an old tradition of the presence of children on Cuban Television.



During the 1950s, when television made its grand entrance on the Island, children performed on TV sponsored by different brands. Spanish dance companies like El Sevillanito, or the Children's Section of Alicia Alonso's Ballet Company, often performed on television.

Other forms of participation were competitions where kids, usually singers or choruses measured their skills receiving numerous gifts from sponsors. Some of these children would even later become professional performers.

But it was not until the 1960s, when Cuban Television became public, that this somewhat random participation was restructured through a wide range of weekly or bi-weekly children's shows.



All of these shows immediately began to link with primary and secondary education curricula, addressing vocational guidance and working always together with the Pioneer Organization and the Ministry of Education.

Perhaps the closest antecedent of Cantándole al Sol was Que Siempre Brille el Sol (Let the Sun Shine Always), which was broadcast from 1980 to 1989. Children and teenagers from all around Cuba displayed their skills in this show that was not a competition.

The year 1989 saw the creation of Cantándole al Sol, which was unfortunately interrupted by the economic crisis of the 90s and resumed in 2000 with much greater strength and promotion.

This event not only strengthens and enriches the composition of songs for children, but also the work of orchestrating and vocal-instrumental interpretations. This made possible a comprehensive catalog of melodies and lyrics especially made for children.

Although the children who come to the show may not all become professional artists in the future, with their participation they socialize, acquire stage control and a sense of stage presence, wider vocabulary and better diction. And besides, the repertoire is one which they can identify with better than with adult genres —like the reggaeton mentioned above— which often have discriminatory content and do not contribute to the formation of values at the earliest ages.



The children participating in this annual competition range from 8 to 15 years old and sing songs composed by adults who still retain a childlike feeling that inspires them.

This is clearly a necessary event for preserving and developing the musical repertoire for children in Cuba today. It's a festival that builds great expectations not only by the child population, but by the entire family, knowing that each show will surprise them with the performances of these young artists. And perhaps one day in the future, they will identify a star on TV as one of the little tykes who sang their heart out in Cantándole al Sol.





The magic and simplicity OF CHILDREN'S GAMES IN CUBA

■ Por Ricardo Alberto Pérez
photos by Ana Lorena

While all the world over, kids are playing computer games on their cell phones, tablets or laptops, in Cuba, the street, the block and the neighborhood take center stage and are very important to the lives of Cuban children. It would be difficult to find such warmth and meaning in any other locations. In Cuba these are all safe areas where kids can develop their sense of fantasy and acquire friends. The games they play there are the focus because they create bonds and strengthen the important relationships children form within society.

I speak specifically about games that have been passed down from generation to generation. Cuba has a solid tradition of homemade toys. These may not be too sophisticated in appearance and sometimes they aren't too beautiful, but they make a lot of children very happy.

Is there any Cuban who has never owned a top and set it to dance on any street corner? Who here has never had a little cart or wagon, put together by the neighborhood carpenter or by their uncle or father, or even made by themselves? With such trophies, children go out on the street to share them with their friends and everyone has loads of fun. All they need sometimes are some old wheels and a bit of recycled wood and they have a "chivichana". We adults gaze with wonder at these simple little vehicles as they zoom by at top speed, carrying their crews of improvised pilots.

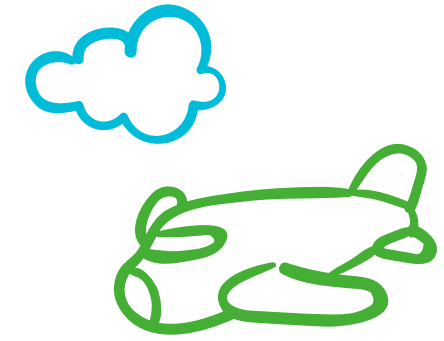


Cuban kites require their own chapter in this childhood tale. They can be small or they can be huge colorful devices named "coroneles". Kids get together to fly them and to hold competitions. We can see this activity going on in parks, on the Malecón and even on rooftops. What you need is a good stiff wind, and you are set to go.

The noisy joy emanating from such games makes up part of the soundtrack of our cities. "Bolas" (marbles) or a ball game named "cuatro esquinas" (a simplified form of street baseball) give rise to spontaneous heated discussions that lend them an added unique flavor.



It is also very common to see little girls playing “pon”, our hopscotch. They use common classroom chalk to mark out the territory and a battered tin can. You can also see girls skipping. The rope doesn’t have to be anything special: a piece of industrial rope or something that has been homemade out of a variety of materials will do. Another favorite girls’ game is jacks (here we call it “yaquis”). I wonder in how many countries is jacks still played.



Imaginations run wild when games are involved. Other pastimes requiring large numbers of participants are also included, such as the one they call “la gallinita ciega” (little blind hen); it’s a sort of game of tag where kids make a circle around a participant who stands in the middle, blindfolded with a scarf.





Everything begins when the circle of children begins to chant: Little blind hen; what have you lost? The blindfolded child answers: A needle and a thimble. To which the others reply: well go out and find it because I have it and I won't give it to you. Faced with this challenge, the "little blind hen" chases everyone and when they tag someone, there will be a new little blind hen.

Some other well-known games played by Cuban children are "la vuelta al tronco" (round the tree trunk), "el gato y el ratón" (cat and mouse), "los prisioneros" (prisoners, and "el lobo y los corderos" (wolf and lambs). Of course there are many more, too many to mention. The games go in and out of fashion, following cycles, appearing and disappearing, and the new game becomes all the rage, spreading over the Island like wildfire.

Our cities' public areas in just wouldn't be the same without all those energetic and enthusiastic kids, sometimes bordering on the rowdy, but always brimming with the intensity of living.



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photos by Ana Lorena and Mene

by **Ricardo Alberto Pérez**

KIDS AND NATURE



In Cuba, a large number of families introduce their children to having a healthy and open relationship with nature right from infancy. They take their kids on trips to forests, mountains, beaches, rivers, botanical gardens, zoos, aquaria and protected areas, or they make sure their children are exposed to nature during summer holidays at the Campismos Populares, areas for family camping.

We also have a project that grew out of the school called Movimiento de pioneros exploradores, explorer pioneers. Nine- and ten-year-old children join in camping experiences. Special camping areas have been set up throughout the Island providing the proper conditions for this age group.

Many of these facilities have been expressly located close to Cuba's important natural flora and fauna reserves: Viñales Valley, Escaleras de Jaruco Natural Park, Jatibonico, Sierra Maestra, Sagua de Tánamo and Baracoa. Children are encouraged to appreciate the worth and beauty of endangered species and thereby, in a spontaneous fashion, to join the fight for their conservation.

Looking after the environment, caring for reforestation and participating in the medicinal herb gardens are among the main activities for these "explorers". They learn how to identify plant species and discover their benefits and value for human health.

Different specialties may be chosen by the pioneers so that they may become familiar with them and eventually join their ranks in the work world: forest rangers, nature photographers, horsemen and women, pigeon breeders, health workers, swimmers, botanists, cyclists, gardeners, historians, bird watchers, astronomers, writers, farmers, ornithologists, builders of country-style housing, meteorologists, speleologists and cartographers.

The movement also fosters creativity through paintings and drawings, and other visual media. There is also plenty of time just to have fun, swimming in rivers, climbing mountains or exploring caves.



Both government-affiliated institutions and NGOs sponsor competitions on the topic of nature and the different ways we have to protect it. They target different levels of education. One of these is “My Green Planet” organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) and working with contributions in the form of story-writing, poetry and drawings. Museums like the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Natural History also promote art contests in this subject and they subsequently exhibit the winners’ works.

In the city of Havana, the writer Soleida Ríos has created a project called Café Dulce sponsored by the Cuban Book Institute. Among its chief activities, children can plant a forest, specifically of ceiba trees which have great historical and cultural significance in Cuba.



I believe that great steps have been taken in promoting children's respect for Mother Nature. In the past, it was quite common for us to see children playing games and following practices that would endanger the lives of certain animal species, all for the sake of having "fun". I used to see kids decapitating lizards or shooting arrows and throwing stones at birds with a sling. Fortunately, these "pastimes" are history among today's Cuban children.



CUBAN LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

By Ana Lorena

Watch Cuban kids playing baseball in Havana and you can feel yourself transported back to an idyllic 1950s America. This is essence of home-spun, enthusiastic, non-commercial, passionate and local. Mix in a little apple pie, ignore the crumbling architecture and you would be there. This short and simple video by Lou shows a typical training session for young Cuban baseball players practicing for their own little league. See if you can spot competitive dad!



A baseball bat and ball is one of the most treasured gifts any kid can get for Christmas or his birthday. It's one of those presents a Cuban boy will put to use right away, regardless of the blistering sun or even the rain. And if the gift is a baseball glove, then it's like putting them on cloud nine. What kid in Cuba hasn't spent the afternoons trying to hit a homerun or make a diving catch just to be able to boast about how good he is? Yes, they want to play baseball because in this country being a baseball icon is nothing short of being a superhero.

And parents are just as keen about baseball as their children. For kids, it's a passionate game and just plain fun; for their moms, it's the peace of mind that comes from knowing their little ones are safe from any harm. But for their dads, well, let's just say it's a lot more than just fun and safety. They take their kids to train at the nearest sports center (sometimes this is just a field big enough to practice the game) secretly hoping that they will become one of the greats, that their names will one day make the golden list of baseball players in Cuba.

Sure, school is important -very important-. But if you're a Cuban boy and want to make your father proud, showing some talent for baseball and being selected to join the little league should do the trick! The brightest, most talented prospects get to go to sports schools and from there, after much training and many competitions, the best are chosen for the provincial teams. And from there, to the Cuba Team, which is the ultimate dream of every little leaguer.





Back at the neighborhood, however, playing ball ensures kids a safe and healthy way of spending their free time. And although volleyball and soccer have gained popularity in Cuba over the years, it is baseball that still causes heated arguments between friends, makes two strangers talk like they've known each other forever while they wait in line to catch a bus, and attracts millions of spectators to the stadiums that are scattered throughout the island, while millions more -children included- follow the games that are broadcast on radio and television.

Kids today, adults tomorrow, like their parents before them, they too will shout themselves hoarse in support of their own kids playing school baseball or simply in some empty lot around the hood.

Baseball reigns supreme among sports in Cuba, and kids zealously follow their teams' performances during the season series, dreaming that one day they will be able to change the grandstand for the diamond.

NAMES AND GENERATIONS

by Victoria Alcalá

photos by Ana Lorena

Although I am one of those who think that generations, like the stars, “incline but do not compel,” I do believe that they give their members a kind of family atmosphere, which comes from sharing an era, with its historical events, artistic movement, tastes, fashions, and even names. An entertaining exercise, before a dull list that we have to check, or is the only legible material to relieve a long wait, may be to guess the age of people from their names.



In Cuba, as in other places, for many years the custom was that the children were called like their moms and dads, or other close relatives, and in order to remain in good terms with both the paternal and maternal branches, the baby got stuck with a long list of names, plus the name their saint's day or the saint that is object of family devotion. However, the rule that in the identity document only two names were registered generated many problems. One example is that the death certificate is made from the identity card, which, as we know, only admits two names, but the birth registration validates every single name that the family named the child with. Hence, before the law, the deceased is not the same person as the one born, and to prove that they are both the same person, you have to go through an interminable via crucis of certifications, stamps, waits, errors. At this point, no one thinks of giving their newborn more than two names. So, our first conclusion regarding our alleged list is very easy: if the person has three names, then that person is old.

Until the late 1950s, most people gave their kids names of Spanish origin—or Hebrew, Greek or Roman ancestry which passed through Spain. The use of these names gradually decreased, for example, say Edelmira, Salustiana, Hermenegildo, Abundio or Agapito, although Jose, Juan, Miguel, Fernando, Carlos, Manuel, María, Elena, Carmen, Teresa, and their combinations were left intact. The intimate relationship with the United States introduced only a few Anglicisms, such as Grace, Helen and Michael—one such Anglicism became famous in Guantanamo: Usnavy, after US Navy. Meanwhile, the movies would bequeath Elizabeths (Taylor), Silvanas (Pampanini and Mangano), Marilyn (Monroe), Ingrid (Bergman) and Gretas (Garbo). However, the Cuban endemic machismo did not seem to have admitted the replacement of Spanish male names like Juan Miguel by Marlon, Tyrone, Gregory or Errol.



