

Acción Latina

Community Journalism • Cultural Arts • Youth Leadership • Mission Archive

A non-profit serving the Latino community

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: Martha Dueñas maduenas@accionlatina.org
Eva Martinez emartinez@accionlatina.org
415.648.1045 www.accionlatina.org

ACCION LATINA PRESENTS THE 28TH ANNUAL ENCUENTRO DEL CANTO POPULAR FESTIVAL *Cultures of Resistance • Culturas de Resistencia*

28th Annual Encuentro del Canto Popular Festival

Cultures of Resistance • Culturas de Resistencia

Friday and Saturday, December 4 & 5, 2009

Brava Theater – 2781 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110

8:00 to 11:00 pm (Doors open at 7:00 pm)

Tickets:

In advance \$16 General / \$12 Student & Seniors

At door: \$18 General / \$14 Student & Seniors

(San Francisco, Ca.) – On Friday and Saturday, December 4th and 5th progressive Latino musicians from both sides of the Bay will come together to inspire social change through an eclectic mix of music, ranging from Chicano Hip-Hop to Reggae-infused Flamenco. This lyrical rebel convergence will occur at the 28th annual Encuentro del Canto Popular (Gathering of New Song) music festival at the Brava Theater at 2781 24th Street in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. Tickets are \$16 General / \$12 Student & Seniors in advance and \$18 General / \$14 Student & Seniors at the door. Tickets can be purchased at brownpapertickets.com, at Modern Times Bookstore in San Francisco, and at the Acción Latina office. More information and images available at www.accionlatina.org.

The Encuentro was established in 1981 as a fundraising event for *El Tecolote* newspaper, the Mission's bilingual publication that has provided free journalism training for local residents and youth since 1970.

The festival's mission is to promote Latino music and artists whose community work and/or music promotes activism and civic engagement. Its roots lie in the *Nueva Canción* (New Song) movement that arose out of Latin America in the 1960s when artists joined in the struggle for democracy and equality. They produced a legacy of songs that incorporated traditional folk rhythms and instruments with politicized lyrics.

The 2009 festival continues the legacy of inspiring hope and equality for all people through lyrical resistance. "Art has the ability to creatively expose the harsh realities of life and then to inspire

people to participate in change. The mission of the Encuentro to is honor and value artists whose work is done in service to the community and who lead by example,” said Eva Martinez, executive director of Acción Latina, the non-profit organization that produces the Encuentro.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2009

Friday’s program is a celebration of Bay Area women’s voices for change. The headliner is **LoCura** whose music is rooted in the flamenco styles they fell in love with during a stay in southern Spain. But LoCura doesn’t stop there as they weave a seductive mix of Reggae, Cuban Son and Hip-Hop carried by the powerful and soulful vocals of lead singer **Kata Miletich**. She will be joined by **Bob Sanders** on guitar and vocals; **Rachael Bouch-D** on percussion, **Isaac Weiser** on Bass, **Valentino** on drums. Dancer/singer **Stephanie Narvaez** will join LoCura at the Encuentro performance. In Spain the expression *ida y vuelta* is used to describe the cultural influences within Flamenco, which made a “round trip” from Spain to Latin America where it blended with the musical legacy of African slaves and local indigenous populations and then returned to the homeland. LoCura extends this road trip adding their unique touch with *Califas Flamenkito*. Moved by music that crosses borders and takes root in different lands, the LoCura sound evokes our rebel spirit.

Young singer/songwriter **Blanca Sandoval** will share her soulful voice and heartfelt lyrics, which have captivated audiences since her childhood. Spanning the musical horizon, Sandoval’s sound blends her bilingual roots with Funk, Jazz, Rock, Hip-Hop, Ska, Cumbia, Salsa, Boleros and Rancheras. You name it Sandoval does it. Born into a musical family, Sandoval’s childhood was spent singing at family shows and performing alongside such talent at Jagged Edge and Lola Beltran. When Sandoval joined forces with **Roberto Zamora**, the combination of her lyrics and melodies with his brilliant guitar style resulted in her first CD titled “*Mi Musica*” which includes “*Latina y Orgullosa*,” second place winner at the 2005 *Festival de la Canción Latinoamericana de California* and “*Veneno*” which won the Trofeo Univision in 2006. In addition to lead guitarist Zamora, Sandoval’s Encuentro performance will also feature drummer **Mike Juarez**, and bass player **Oscar Tablada**.

Opening Friday night, **Las Bomberas de la Bahía** is the Bay Area’s first and only all-women *Bomba* ensemble. Just entering its second year, the group is composed of Bay Area activists, educators and artists whose mission is to preserve the rich legacy of *Bomba*. Described as a challenge between a drummer and a dancer, *Bomba* is Puerto Rico’s oldest African-influenced music and dance tradition. Originally performed by slaves on the sugar cane plantations as a form of resistance, the dancer performs a series of gestures to which the drummer responds. Thus, it is the drummer who attempts to follow the dancer and not the other way around. Los Bomberas de la Bahia have performed their magic through the Bay Area.

Friday night’s emcee is Mission District homegirl **Betty Pazmiño**. This dedicated educator, with a life-long fascination for African-influenced dance and music, describes herself as “a teacher whose goal is to educate the community and teach youth about our rich cultural heritage.” Pazmiño is that and so much more. With nearly 30 years of teaching under her belt, most of them at César Chávez Elementary School, Pazmiño — the mother of two and the wife of none — is a newbie to stand-up comedy. Get ready to laugh with “Betty La Bella” and her tell-it-like-it-is humor about life in the Mission and beyond.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009

Saturday’s lineup showcases a new generation of resisters, musicians who refuse to accept the status quo. They are the rising voices of young artists/social activists who are using Hip-Hop as a tool for change.

Headliner **Rico Pabón** uses music to challenge injustices. A well-known figure in the local music scene, Pabón released his first two albums with Prophets of Rage in 1994 and 1997. Since then he has kept busy as a solo artist and as a vocalist for the Afro-