After 1959, the Revolution contributed numerous Fidels (as well as Alejandros, his nom de guerre) and Raúl's (after the two Castros). Other names coming out of revolutionary heroes were Abel (Santamaría), Camilo (Cienfuegos), Ernesto (Che Guevara) Vilma (Espín), Celia (Sánchez), beside allusive names such as Libertad, Patria and Victoria. Two peculiar contributions were Pursia (after the acronym PURS, which stood for the United Party of the Socialist Revolution) and Inrainit (after INRA, the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, and INIT, the National Institute of the Tourism Industry). Then, the participation of Cuban internationalist fighters in African liberation wars turned place names into names of people: Argelia, Luanda, Luena, Conakry. The European cinema of the 1960s contributed some Agnes (Varda), Romys (Schneider) and countless Alains, proof that women already knew how and were able to assert their tastes, and worshiped Alain Delon's irresistible appeal.

Although some people insist that the decades of Cuba's strong ties with the Soviet Union, the thousands of Cubans who studied in Moscow, Leningrad or Kiev, or the hundreds of young women from the vast geography of that country who were married to Cubans did not leave and imprint on the culture of the Island, many practically

unknown names until then belie that belief: Ivan, Vladimir, Pavel, Mijaíl, Yuri, Boris, Dimitri, Natasha, Valia, Liudmila, Svetlana, Maya... One curious example is Aliosha, a diminutive of Aleksei, which changed gender and was used as a girl's name, probably because of its ending in "a". Aurika, whose meaning in Russian I do not know, but was a brand of Soviet washing machines, was used also as a girl's name. I know of the existence of at least one Stalina—who is a renowned doctor—and a young teacher at the Marxist Leninist Philosophy Department of the University of Havana, who is called Marxlenin (at least in this case, it seems that the name obliges).

Brazilian telenovelas have also been an inexhaustible source of somewhat "exotic" names like Malú, Aldeide, Suelen, Wanderlei or Thiago, while the Cuban television series *En silencio* ha tenido que ser, left us with countless Reiniers, the name of the appealing character played by actor Mario Balmaseda.

Although we began to see how names began to be created through different mechanisms—like joining parts of the parent's names (Nicel from Nicolas and Elena), or turning around a name (Adianez from Zenaida or Mairim from Miriam), the 1980s saw the apotheosis



of inventions with the use and abuse of the letter y, to the point that even educated people thought, and still many do, that the denomination Generation Y came from Cuba, and was due to the number of names that started with that letter. The phenomenon, for instance, has been a headache for civil registry employees and identity card offices, but no one has been able to curb innovation.

One favorite method in this creative effort has been to add laidy(s), leidy(s) and other forms, perhaps as a symbol of distinction of the Anglo-Saxon Lady (perhaps Princess Diana's popularity had a hand in this). For example, ending some names: Irisleydis, Yarysleydis, Yumisysleidy, Failadys, Yanisleydi, or at the beginning: Ladyrene, or by itself: Leidi. Another mechanism has been to register a name as it is pronounced and not as it is written in the original language—and, yes, you guessed it, with a “y”: Yésica (Jessica), Yisel (Giselle), Yénifer (Jennifer), Máryori (Marjorie), and so on. But not only girls' names have stimulated the imagination of parents. Boys called Yoandrys, Yoslay, Mayko, Yasmani, Yordanis or Yunier are all over Cuba, along with Yuniór (Junior), Yordano (Giordano), Yoel (Joel), Yordan (Jordan) and Yordis (Jordi). Even non-Cuban Spanish-speaking sports commentators have a hard time reading the lineup of a Cuban baseball team. And I have left what I believe is one witty “y” name to the end: Yotuel, given name of Cuban singer, musician and actor whose name is a combination of the personal pronouns in Spanish Yo (I), Tú (You) and Él (He).

We have given names to our children according to our tastes (mine is called, extemporaneously, Ruben), and that taste, intention aside, is the sign of the times that we have had to live, of our generation and theirs.



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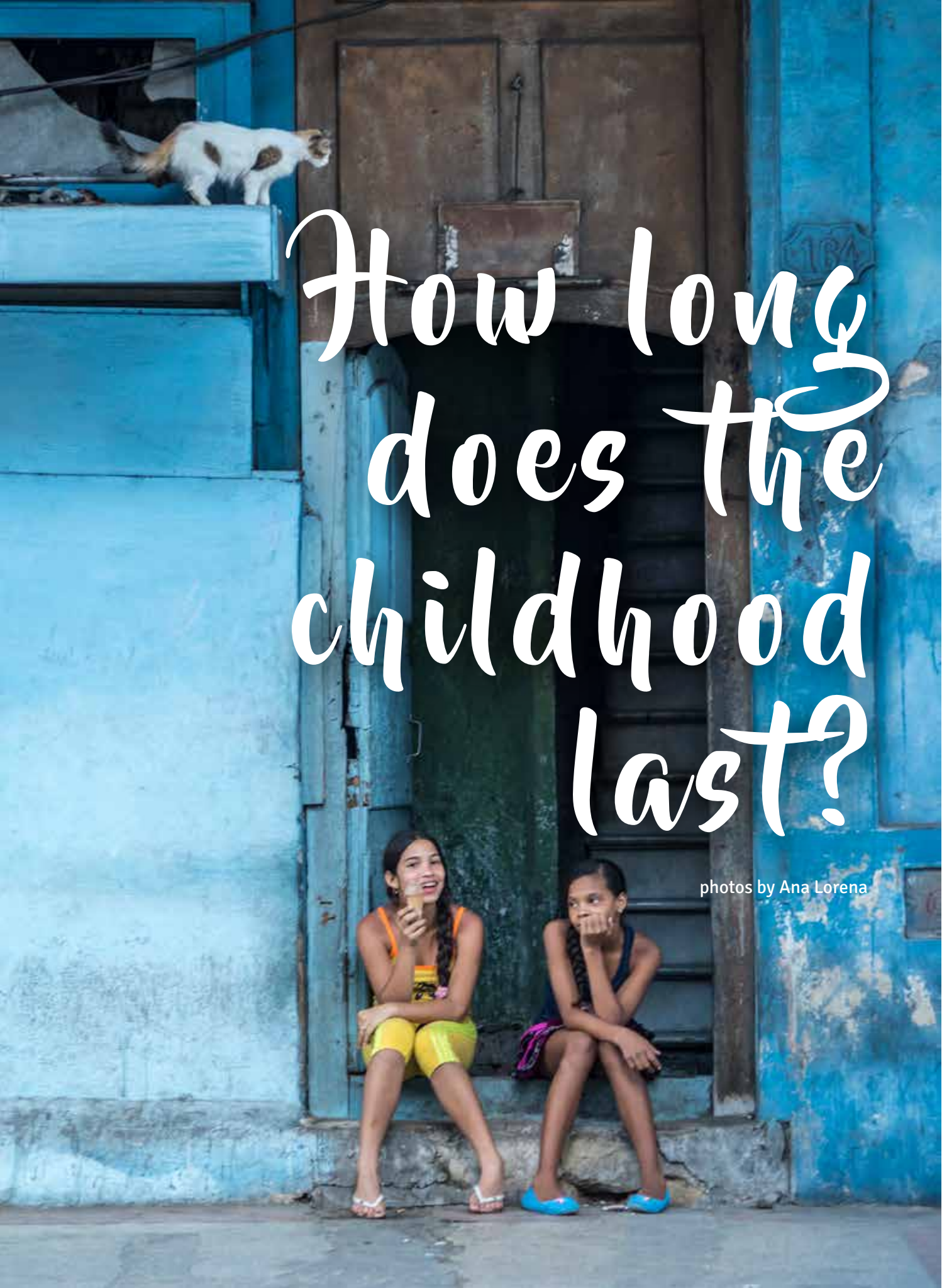
PALACIO AZUL **A PRETTY BAYSIDE BLUE PALACE**

A small boutique hotel, the duck-egg blue Palacio Azul faces the Bay of Cienfuegos, and is 10 minutes by foot to the UNESCO-crowned historic city center.

Built in 1920, the domed hotel features 7 rooms, a marble staircase, and beautiful original art nouveau tiled floors. Catch the breeze on the rooftop terrace, and enjoy the neighboring architectural stunners – the Club Cienfuegos and the Palacio del Valle.

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How long does the childhood last?

photos by Ana Lorena

by **Victoria Alcalá**

I don't know if it's a perception problem, but it seems to me that it lasts increasingly less. The fact that my nine-year-old, fourth-grader son convinced me to allow him to go alone to a party that would end at 10pm—my condition was that his father would go and pick him up—was the first sign in our family of a phenomenon that I had been already observing in society, especially, in that kind of miniature society that is called school.

A coworker of mine who's a sociologist reassured me that, "It's normal, he's on the threshold of puberty." And I secretly lamented that there had been no sociologist among my mother's many friends, because I was allowed to go to a party without the company of an adult (after weeks of "softening" and begging) after junior high school. It did not matter that when I was only 12 years old I had gone with my school to the distant Camagüey province to do voluntary work in the cane fields, or that I had walked at night with my classmates from my suburban neighborhood to the University of Havana for the March of the Torches. You went to parties with a chaperone, or you didn't go at all, even despite the fact that "drinks" then did not go past soft drinks or lemonade. Not to mention sleepovers, which were simply unthinkable—even unknown.

I find it remarkable that my son and his generation have not gone through so many absurd restrictions, but I confess that I am startled to see preschool girls in heels, lycra leggings, painted nails and lips dancing away to the rhythm of a reggaeton of unprintable lyrics. “She looks just like a little woman,” loving mothers, and even grandmothers, say.

The boys, of course, have other codes: they are allowed to spend day and night in front of the computer “killing” whatever is placed in front of them, they do not speak two words at a time without inserting the “national four-letter word” that designates the male sexual organ—which has regrettably made its way into the mouths of their little girl friends. And Dad may even give them a taste of whatever he’s drinking “to make him a man.”

With the passive acceptance of adults, both girls and boys watch all kinds of made-for-adults series, telenovelas and films, which they are not yet ready to understand given the abundant scenes of violence, sex or cruelty, and crimes of all kinds, even against minors. They take part in the conversations of their parents and friends, and are well informed about stormy divorces, adultery, labor disputes or quarrels among neighbors.



In some, hopefully, extreme cases, these forms of behavior have also moved into the school environment. I have seen with horror how after a school performance in which José Martí’s poem “The Pink Shoes” is dramatized; a little girl recites “The Spanish Dancer,” also by José Martí; or the Protest of Baraguá—one of the most important historical events in Cuban history when General Antonio Maceo meets with Spanish General Arsenio Martínez Campo—is staged, then comes the “cultural part”—that’s how they call it—as if the previous representations were not cultural too. The Spanish dancer harasses Maceo with pelvic movements, or Pilar, the owner of the pink shoes, rubs up against Martínez Campos in an unrestrained and convulsive dance, all this under the approving glance of their teachers, who even created the “choreography” for them. I don’t even want to think what may go on in sleepovers.

Children cannot be raised under a glass bell, or lied to about the ugliness they, inevitably, will one day have to face: Life is beautiful is a beautiful film, but life is something else. However, it is not beneficial to make children go so fast through such a decisive stage in their physical, intellectual and emotional formation, and to drag them into adulthood. If in Cuba child labor and prostitution are repudiated exceptions, famine and dozens of diseases have been eradicated, if education and health are free, why should they be deprived of the full enjoyment of this “age of innocence”? They have at their disposal treasures that humanity has bequeathed to them: games, stories, songs, poems, riddles, movies, books. Leading them to their discovery may be the most rewarding task for family and teachers.





¡SANGRE!

a new play by
Berenjena Teatro

by Mayvic Segade
photos by Ana Lorena

¡Sangre! (Blood!) This is the most recent production by Berenjena Teatro, a large theater company led by Anaysy Gregory Gil. This new play is part of “Trilogy of Identity,” created and structured by the director under one question: How far are you willing to go to...? To simplify its both thematic and symbolic content would be suicide, given that the production leaves a great wide door open to diverse interpretations for the viewer and diversifies its content in relation to each individual’s experiences.

Despite the gory title, “Sangre” emerges as a hymn to life and above all to man as an individual—this time as an individual who is represented more in his human condition than social. Dealing with concepts such as motherhood, adolescence, religion and sexual responsibility is not an easy task, especially when it comes to making people think, rather than making them laugh. Perhaps this is why this play goes beyond the traditional ways of telling a story from the theater or from the dramatization of everyday life. “Sangre” is a show that combines music, singing, dancing and acting.



Supporting the characters in the play, the dancers join the performance by warning each conflict and introducing the stories. They constitute the perfect vehicle to make a harmonious mixture of the independent scenes and the characters. All of the dancers are young performers and although their art is mainly empirical, their efforts have been rewarded on the stage. Both actors and dancers belong to a resourceful and ambitious company that shares the stage with great actors of Cuban performing arts.

Added to this are the visual intentions of the play, which moves away from the more immediate present—putting aside the turbid everyday life and social stereotypes—and moves into a classic past. Costume design, stage design and music (made up of choirs and live music effects) follow the aesthetics and visibility of classical Greece. A supposed Greek tragedy emerges within a contemporary text that is charged with allegories to and challenges in today’s society.

The show rests on its own roots despite the large number of new actors in it. The director of this professionally acclaimed troupe, Anaysy Gregory, had no qualms in working with a new wave of actors who, thanks to the opportunity given to them, they have experienced the magic of every performance when at the end, they are rewarded with a round of applause and bravos.





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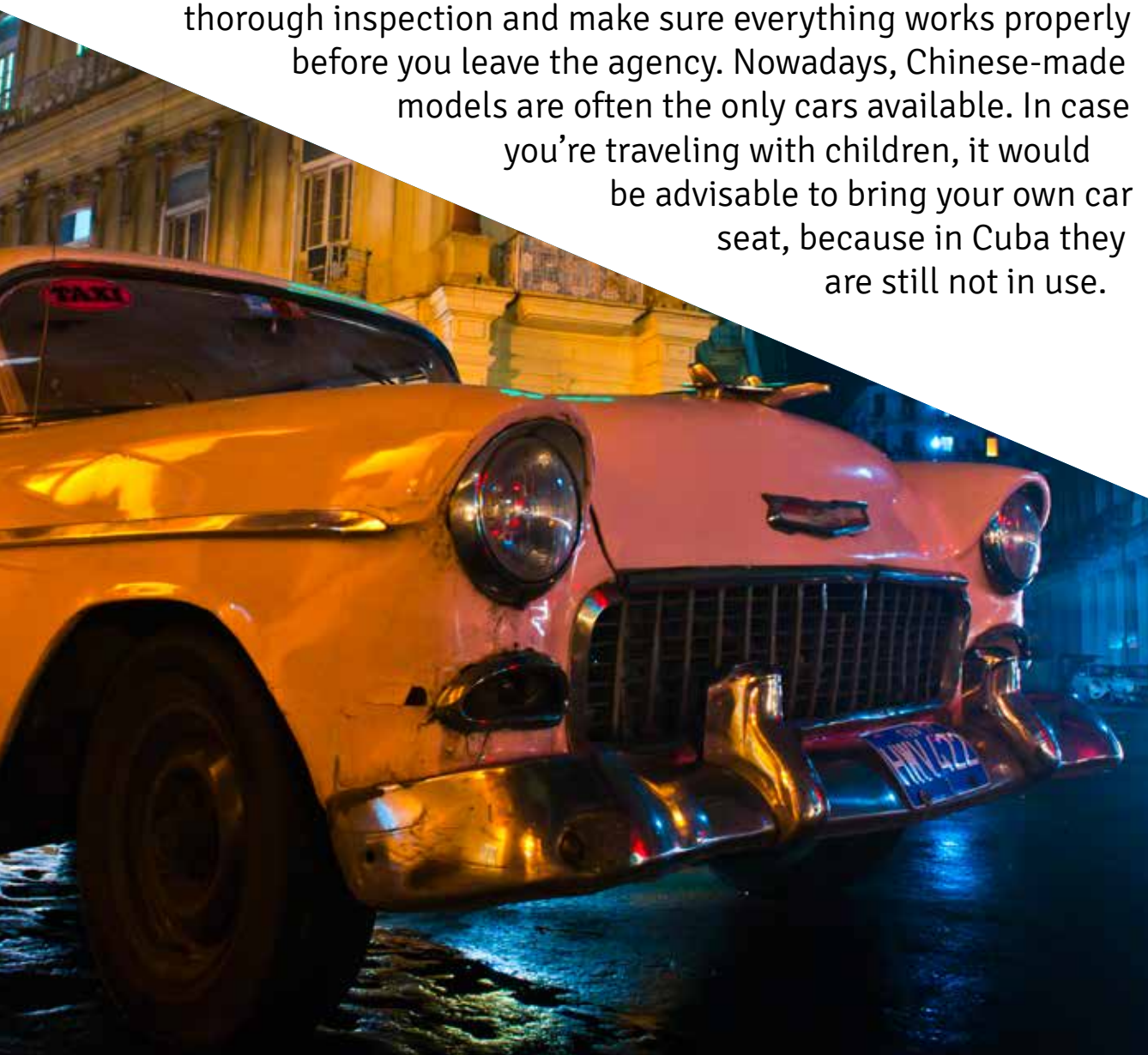
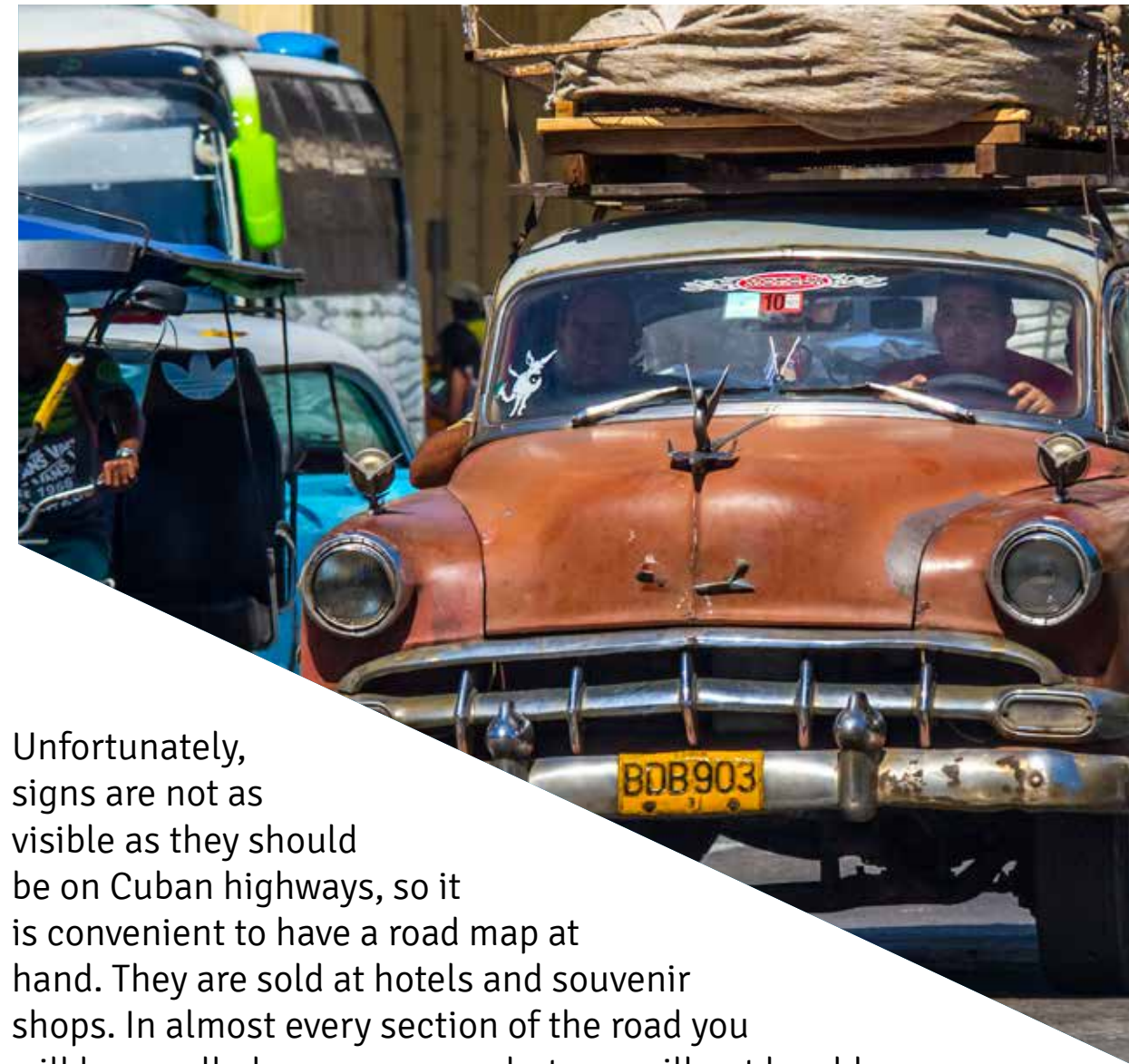
TIPS for CUBAN ROAD TRIPS

by lahabana.com

One of the best ways to get to know Cuba is to take a car and a map, and give free rein to the adventurous side of your spirit. Cuba is a country with a privileged climate, which will allow you to enjoy an honest to goodness summer. In addition to sun and beaches, the island has plains and mountains to be taken into account when choosing this country as your ecotourism destination. So, here are some things you need to do before hitting the open road.

The demand for cars is higher than the offer, so the earlier you book your vehicle on our websites—availability may expire in the wink of an eye—the better chances you have of getting the car of your choice. Because these vehicles for hire are in such high demand, they are used intensively, so you should do a thorough inspection and make sure everything works properly before you leave the agency. Nowadays, Chinese-made models are often the only cars available. In case you're traveling with children, it would be advisable to bring your own car seat, because in Cuba they are still not in use.

Unfortunately, signs are not as visible as they should be on Cuban highways, so it is convenient to have a road map at hand. They are sold at hotels and souvenir shops. In almost every section of the road you will have cell phone coverage, but you will not be able to access GPS online. However, there are free offline map apps like Maps.me or Galileo, which work well in Cuba (we've used them on trips from Havana to Oriente and we got to our destinations safe and sound!). Then again, the best guide you can have in Cuba are the locals: if you're confused, just stop and ask people for directions. Bear in mind that you need to ask for advice from at least three different people—when two out of three tell you the same thing, then you might be on the right track. It is not advisable to stop and pick up what looks like hitchhikers, though. Usually, locals never try to get a ride from tourist vehicles, so they're probably there trying to sell something, like cheese, fruits or vegetables.



Drive with caution at all times and never exceed the speed limit. When you're behind the wheel, keep in mind that you may find cattle on the loose. And you will also find potholes or, the other way around, little elevations that are formed when the sun hits hard on the asphalt. Needless to say, special care should be taken when it's raining. Watch out for speed bumps on the road that force you to slow down.

Driving at night has several disadvantages. Visibility is one, which is terrible. Then also, heavy vehicles are often seen on the road at that time, with the risk of fatal accidents increasing exponentially. The good part of driving at night, however, is that there is very little traffic. Having said that, and based on our own travel experience, we recommend that you avoid getting on the road after dark. Plan the stretches you will travel well, and you will not need to get behind the wheel at night.

The Havana-Sancti Spíritus stretch of road has four lanes, is very fast and in good condition. The highway ends in Taguasco and from there on, you will continue your trip on the Carretera Central—Central Highway—which is a two-way single road.

Look out for fast food outlets on the road (some are open 24/7) where you can have an espresso and a sandwich, or a rustic restaurant serving pork and chicken as their main fare.

Cuba is a mixed, interesting, singular country. Take the wheel and travel the island through its roads—it could be a one-of-a-kind experience.



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Driving around the island is a great way to discover places off the tourist trail helping you make the most of your trip to Cuba.

It's always a good idea to make reservations in advance, especially during the months of July and August, when there's less vehicle availability. By doing so you'll save time and avoid wasting days of your vacation looking for a car available for rent.

This is the best time to review our offers and book the car that best suits your itinerary.

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HOTEL SAN BASILIO - STYLISH SPANISH-COLONIAL HOTEL IN HISTORIC CITY CENTER

The small sage-and-cream Hotel San Basilio, reached by a pretty double staircase, is the only boutique hotel in the historic center of Santiago de Cuba.

With its 1920s ambience, and its eight rooms featuring handsome colonial furniture, guests can retreat from the buzz of the city streets to the quiet of the hotel. Night owls can enjoy the evening entertainment at the Rooftop Bar-Terrace of the nearby Hotel Casa Granda, compliments of the San Basilio Hotel.

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HAVANA GUIDE



VISUAL ARTS

MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES. EDIFICIO DE ARTE CUBANO

► THROUGH JULY 31

Juego de Ángeles commemorates the centenary of the birth of sculptor Eugenio Rodríguez, one of the modernizers of this art form Cuba, with the exhibition of more than 50 pieces, including sculptures, prints and drawings, made between 1944 and 1968. One of Rodríguez most famous works is the sculpture group located within the main lobby of the National Museum of Fine Arts.

MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES. EDIFICIO DE ARTE CUBANO

► THROUGHOUT JUNE

Colección de Archivos, which opened in the courtyard of the Cuban Art Building based on a project of curator Aylet Ojeda, called upon a group of young artists to create seven pieces inspired by the archives of the Museum, after carrying out research work with specialists working in those areas. Installation, performance, painting and photography were the art forms chosen by the creators—Ariamna Contino & Alex Hernández, Yornel Martínez, Levi Orta, Celia & Junior, David Beltran, Leandro Feal, and Jorge & Larry—to express and share the valuable and abundant treasured information by the museum.

MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES. EDIFICIO DE ARTE UNIVERSAL

► THROUGH JUNE 12

Tony Cragg. Esculturas y dibujos covers almost six decades of creation—with an emphasis on his most recent production—of this famous British sculptor, through drawings and, specially, sculptures, made with both conventional and unconventional materials.

MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES. EDIFICIO DE ARTE UNIVERSAL

► OPENS
JUNE 26

Gabinete, Piranesi...papel exhibits 60 prints by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, belonging to the Drawings and Prints Department of the museum.

CENTRO DE DESARROLLO DE LAS ARTES VISUALES

► THROUGH
JUNE 5

Con razón, through installations and de video mapping, artist Gertrudis Rivalta, delves into the dichotomy between the authenticity and the falsehood, honesty and superfluosness, using the leading role of a universal symbol: the heart.

JUNE
9-JULY 9

Herbaria, group show by Cuban and international artists, with a new reflection on landscape.

JUNE
3-JULY 2

Tesis de la Universidad de las Artes presents works by art students from the University of the Arts.

GALERÍA EL REINO DE ESTE MUNDO

► THROUGH-
OUT JUNE

José Martí al 1%, by Fernando Reyna, revolves around how little Cubans really know about the Apostle of Cuba's independence. According to the artist: "Each work in this series is nothing more than a meditation. It is an attempt to touch upon subjects which very little has been said and written about, of what we feel when we stop for a moment to breathe and enjoy the air that comes to us."

photos by Alex Mene
Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes,
Edificio de Arte Cubano

► **BIBLIOTECA PÚBLICA RUBÉN MARTÍNEZ VILLENA**

THROUGH JUNE 5

Todas las cosas que ella dice, by Cuban artist and fashion designer Yali Romagoza, includes drawings, collages, installation, sculptures and video, which converge in a reflection on femininity, social commitment, the art system and pop culture in relation with society, isolation, oppression and marginalization.

OPENS JUNE 26

Berenice, by designer Omar Batista, inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's eponymous story, includes seven digitized pen and ink drawings. The graphic intervention of the entire space of the gallery forms a large mural that recreates the atmosphere of the American writer's stories and explores the Human nature and its conflicts.

► **CASA OSWALDO GUAYASAMÍN**

THROUGH JUNE 18

La edad de la ira exhibits bibliographical copies and pieces, mainly prints, by Oswaldo Guayasamín. The works belong to the homonymous series, composed of 260 works in which the Painter of the Americas depicted the suffering of marginalized and poor people in Latin American countries.

► **CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO DE CULTURA**

THROUGH JUNE 23

El peso de su cuerpo, solo show by Moisés Finalé aimed at "taking a look at the evolution of the way in which the artist has tackled the female body in his work," according to the exhibition's curator, Rafael Acosta de Arriba.

► **FÁBRICA DE ARTE CUBANO**

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

Maurice Renoma, an exhibition showing an unknown stage design by the artist in the course of his photographic experience and installations created in situ with the help of salvaged materials.

► **GALERÍA CASA 8**

JUNE 16- 30

Pinturas de Andy Llanes Bulto presents a group of large pieces in which the human body is the focus of the work while it is trapped by the moon in its different phases.

► **FACTORÍA HABANA**

THROUGHOUT JUNE

Índice de imágenes, by José Manuel Mesía, who using painting and installation and through a process marked by the study of episodes of the Cuban wars of independence, examines the mechanisms of rewriting history, the apocryphal, the construction of imaginaries and the myths that are created around facts.

► **GALERÍA COLLAGE HABANA**

THROUGH JULY

Agua en las raíces, by Santiago Rodríguez Olazábal, is explained by the painter: "Water is present in everything we do almost daily. It is also vital in the practice of rituals in most religions, in the energy and healing processes of many philosophies, in traditional medicine of ancient cultures and of the present. Water, in Cuban Santería or the Ifá Orisa religion, is the primary substance."

► **GALERÍA LATINOAMERICANA. CASA DE LAS AMÉRICAS**

THROUGHOUT JUNE

Soñar con las manos desde el corazón del Caribe, by Jasmine Thomas-Girvan.

► **PALACIO DEL MARQUÉS DE ARCOS**

THROUGH JUNE 5

Dreams, by Miguel Ángel Couret, exhibits paintings and prints. In the opinion of curator David Mateo, Couret is a "rational artist, a creator who weighs technical benefits and detriments when it comes to implementing his images. That is why his paintings and prints can show an equity in terms of compositional neatness and synthesis, in reference to the precise selection of elements and how they are subordinated to the narrative intention."

► **MUSEO NAPOLEÓNICO**

THROUGH JUNE 18

Ópera, show by artists Jorge Félix, Harold Ferrer and Ricardo Miguel Hernández.

FOTOTECA DE CUBA

JUNE 2-JULY 3

Pinturas ajenas, by Humberto Díaz, shows abstract photographs using found objects to create textures.

MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES. EDIFICIO DE ARTE CUBANO

▶ **THROUGH
JULY 10**

Varda / Cuba reúne un centenar de imágenes de la gran cineasta francesa Agnès Varda tomadas en Cuba en 1962, que luego le servirían para su filme *Saludos, cubanos*.

CASA DE LA POESÍA

▶ **JUNE 22,
10AM**

Caras y máscaras: la cultura popular en São Paulo.
Screening of this photographic show.

CASA OSWALDO GUAYASAMÍN

▶ **THROUGHOUT
JUNE**

Lente en descarga is a photographic dialogue between Young photographers and protagonists of the Fotojazz event, which was discontinued 20 years ago.

photos by Huberto Valera Jr.

PHOTO_

GRAPHY





DANCE

CURSO DE FLAMENCO 2017

JUNE 24 & 25, 5PM

TEATRO MARTÍ

Closing ceremony of the first graduation of the Flamenco Course taught by the Irene Rodríguez Dance Company.

CONCERT PROGRAM

JUNE 24, 8:30PM; JUNE 25, 5PM

GRAN TEATRO DE LA HABANA ALICIA ALONSO

Performance of selected works by the Ballet Nacional de Cuba.



CONCERT PROGRAM

JSATURDAY, JUNE 3, 8:30PM

CENTRO CULTURAL BERTOLT BRECHT. SALA TEATRO TITO JUNCO

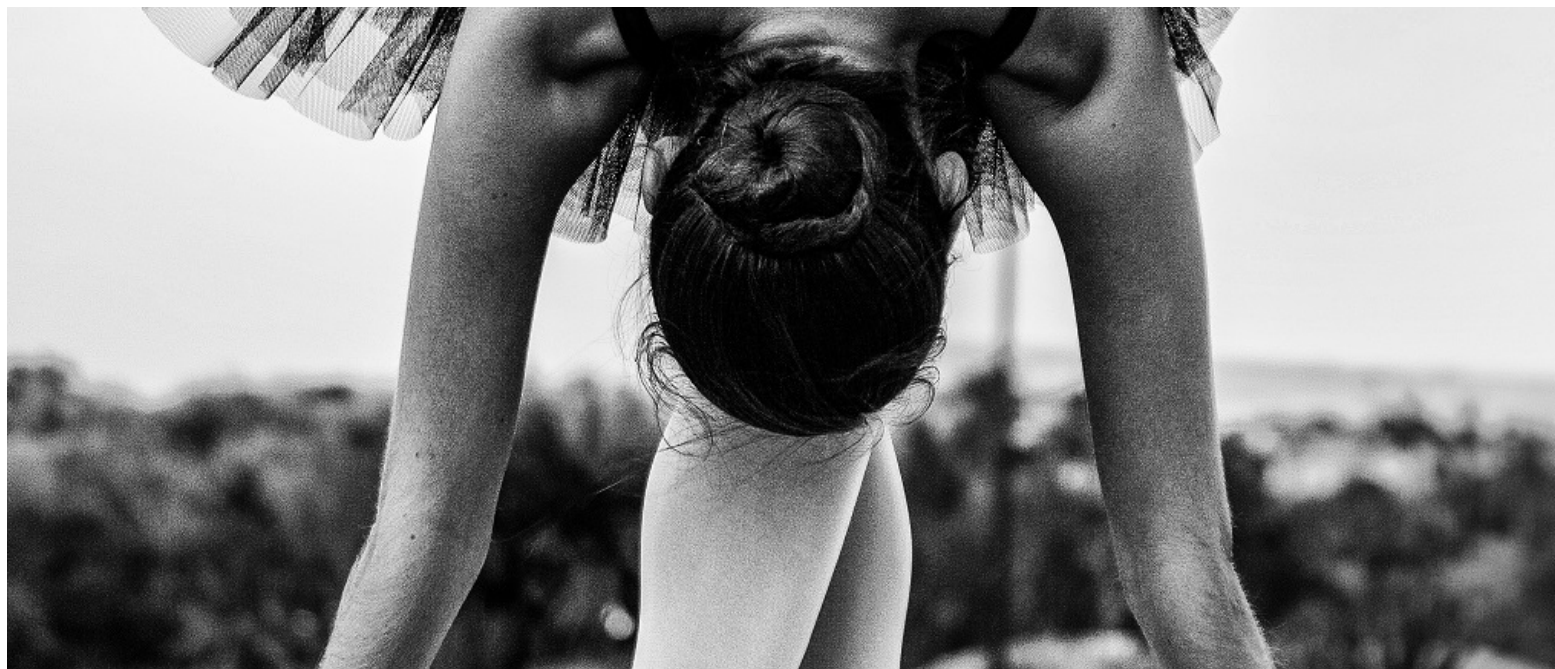
Performance by the Raíces Profundas dance company.

CONCERT PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 8:30PM

CENTRO CULTURAL BERTOLT BRECHT. SALA TEATRO TITO JUNCO

Special performance commemorating the company's 30th anniversary..



The contemporary fusion and electronic music scene has expanded recently as new bars and clubs have opened party promoters have organized events in parks and public spaces. Good live music venues include Bertolt Brecht (Wednesdays: Interactivo, El Sauce (check out the Sunday afternoon Máquina de la Melancolía) and Fábrica de Arte Cubano which has concerts most nights Thursday through Sunday as well as impromptu smaller performances inside.

In Havana's burgeoning entertainment district along First Avenue from the Karl Marx theatre to the aquarium you are spoilt for choice with the always popular Don Cangrejo featuring good live music with artists of the likes of Kelvis Ochoa, David Torrens, Interactivo, Diana Fuentes, Descemer Bueno, David Blanco, just to name a few, Las Piedras (insanely busy from 3am) and El Palio and Melem bar—both featuring different singers and acts in smaller more intimate venues.

BALNEARIO UNIVERSITARIO EL CORAL

► FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS / 1PM-1AM

Electronic music with rapping, DJing, Vjing, Dj-producers, breakdancing and graffiti writing, among other urban art expressions.

CAFÉ CONCERT EL SAUCE

► SUNDAYS / 5PM

La Máquina de la Melancolía, with Frank Delgado and Luis Alberto García

CASA DE LA AMISTAD

► SUNDAYS / 5PM

Rock 'n' Roll with Vieja Escuela.

DIABLO TUN TUN

► FRIDAYS / 5PM

Gens

CAFÉ CANTANTE MI HABANA

► THURSDAYS / 5PM

Karamba

BARBARAM PEPITO'S BAR

► THURSDAYS / 7PM

Annie Garcés

EN GUAYABERA

► SUNDAYS / 6PM

| Discotemba

CAFÉ CORNER

► THURSDAYS / 9:30PM

| Vieja Escuela

FÁBRICA DE ARTE CUBANO

► THURSDAYS / 10PM

| Dj Productores Session.

► FRIDAYS / 9PM

| Dj Productores Session.

► SATURDAYS / 9PM

| Dj Productores Session: Iván Lejardi.

► SUNDAYS / 11PM

| Rock and Roll at FAC.

HAVANA HARD ROCK

► EVERY OTHER FRIDAY / 6PM

Soul Train, a show of soul music

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS / 6PM

Rock cover bands

THURSDAYS / 11PM

Concerts by fusion and alternative music soloists and bands.

FRIDAYS / 11PM

Concerts by fusion and alternative music soloists and bands.

SATURDAYS / 11PM

Concerts by fusion and alternative music soloists and bands.

SUNDAYS / 12AM

Hip Hop at FAC.

MUSIC

CONTEMPORARY FUSION



SALSA TIMBA

CASA DE LA MÚSICA DE MIRAMAR

▶ ALL DAYS
5 PM, 11 PM

Popular dance music

MONDAYS
11 PM

Sur Caribe

TUESDAYS
11 PM

Popular dance music

WEDNESDAYS
11 PM

Juan Guillermo

THURSDAYS
5 PM

Manolito Simonet

FRIDAYS
5 PM

NG La Banda

SUNDAYS
5 PM

Pupy y los que
Son Son

JARDINES DEL 1830

▶ SUNDAYS / 5PM

| Grupo Moncada

HABANA CAFÉ. HOTEL COHIBA

▶ MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY / 9PM

| Teté y su grupo

CABARET TURQUINO. HOTEL HABANA LIBRE

▶ MONDAYS / 11PM

| El Chispa y los Cómplices

▶ TUESDAYS / 10PM

| Fiebre Latina

▶ WEDNESDAYS / 11PM

| Caribe Girls

SALÓN ROJO. HOTEL CAPRI

▶ WEDNESDAY THRU SATURDAY / 9PM

| Dorgeris Álvarez

CAFÉ CANTANTE. TEATRO NACIONAL

▶ MONDAYS / 11PM

| Popular dance music (Manana Club)

▶ THURSDAYS / 5PM

| El Noro y Primera Clase

CASA DE 18

▶ FRIDAYS / 8:30PM

| Iván y Fiebre Latina

▶ SATURDAYS / 8PM

| Ahí Namá

DIABLO TUNTÚN

▶ MONDAYS / 11PM

| Popular dance music

▶ WEDNESDAYS / 5PM

| El Expreso de Oriente

▶ THURSDAYS / 11PM

| NG La Banda

▶ SATURDAYS / 5PM

| Manana Club

▶ SUNDAYS / 5PM

| Popular dance music

LA PIRAGUA

▶ EVERY OTHER SATURDAY / 10PM

| One of the most popular spaces of
popular dance music is back.



MUSIC

JAZZ

Jazz Café

Mellow, sophisticated and freezing due to extreme air conditioning, the Jazz Café is not only an excellent place to hear some of Cuba's top jazz musicians, but the open-plan design also provides for a good bar atmosphere if you want to chat. Less intimate than La Zorra y el Cuervo – located opposite Melia Cohiba Hotel.

UNEAC

JUNE 8
5PM

La Esquina del Jazz, hosted by showman Bobby Carcassés

CAFÉ MIRAMAR

10 PM

Havana in the Grand Manner, with Tamara Castañeda (vibraphonist), Oliver Valdés (percussionist), Jorge Reyes (contrabass player), Jorge Luis Chicoy (guitarist) and Ernán López-Nussa (pianist), and guests singers Daymé Arocena and Kelvis Ochoa.

TEATRO AMÉRICA

JUNE 3
5 PM

César López (saxophonist) and Habana Ensemble

CASA DEL ALBA

JUNE 10
8 PM

Ruy López-Nussa (percussionist) & La Academia

Café Jazz Miramar

SHOWS: 11 PM - 2AM

This new jazz club has quickly established itself as one of the very best places to hear some of Cuba's best musicians jamming. Forget about smoke filled lounges, this is clean, bright—take the fags outside. While it is difficult to get the exact schedule and in any case expect a high level of improvisation when it is good it is very good. A full house is something of a mixed house since on occasion you will feel like holding up your own silence please sign! Nonetheless it gets the thumbs up from us.



ASOCIACIÓN CUBANA DE DERECHOS DE AUTOR MUSICAL

▶ JUNE 15
6PM

Alexis Bosch (pianist) and Proyecto Jazz Cubano



MUSIC BOLERO, FOLKLORE, SON AND TROVA

CASA DE 18

- ▶ WEDNESDAYS / 8PM | Héctor Téllez
- THURSDAYS / 5PM | José Valladares
- SUNDAYS / 5PM | Georgeana

CAFÉ CANTANTE, TEATRO NACIONAL

- ▶ SATURDAYS / 5PM
- | Waldo Mendoza

CASA DE LA BOMBILLA VERDE

- ▶ MONDAYS-SUNDAYS / 8PM
- | Performance by singer songwriters

CASONA DE LÍNEA

- ▶ SUNDAYS / 8PM
- | Trova

DOS GARDENIAS

- ▶ TUESDAYS THRU SUNDAYS / 10PM
- | Performance by soloist vocalists

**CABARET EL TURQUINO.
HOTEL HABANA LIBRE**

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 11PM | Mónica Mesa

CLUB AMANECER

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 5PM
- | Conjunto de Arsenio Rodríguez

DELIRIO HABANERO

- ▶ SATURDAYS / 10PM
- Traditional music

DIABLO TUN TUN

- ▶ THURSDAYS / 5PM
- | Trova with Ray Fernández

HURÓN AZUL, UNEAC

- ▶ SATURDAYS / 9PM
- | Bolero Night

CENTRO CULTURAL FRESA Y CHOCOLATE

- ▶ THURSDAYS / 9 M | Trova with Frank Martínez
- SUNDAYS / 6PM | Singer Leidis Díaz

ASOCIACIÓN YORUBA DE CUBA

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 8:30PM
- | Obbiní Batá (folkloric group)

HOTEL NACIONAL DE CUBA

- ▶ SATURDAYS / 7PM
- Los Indómitos

CASA DE LA POESÍA

- ▶ MAY / 3PM
- | Trova

LE SELECT

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 5PM | Grupo Moncada

EL TABLAO

- ▶ THURSDAYS / 11:30PM | Osdalgia
- SUNDAYS / 7:30PM | Ivette Cepeda

HOTEL MELIÁ HABANA

- ▶ TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS / 8:30PM | Vocal group Retro

GATO TUERTO

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 5PM | Music, visual arts, literature and more.

HOTEL TELÉGRAFO

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 9:30PM | Ivette Cepeda

LIBRERÍA FAYAD JAMÍS

- ▶ JUNE 16 / 4PM
- | Trova and poetry hosted by singer songwriter Ireno García.

MEMORIAL SALVADOR ALLENDE

- ▶ JUNE 30 / 6PM
- | Trovador Ángel Quintero

REVISTA LA JIRIBILLA

- ▶ JUNE 30 / 6PM | El Patio de Baldovina Project

CENTRO CULTURAL EN GUAYABERA

- ▶ FRIDAYS / 3PM
- | Trova with Diego Ulloa

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BASÍLICA MENOR DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

- ▶ JUNE 8
6PM Concert Portuguese Guitar and Cuban Tres, by guitarist Custódio Castelo (Portugal) and tres player Enid Rosales (Cuba).
- JUNE 17
6PM Concert by the Chamber Orchestra of Havana.
- JUNE 22
6PM Performance by the Chicago Consort string ensemble.
- JUNE 24
6PM Recital by flutist Niurka González

CASA VÍCTOR HUGO

- ▶ JUNE 9
5PM Concert by guitarist Yalit González.
- JUNE 30
5PM Musical meeting with the Cáliz Duet, made up by guitarist Luis Manuel Molina and clarinetist Vicente Monterrey.

IGLESIA DE PAULA

- ▶ JUNE 23
7PM Selected works by cathedral music composers, like Francisco de Olivera, Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla, Juan García de Céspedes, Antonio de Salazar, Nicolás Ximénez de Cisneros, José J. Lazo Valero, among others, performed by the Ars Longa Early Music Ensemble.

SALA COVARRUBIAS. TEATRO NACIONAL

- ▶ SUNDAYS
11AM Concerts by the National Symphony Orchestra.

ORATORIO SAN FELIPE NERI

- ▶ JUNE 1
7PM Soloists from the Teatro Lírico Nacional de Cuba will sing orks by French composers.
- JUNE 3
5PM Countertenor Lesby Bautista, accompanied by Yanner Rascón (piano), Alberto Rosas (flute), Alejandro Martínez (cello) and Prodanza ballerina Patricia Hernández, will perform Works by Reynaldo Hahn, Charles Gounod, Claude Debussy, Erik Satie, André Caplet, Camille Saint-Saëns and Francis Poulenc.
- JUNE 8
5PM Pianist Elvira Santiago and Ulises Hernández will play Piano Concerto No. 17 in G major, KV. 453, and Piano Concerto No. 26 in D major, "Coronation", K. 537, along with the Matanzas Symphony Orchestra.
- JUNE 19-24
5PM Musicalia Piano Festival with competition sessions open to the public, master classes and concerts with participating pianists come from Cuba, Colombia, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and Bolivia.

CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO DE CULTURA

- ▶ JUNE 10
5PM Performance by guitarist Susana Frades and guests.
- JUNE 14
5PM Recital by pianist Guillermo Tuzzio.

THEATRE

El diccionario

ESPACIO IRREVERENTE

IRREVERENCIA PRODUCCIONES / PRODUCTION: EVA GONZÁLEZ

THROUGH JUNE 20, SUNDAYS & MONDAYS, 7:30PM

The play, by Spanish playwright Manuel Calzada, approaches the vital conflicts of the philosopher and lexicographer María Moliner, author of the essential *Diccionario de uso del español*, who at the age of seventy discovers the first symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and begins the definition of the concept of freedom, according to what it has represented in the different crossroads of her life.

Pareja abierta

CENTRO CULTURAL RAQUEL REVUELTA

TEATRO AL LÍMITE / PRODUCTION: JORGE FERNÁNDEZ
FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 6:30PM

Manera de utilizar el corazón por fuera

CENTRO CULTURAL RAQUEL REVUELTA

TEATRO D'DOS / PRODUCTION: JULIO CÉSAR RAMÍREZ
JUNE 9-25, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 8:30PM; SUNDAYS, 5PM

Malos presagios

CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO DE CULTURA

GRUPO RITA MONTANER / PRODUCTION: CÉSAR CUTÉN
DÍAZ / JUNE 8, 15, 22 & 29, 6PM

Comedy written by Yunior García about a young woman who is about to get married and on the eve of her wedding she has a nightmare with gloomy omens about marriage.

Ha llegado un inspector

SALA HUBERT DE BLANCK

COMPAÑÍA TEATRAL HUBERT DE BLANCK
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 8:30PM; SUNDAYS, 5PM

One of John Boynton Priestley best known works for the stage, long considered part of the repertory of classic “drawing room” theatre, and a scathing critique of the hypocrisies of Victorian/Edwardian English society.

Abducción tranquila

CALLE OBISPO ESQUINA A MERCADERES

JUNE 10, 17 & 24, 5PM, GIGANTERÍA HABANA

Street theater by the stilt walkers of Old Havana.

Malos presagios

CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO DE CULTURA

GRUPO RITA MONTANER / PRODUCTION: CÉSAR CUTÉN
DÍAZ / JUNE 8, 15, 22 & 29, 6PM

Comedy written by Yunior García about a young woman who is about to get married and on the eve of her wedding she has a nightmare with gloomy omens about marriage.

Miriam Sánchez, una vida en el teatro

EL ARCA

JUNE 30, 5PM

Written and produced by Maikel Rodríguez and adapted by Sara Miyares, with the performances of Miriam Sánchez, Yanelis Vignier, Aylén Luna, Rigel González and Sara Miyares.

Buenas noches, buenas noches

TEATRO KARL MARX

JUNE 2 & 3, 8:30PM; JUNE 4, 5PM

Comedy show by the popular comedian Robertico.

FOR KIDS

El ruiseñor

JUNE 16-25, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 3PM
TEATRO DE TÍTERES EL ARCA

Play based on Hans Christian Andersen's The Nightingale.

El arca cuenta contigo

JUNE 15, 10AM
TEATRO DE TÍTERES EL ARCA

Dramatic narration by the Narrarte Project.

Theater for kids

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, 11AM
MUSEO DE ARTE COLONIAL

Theater show conducted by Estudio Teatral Aldaba

Alegrías del circo

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, 10AM & 3PM
ACUARIO NACIONAL

Circus show by the sea.

Clowns

SUNDAYS, 11AM
MUSEO NACIONAL DE BELLAS ARTES

Clowns, music and other attractions.

Mágico regalo

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11:30AM
ZOOLOGICO DE 26

Clown show at Nuevo Vedado's Zoo.





MESÓN DEL REGIDOR - INTIMATE HOTEL IN THE HEART OF UNESCO CITY STUNNER

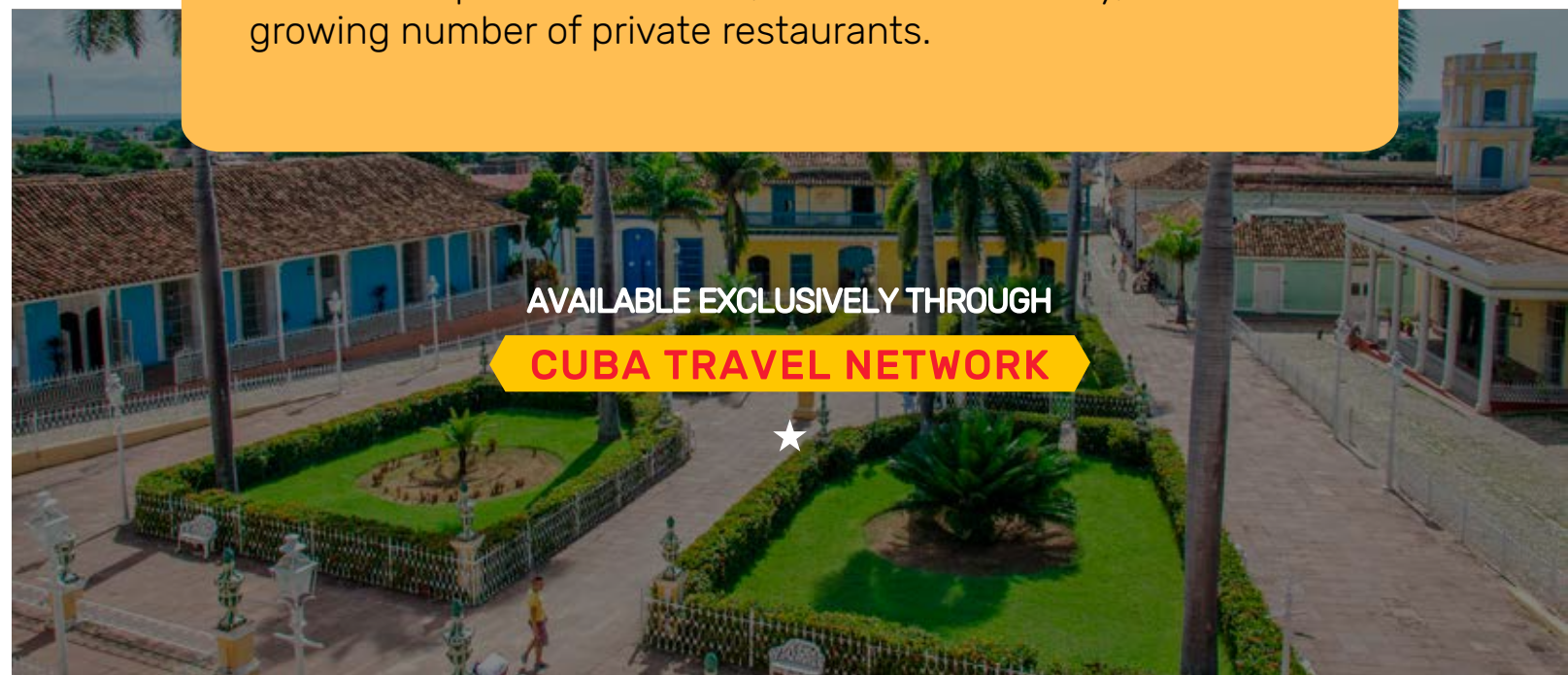
.....

This tiny hotel, with just four rooms, is found in a restored ochre and blue Spanish colonial building in the heart of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

It's a cobblestone's throw from the palaces-turned-museums, and main square and church, of this beautiful city, and the growing number of private restaurants.

EEUU - sales.us@cubatravelnetwork.com
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Europa - sales.europe@cubatravelnetwork.com
+31 (0)20 794 7962
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CUBA TRAVEL NETWORK

EVENTS IN HAVANA



VII Simposio Habana-Habanos

JUNE 20-24, CENTRO PARA LA INTERPRETACIÓN DE LAS RELACIONES CULTURALES CUBA-EUROPA (PALACIO DEL SEGUNDO CABO, LA HABANA VIEJA)

The Habana-Habanos Symposium, whose theme will be “Habanos: nature, culture and identity”, will be dedicated to Cuban tobacco growers. The event will start off with the panel “Science and technology in confronting acts of nature and the destruction by man in tobacco production” and will end with the traditional visit to the province of Pinar del Rio, home of the best tobacco in the world. The event will include the fifth edition of the course “Habanos, culture and marriage.” The exhibition Embajador de la Cubanía will open at the Casa Oswaldo Guayasamín on June 21, at 12 o'clock. The exhibit is a collection of cigar bands and dressings, lithographic stones, cigar boxes and humidors from various artists, artisans and collectors. A fashion show will take place with clothes made from the Artisan Paper Workshop.

Día Mundial del Medio Ambiente

JUNE 1-5

INSTITUTIONS AND OPEN SPACES AT OLD HAVANA'S HISTORICAL CENTER

Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for 2017, ‘Connecting People to Nature’, urges us to get outdoors and into nature, to appreciate its beauty and to think about how we are part of nature and how intimately we depend on it. It challenges us to find fun and exciting ways to experience and cherish this vital relationship.

To celebrate the day, the Office of Havana's Historian has organized a number of activities: lectures, workshops, talks with neighbors the community, exhibitions of plants and flowers. Casa del Benemérito de las Américas Benito Juárez, Exhibition of stamps and postcards of colonial courtyards.

CASA DE LA OBRA PÍA

- JUNE 1, 10AM | Conversation on floral aromas and aromatherapy by Yanela Mendoza, perfumist and Habana 1791 Perfume Shop.
- JUNE 2, 10AM | Lecture “Public spaces in nineteenth-century Havana”, by Bertha Elena Navarro Limia.
- JUNE 2, 11AM | Talk on “Havana plants are back home”, by Lisbet González Oliva, Vice President of the Cuban Society of Botany (Socubot).
- JUNE 3, 10AM | Introductory course to the bonsai art taught by Ramón Bedias, President of the Bonsai Artists Clubs.

SALA DE LA DIVERSIDAD DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL PATRIMONIO, COMUNIDAD Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

- JUNE 5, 6PM | Opening of the Doñana exhibition by Spanish photographer Héctor Garrido, about the Doñana National Park (Andalusia), one of the most important in Europe.

QUINTA DE LOS MOLINOS

- JUNE 3, 9AM | Exhibitions of the Cuban Society of Geology on environmental issues.
- JUNE 3, 10AM | Special tour of all of the institution's areas, release of pigeons, visits to the technified nurseries, the ornithological area and the butterfly collection, as well as environmental actions, animal interaction and planting.

EVENTS IN HAVANA



V Encuentro de Jóvenes Pianistas

JUNE 1-7, TEATRO MARTÍ, SALA IGNACIO CERVANTES, BASÍLICA MENOR DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS, CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO DE CULTURA

The 5th Encounter of Young Pianists, directed by Cuban pianist and Professor Salomón Gadles Mikowsky of the Manhattan School of Music, has scheduled eight days of continuous concerts with an attractive and varied repertoire of Cuban and international music. Pianists from Bulgaria, China, Cuba, France (in collaboration with the French Embassy in Cuba), Israel, Slovak Republic, Russia and Ukraine (ten of them are Mikowsky's students at the Manhattan School of Music and most are internationally renowned) will be joined by three important Cuban pianists.

TEATRO MARTÍ

- JUNE 4, 6PM | Jiayin Li, Sining Liu (China), Orquesta Sinfónica de la Universidad de las Artes
- JUNE 5, 6PM | Peter Fancovic (Slovak Republic), Leonardo Reyna (Cuba), Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Cuba
- JUNE 7, 6PM | Closing concert by Aldo López-Gavilán (Cuba), Wenqiao Jiang (China)

SALA IGNACIO CERVANTES

- JUNE 1, 6PM | Elina Christova (Bulgaria)
- JUNE 4, 11AM | Célimène Daudet (France); Harold López-Nussa, Ruy López-Nussa and Gastón Joya (Cuba)
- JUNE 6, 6PM | Olga Vinokur (Russia)

BASÍLICA MENOR DEL CONVENTO DE SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

- JUNE 3, 6PM
- JUNE 3, 11AM
- JUNE 3, 6PM

Muestra Itinerante de Cine del Caribe

JUNE 15-18, MOVIE THEATERS IN HAVANA

The Traveling Caribbean Film Festival was initiated with great success in February 2007 in Havana with the aim of acquainting audiences with the film production of the region. The event will discuss, among other topics, the sustainability of the festival and the production, distribution and exhibition of cinema of the English, French and Spanish-speaking Caribbean in its diverse genres.

Coloquio Internacional Ernest Hemingway

JUNE 15-18, FINCA VIGÍA, SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, LA HABANA

Cuban and internationalist experts who study the work of Ernest Hemingway will meet for four days at Finca Vigía on the outskirts of Havana during the International Ernest Hemingway Colloquium.

EVENTS AROUND CUBA



Jornada Cucalambeana

JUNE 29-JULY 2, CASA IBEROAMERICANA DE LA DÉCIMA, CITY OF LAS TUNAS

Every year, the capital of the northeastern province of Las Tunas becomes the venue for the Jornada Cucalambeana in memory of Las Tunas-born poet Juan Cristóbal Nápoles Fajardo (aka El Cucalambé), who was the most important Cuban “decimista”—country ballad poet—in 19th-century Cuba. The purpose of the festival is to keep alive the music and traditions of the Cuban countryside. The event lasts five days and always begins in late June to include July 1, which commemorates the birth of El Cucalambé. The Cucalambeana is a collection of different events that includes the recital and singing of décimas, a Spanish stanza of ten octosyllabic lines created in Spain between the 16th and 17th centuries, and which in America was adopted by popular sectors of the population, especially by country folk; the Justo Vega Competition of repentistas, or improvisers, who come from all over the country to show their talent at this difficult art; and Colorín, which showcases children who have taken up the tradition.

VII Encuentro Internacional de Fotografía Subacuática Imasub 2017

JUNE 19-24, PINAR DEL RÍO

The incredibly beautiful underwater landscapes of the Guanahacabibes National Park abounding in a rich assortment of flora and will be the perfect setting for the IMASUB 2015 photography competition. The only requirement is that the regulations are followed and that photos fall into the categories of fauna, macro, landscape and landscape-with-model. Photographers may compete in several categories.

Boleros en Santiago

JUNE 21-25, DOLORES CONCERT HALL, MARTÍ AND CUBA THEATERS, LA JUTÍA CONGA COURTYARD

Bolero, a musical genre which emerged in Cuba in the second half of the 19th century is what this festival is all about. The festival will pay tribute to the Boleros de Oro Festival on its 30th anniversary, and to Calixto Cardona on the tenth anniversary of his death. Guest singers include Ivette Cepeda, Raquel Hernández, Geidy Chapman, Anais Abreu, Migdalia Hechavarría, Waldo Mendoza, Manolo del Valle and Alexander Martínez, as well as singers from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Argentina and España.



HAVANA'S best places to eat

La Habanera

EL ATELIER

EXPERIMENTAL FUSION

Interesting décor, interesting menu.

Calle 5 e/ Paseo y 2, Vedado
(+53) 7-836-2025

BELLA CIAO

HOMELY ITALIAN

Great service, good prices. A real home from home.

Calle 19 y 72, Playa
(+53) 7-206-1406

CAFÉ BOHEMIA

CAFÉ

Bohemian feel. Great sandwiches, salads & juices

Calle San Ignacio #364, Habana Vieja

LA CALESA REAL

CUBAN AND INTERNATIONAL

Totally charming, excellent food

Compostela No. 359 e/ Lamparilla y Obrapía, La Habana Vieja (+53) 7864-5001

ECLÉCTICO

FUSION, ITALIAN

Beautiful mansion in the heart of El Vedado serving excellent food.

Calle Paseo No. 206, El Vedado (+53) 7 831-3423, (+53) 5360-0384

OTRA MANERA

INTERNATIONAL

Beautiful modern decor. Interesting menu and good service.

Calle #35 e/ 20 y 41, Playa.
(+53) 7-203-8315

CASA MIGLIS

SWEDISH-CUBAN FUSION

Oasis of good food & taste in Centro Habana

Lealtad #120 e/ Ánimas y Lagunas, Centro Habana
(+53) 7-864-1486

MEDITERRÁNEO HAVANA

INTERNATIONAL

Interesting and diverse menu. Beautiful terrace.

Calle 13 #406, e/ E y F, Vedado.
(+53) 7-832 4894
<http://www/medhavana.com>

EL COCINERO

INTERNACIONAL

Industrial chic alfresco rooftop with a buzzing atmosphere

Calle 26, e/ 11 y 13, Vedado.
(+53) 7-832-2355

CORTE PRÍNCIPE

ITALIAN

Sergio's place. Simple décor, spectacular food.

Calle 9na esq. a 74, Miramar
(+53) 5-255-9091

RÍO MAR

INTERNATIONAL

Contemporary décor. Great sea-view. Good food.

Ave. 3raA y Final #11, La Puntilla, Miramar
(+53) 7-209-4838

D.EUTIMIA

CUBAN/CREOLE

Absolutely charming. Excellent Cuban/creole food.

Callejón del Chorro #60C, Plaza de la Catedral, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7 861 1332

LA FONTANA

INTERNACIONAL

Consistently good food, attentive service. Old school.

Calle 46 #305 esq. a 3ra, Miramar
(+53) 7-202-8337

LA HABANERA

INTERNATIONAL AND VEGETARIAN

Excellent food and veggie-friendly menu. Lovely, majestic house.

Calle 16 # 506, e/ 7ma y 5ta, Miramar, Playa
(+53) 7 202 9941

EL LITORAL

INTERNACIONAL

Watch the world go by at the Malecón's best restaurant.

Malecón #161 e/ K y L, Vedado
(+53) 7-830-2201

SANTY

SUSHI/ORIENTAL

Authentic fisherman's shack servicing world-class sushi.

Calle 240A #3023 esq. a 3ra C, Jaimanitas
(+53) 5-286-7039

NAZDAROVIE

SOVIET

Well designed Soviet décor excellent food & service.

Malecon #25, 3rd floor e Prado y Carcel, Centro Habana
(+53) 7-860-2947

SAN CRISTÓBAL

CUBAN/CREOLE

Deservedly popular. Consistently great food. Kitsch décor.

San Rafael #469 e/ Lealtad y Campanario, Centro Habana
(+53) 7-860-9109



TOP PICK



La Calesa Real

Style of food: Cuban and international cuisine

Cost: Moderate

Type of place: Private (Paladar)

Best for: Excellent, authentic cuisine and friendly service

Don't Miss. The Langosta Calesa Real, lobster served in its shell with raspberry sauce , red wine, aromatic herbs and other secret ingredients.

Compostela No. 359 e/ Lamparilla y Obrapía, La Habana Vieja (+53) 7864-5001

Style of food: Fusion, Italian

Cost: Expensive

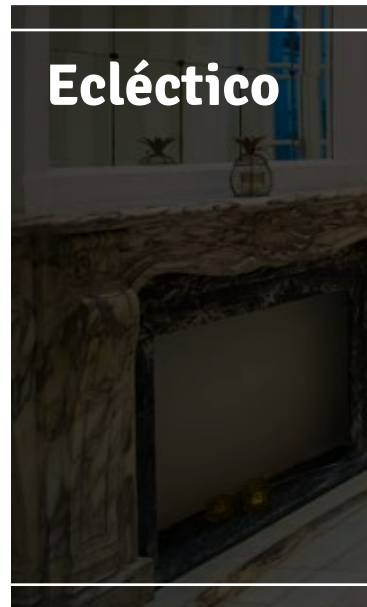
Type of place: Private (Paladar)

Best for Quality decor, fine service and great food.

Don't miss Fresh pasta, the fish and the ice cream of innovative flavors!

Calle Paseo No. 206, El Vedado
(+53) 7 831-3423, (+53) 5360-0384

Eclético



TOP PICK



TOP PICK



El Litoral

Style of food: International

Cost: Expensive

Type of place: Private (Paladar)

Best for Quality décor, good service and great food. Best new place recently opened.

Don't Miss Drinking a cocktail at sunset watching the world go by on the Malecón

Malecón #161 e/ K y L, Vedado.
(+53) 7-830-2201

TOP PICK





TOP PICK ★

La Guarida

Style of food: Contemporary fusion

Cost: Expensive

Type of place: Private (Paladar)

Best for Authentic, charming and intimate atmosphere in Cuba's best known restaurant. Great food, professional. Classy.

Don't Miss Uma Thurman, Beyoncé or the Queen of Spain if they happen to be dining next to you.

Concordia #418 e/ Gervasio y Escobar, Centro Habana.
(+53) 7-866-9047

Style of food: Traditional

Cost: Moderate

Type of place: Private (Paladar)

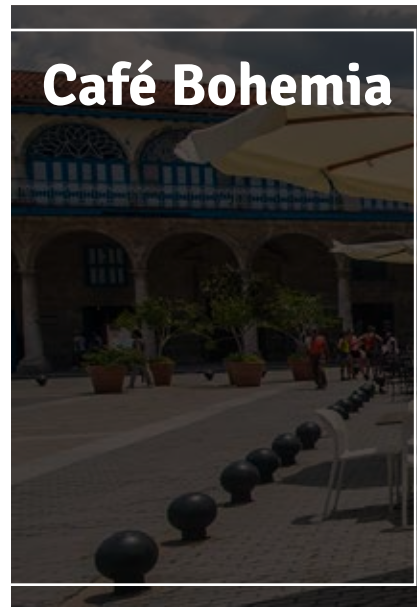
Best for taking a break from long walks and seeking shelter from the stifling Cuban.

Don't miss location in the cool inner courtyard of the colonial building.

Ground floor of the Palacio de la Casa del Conde de Lombillo, Calle San Ignacio #364

(+53) 5- 403-1 568, (+53) 7-836-6567 www.havanaboemia.com

Café Bohemia



TOP PICK ★



TOP PICK ★

La Habanera

Type of food: International and vegetarian

Cost: Moderate

Type of place: Private restaurant (Paladar)

Best for: Excellent food and veggie-friendly menu. Lovely, majestic house.

Don't miss: Eggplant lasagna and grilled fish with lemon and capers.

Calle 16 # 506, e/ 7ma y 5ta, Miramar, Playa
(+53) 7 202 9941

TOP PICK ★



Corte del Príncipe Sergio's

Style of food Italian

Cost Expensive

Type of place Private (Paladar)

Best for Cozy atmosphere, excellent service.

Don't miss spectacular homemade Italian pastas.

9na esq. 74, Playa
(+53)5255 - 9091

Casa Miglis

Style of food Swedish-Cuban fusion

Cost Expensive

Type of place Private (Paladar)

Best for The beautifully designed interior, warm ambience and Miglis's personality create the feeling of an oasis in Central Havana.

Don't Miss Chatting with Mr Miglis. The Skaargan prawns, beef Chilli and lingonberries.

Lealtad #120 e/ Ánimas y Lagunas, Centro Habana

www.casamiglis.com

(+53) 7-864-1486



TOP PICK ★

HAVANA'S best Bars & Clubs

Corner Café

TRADITIONAL BARS

■ EL FLORIDITA

Hemingway's daiquiri bar.
Touristy but always full of life.
Great cocktails.

Obispo #557 esq. a Monserrate, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-867-1299

■ 1950S TRADITIONALS

Guest performers include BUENA
VISTA SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS

Sociedad Rosalía de Castro, Egido 504 e/ Monte
y Dragones, Old Havana (+53) 5-270-5271

■ SLOPPY JOE'S BAR

Recently (beautifully) renovated.
Full of history. Popular. Lacks a
little 'grime'.

Ánimas esq. a Zulueta, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-866-7157

■ CERVECERÍA

ANTIGUO ALMACÉN DE LA MADERA Y
EL TABACO

Microbrewery located
overlooking the restored docks
Simply brilliant.

Avenida del Puerto y San Ignacio, La Habana
Vieja

CONTEMPORARY BARS

■ EL COCINERO

Fabulous rooftop setting, great
service, cool vibe.

Calle 26 e/ 11 y 13, Vedado
(+53) 7-832-2355

■ ESPACIOS

Laid back contemporary bar with
a real buzz in the back beer-
garden.

Calle 10 #510, e/ 5ta y 31, Miramar
(+53) 7-836-3031

■ TABARISH

A comfortable place to chat /
hang out with your friends. Great
service.

Calle 20 #503, e/ 5ta y 7ma.
(+53) 7-202-9188

■ FAC

X Alfonso's new cultural center.
Great concerts, funky young
scene.

Calle 26 e/ 11 y 13, Vedado
(next to the Puente de Hierro)

(+53) 5-329-6325
www.facebook.com/fabrica.deartecubano

Sangri-La

TOP PICK ★

CONTEMPORARY BAR/CLUBS

Best for Hanging out with the cool kids on the Havana Farundula in the most popular bar/club.

Don't Miss The best gin and tonic in Havana.

Ave. 21 e/ 36 y 42, Miramar

(+53) 5-264-8343

CONTEMPORARY BARS/CLUBS**DON CANGREJO**

Love it/hate it—this is the oldest Friday night party place and is still going strong. Outdoor by the sea.

Ave. 1ra e/ 16 & 18, Miramar
(+53) 7-204-3837

CORNER CAFÉ

Great live music every day. very frequently by locals. Good tapas.

Calle B e/ 1ra y 3ra. Plaza de la Revolución
(+53) 7837 1220

SANGRI-LA

For the cool kids. Basement bar/club which gets packed at weekends.

Ave. 21 e/ 36 y 42, Miramar
(+53) 7-264-8343

GAY-FRIENDLY**CABARET LAS VEGAS**

Can get dark and smoky but great drag show (11pm) from Divino—one of Cuba's most accomplished drag acts.

Ave. 21 e/ 36 y 42, Miramar
(+53) 7-264-8343

FASHION BAR HAVANA

A superb example of queer class meets camp, accompanied by a fantastic floor show.

San Juan de Dios, esq. a Aguacate, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-867-1676

CAFÉ BAR MADRIGAL

Pop décor, fancy cocktails, and the staff's supercilious attitude, this is a gathering spot for all types of folks.

Calle 17 #809 e/ 2 y 4, Vedado
(+53) 7-831-2433

Corner Café TOP PICK ★

CONTEMPORARY BAR/CLUBS

Best for Frequently by locals. Great tapas.

Don't Miss Live music every day.

Calle B e/ 1ra y 3ra. Plaza de la Revolución
(+53) 5-264-8343

TOP PICK ★



Espacios

CONTEMPORARY BAR/CLUBS

Best for Laid back lounge atmosphere in the garden area which often has live music. Good turnover of people.

Don't Miss Ray Fernandez, Tony Avila, Yasek Mazano playing live sets in the garden.

Calle 10 #510 e/ 5ta y 31, Miramar
(+53) 7-202-2921

BAR / TRADITIONAL

Best for Immense original bar lovingly restored. Good service, History.

Worst for Not quite grimy. Too clean.

Ánimas, esq. Zulueta La Habana Vieja,
(07) 866-7157

Sloppy Joe's Bar



TOP PICK ★

TOP PICK ★



Fábrica de Arte

CONTEMPORARY BAR/CLUBS

Best for X Alfonso's superb new cultural center has something for everyone

Don't Miss Artists who exhibit work should demonstrate ongoing creativity and a commitment for social transformation.

Calle 26 e/ 11 y 13, Vedado
(next to the Puente de Hierro)

GAY FRIENDLY

Best for A superb example of queer class meets camp, accompanied by a fantastic floor show.

Don't Miss The staff performing after 11pm

San Juan de Dios, esq. a Aguacate, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-867-1676

Fashion Bar Havana



TOP PICK ★

TOP PICK ★



Bertolt Brecht

CONTEMPORARY BAR/CLUBS

Best for Hanging out with hip & funky Cubans who like their live music.

Don't Miss Interactivo playing on a Wednesday evening.

Calle 13 e/ I y J, Vedado
(+53) 7-830-1354



Traditionals of the 50's

A Cuban Music Project Introducing the Show

"A 1950's Cuban Evening"

Venue: Sociedad Rosalía de Castro,
Egido 504 e/ Monte y Dragones, Old
Havana. Daily from 9:30 pm.

GUESTS: BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB AND AFROCUBAN ALL
STARS MEMBERS & CUBA'S SHOW WOMAN JUANA BACALLAO



rumba

guaguancó

guaracha

son

bolero

cha-cha-cha

conga



<http://tradicionalesdelos50musicacubana.com> (537) 5 2705271

HAVANA'S

best live music venues



CONCERT VENUES

KARL MARX THEATRE

World class musicians perform prestigious concerts in Cuba's best equipped venue.

Calle 1ra esq. a 10, Miramar
(+53) 7-203-0801

BASÍLICA SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS

A truly beautiful church, which regularly hosts fabulous classical music concerts.

Oficios y Amargura, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Habana Vieja

FÁBRICA DE ARTE

X Alfonso's new cultural center. Great concerts inside (small and funky) and outside (large and popular!).

Calle 26 e/ 11 y 13, Vedado (next to the Puente de Hierro)

SALA COVARRUBIAS

TEATRO NACIONAL

Recently renovated, one of Cuba's most prestigious venues for a multitude of events.

Paseo y 39, Plaza de la Revolución.

SALSA/TIMBA

CAFÉ CANTANTE MI HABANA

Attracts the best Cuban musicians. Recently renovated with an excellent new sound system.

Ave. Paseo esq. a 39, Plaza de la Revolución
(+53) 7-878-4273

CAJA DE LA MÚSICA

CENTRO HABANA

A little rough around the edges but spacious. For better or worse, this is ground zero for the best in Cuban salsa.

Galiano e/ Neptuno y Concordia, C. Habana
(+53) 7-860-8296/4165

CAJA DE LA MÚSICA

MIRAMAR

Smaller and more up-market than its newer twin in Centro Habana. An institution in the Havana salsa scene.

Calle 20 esq. a 35, Miramar
(+53) 7-204-0447

SALÓN ROSADO DE LA TROPICAL

The legendary beer garden where Arsenio tore it up. Look for a salsa/timba gig on a Sat night and a Sun matinee.

Ave. 41 esq. a 46, Playa
(+53) 7-203-5322

CONTEMPORARY

CAFÉ TATRO BERTOLT BRECHT

Think MTV Unplugged when musicians play. Hip, funky and unique with an artsy Cuban crowd.

Calle 13 e/ I y J, Vedado
(+53) 7-830-1354

DON CANGREJO

Love it/hate it—this is the oldest Friday night party place and is still going strong. Outdoor by the sea.

Ave. 1ra e/ 16 y 18, Miramar
(+53) 7-204-3837

EL SAUCE

Great outdoor concert venue to hear the best in contemporary & Nueva Trova live in concert.

Ave. 9na #12015 e/ 120 y 130, Playa
(+53) 7-204-6428

TEATRO DE BELLAS ARTES

Small intimate venue inside Cuba's most prestigious arts museum. Modern.

Trocadero e/ Zulueta y Monserrate,
Habana Vieja.

TROVA & TRADITIONAL

BARBARAM PEPITO'S BAR

Some of the best Cuban Nueva Trova musicians perform in this small and intimate environment.

Calle 26 esq. a Ave. del Zoológico. Nuevo Vedado
(+53) 7-881-1808

GATO TUERTO

Late night place to hear fabulous bolero singers. Can get smoky.

Calle O entre 17 y 19, Vedado
(+53) 7-833-2224

TRADICIONALES DE LOS 50

The 1950s traditionals, a project created over 10 years ago, pays tribute to the Golden Era of Cuban music: the 1950s.

Sociedad Rosalia de Castro, Egido #504 e/
Monte y Dragones, Havana Vieja
(+53) 7-861-7761

SALÓN 1930 COMPAY SEGUNDO

Buena Vista Social Club style set in the grand Hotel Nacional.

Hotel Nacional
Calle O esq. a 21, Vedado
(+53) 7-835-3896

JAZZ

CAFÉ JAZZ MIRAMAR

Clean, modern and atmospheric. Where Cuba's best musicians jam and improvise.

Cine Teatro Miramar
10:30pm – 2am
Ave. 5ta esq. a 94, Miramar

JAZZ CAFÉ

A staple of Havana's jazz scene, the best jazz players perform here. Somewhat cold atmosphere-wise.

Galerías de Paseo
Ave. 1ra e/ Paseo y A, Vedado

LA ZORRA Y EL CUERVO

Intimate and atmospheric, which you enter through a red telephone box, is Cuba's most famous.

Calle 23 e/ N y O, Vedado
(+53) 7-833-2402



Hotel Nacional de Cuba

HAVANA'S Best Hotels



SIMPLY THE BEST...

IBEROSTAR PARQUE CENTRAL

Luxury hotel overlooking Parque Central

Neptuno e/ Prado y Zulueta, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-860-6627

SANTA ISABEL

Luxurious historic mansion facing Plaza de Armas

Narciso López, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-860-8201

SARATOGA

Stunning view from roof-top pool. Beautiful décor.

Paseo del Prado #603 esq. a Dragones, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-860-8201

TERRAL

Wonderful ocean front location. Newly renovated.

Malecón esq. a Lealtad, Centro Habana
(+53) 7-862-8061

BOUTIQUE HOTELS IN OLD HAVANA

FLORIDA

Beautifully restored colonial house.

Obispo #252, esq. a Cuba, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-862-4127

PALACIO DEL MARQUÉS...

Cuban baroque meets modern minimalist

Oficios #152 esq. a Amargura, Habana Vieja

HOSTAL VALENCIA

Immensely charming, great value.

Oficios #53 esq. a Obrapía, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-867-1037

CONDE DE VILLANUEVA

Delightfully small and intimate. For cigar lovers.

Mercaderes #202, Lamparilla
(+53) 7-862-9293

THE COLLECTION BY PULLMAN
UNIQUE & EXCLUSIVE, ONLY IN CAYO COCO



BUSINESS HOTELS**■ MELIÁ COHÍBA**

Oasis of polished marble and professional calm.

Ave Paseo e/ 1ra y 3ra, Vedado
(+53) 7- 833-3636

■ MELIÁ HABANA

Attractive design & extensive facilities.

Ave. 3ra y 70, Miramar
(+53) 5-204-8500

**■ OCCIDENTAL
MIRAMAR**

Good value, large spacious modern rooms.

Ave. 5ta. e/ 70 y 72, Miramar
(+53) 7-204-3583

**■ H10 HABANA
PANORAMA**

Cascades of glass. Good wi-fi. Modern.

Ave. 3ra. y 70, Miramar
(+53) 7 204-0100

FOR A SENSE OF HISTORY**■ AMBOS MUNDOS**

A must for Hemingway aficionados

Calle Obispo #153 esq. a Mercaderes, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7- 860-9529

■ MERCURE SEVILLA

Stunning views from the roof garden restaurant.

Trocadero #55 entre Prado y Zulueta, Habana Vieja
(+53) 7-860-8560

■ HOTEL NACIONAL

Eclectic art-deco architecture. Gorgeous gardens.

Calle O esq. a 21, Vedado
(+53) 7-835 3896

■ RIVIERA

Spectacular views over wave-lashed Malecón

Paseo y Malecón, Vedado
(+53) 7-836-4051

ECONOMICAL/BUDGET HOTELS**■ BOSQUE**

On the banks of the Río Almendares.

Calle 28-A e/ 49-A y 49-B, Reparto Kohly, Playa
(+53) 7-204-9232

■ DEAUVILLE

Lack of pretension, great location.

Galiano e/ San Lázaro y Malecón, Centro Habana
(+53) 7-866-8812

■ SAINT JOHN'S

Lively disco, tiny quirky pool. Popular.

Calle O e/ 23 y 25, Vedado
(+53) 7-833-3740

■ VEDADO

Good budget option with a bit of a buzz

Calle O e/ 23 y 25, Vedado
(+53) 7-836-4072

HAVANA'S Best Hotels





HAVANA'S best private places to stay

MID RANGE - CASA PARTICULAR (B&B)

■ 1932

Visually stunning, historically fascinating. Welcoming.

Campanario #63 e/ San Lázaro y Laguna,
Centro Habana
(+53) 7-863-6203

■ MIRAMAR 301

LUXURY HOUSE

4 bedrooms private luxury villa
with swimming pool

■ HABANA

Beautiful colonial townhouse with
great location.

Calle Habana #209, e/ Empedrado, y Tejadillo,
Habana Vieja.
(+53) 7-861-0253

■ JULIO Y ELSA

Cluttered bohemian feel.
Hospitable.

Consulado #162 e/ Colón y Trocadero, Centro
Habana
(+53) 7-861-8027

UP-SCALE B&BS (BOUTIQUE HOSTALS)

■ SUEÑO CUBANO

Old palace carefully restored,
seven rooms, suites with
bathrooms and featuring 24 hour
service.

Calle Santa Clara número 66 entre Oficios e
Inquisidor. Habana Vieja

53 78660109
39 339 1817730

■ LA RESERVA VEDADO

5 luxurious rooms in a renovated
colonial mansion. The tropical
garden in the courtyard, ideal to
eat, drink and relax.

Calle 2 entre 21 y 23 numero 508.
Vedado, La

Habana

manager@lareservavedado.com

(53) 7 8335244

<http://lareservavedado.com/>

■ VITRALES

Hospitable, attractive and reliable
boutique B&B with 9 bedrooms.

Habana #106 e/ Cuarteles y Chacón, Habana
Vieja

(+53) 7-866-2607

■ PASEO 206

Incredible boutique hotel and
restaurant. Luxury and comfort
combined.

Paseo, 206 - Vedado. (+53) 7 8313423, (+53) 5
3600384

APARTMENT RENTALS

BOHEMIA BOUTIQUE APARTMENTS

Gorgeous 1-bedroom apartment beautifully decorated apartment overlooking Plaza Vieja.

San Ignacio #364 e/ Muralla y Teniente Rey, Plaza Vieja

(+53) 5- 403-1 568 (+53) 7-836-6567
www.havanabohemia.com

CASA CONCORDIA

Beautifully designed and spacious 3 bedroom apartment. Spanish colonial interiors with cheerful, arty accents.

Concordia #151 apto. 8 esq. a San Nicolás, Centro Habana

(+53) 5-254-5240
www.casaconcordia.net

TROPICANA PENTHOUSE

A luxurious penthouse with huge roof terrace and breath-taking 360 degree views of Havana and the ocean.

Galiano #60 Penthouse Apt.10 e/ San Lázaro y Trocadero

(+53) 5-254-5240
www.tropicanapenthouse.com

SUITE HAVANA

Elegant 2-bedroom apartment in restored colonial building. Quality loft style décor.

Lamparilla #62 altos e/ Mercaderes y San Ignacio, Habana Vieja

(+53) 5-829-6524

LUXURY HOUSES

VILLASOL

Rent Room elegant and well-equipped. Beautiful wild garden and great pool.

Calle 17 #1101 e/ 14 y 16, Vedado

(+34) 677525361
(+53) 7-832-1927
(+53) 5-360-0456

CASABLANCA

Elegant well-equipped villa formerly owned by Fulgencio Batista. Beautiful wild garden.

Morro-Cabaña Park. House #29

(+53) 5-294-5397
www.havanacasablanca.com

MICHAEL AND MARÍA ELENA

This leafy oasis in western Havana has an attractive mosaic tiled pool and three modern bedrooms.

Calle 66 #4507 e/ 45 y Final, Playa

(+53) 7-209-0084

RESIDENCIA MARIBY

A sprawling vanilla-hued mansion with 6 rooms decorated with colonial-era lamps, tiles and Louis XV furniture

Vedado.
(+53) 5-370-5559



Bohemia Boutique Apartments Red

TOP PICK 

Best for 3 small balconies (facing the Patio of the Palace), 1 spacious bedroom with air conditioning

Don't Miss The apartment is fully furnished, plenty of light and very well ventilated.

San Ignacio #364 e/ Muralla y Teniente Rey, Plaza Vieja, Habana Vieja
bohemia.plazavieja@gmail.com

(+53) 5 4031 568: (53) 7 8366 567 www.havanabohemia.com

TOP PICK ★



Paseo, 206 – Vedado.
(+53) 7 8313423, (+53) 5 3600384

Paseo 206

Best for The hotel staff not only picks up guests at the airport in perfectly restored vintage automobiles, they take you to fruit and vegetable markets where you can choose what you want to eat later in the day.

Don't Miss The luxury bedroom. Two areas on the house are extra-special: a glass-wall sitting room surrounded by plants, and a room in the dome with a splendid view of the Caribbean Sea.

Sueño Cubano

Best for Old palace carefully restored, seven rooms, suites with bathrooms and featuring 24 hour service.

Don't Miss Relax at any of the four terraces, feel the mellow touch of antique and original Cuban furniture.

TOP PICK ★



TOP PICK ★



Bohemia Boutique Apartments Blue

Best for 1 internal balcony, 1 spacious bedroom on the mezzanine with air conditioning.

Don't Miss The apartment is fully furnished, plenty of light and very well ventilated.

San Ignacio #364 e/ Muralla y Teniente Rey, Plaza Vieja, Habana Vieja bohemia.plazavieja@gmail.com
(+53) 5 4031 568: (+53) 7 8366 567

lahabana.com

THANK YOU

Wishes to thank all of the following entities for their support and involvement with La Habana.com

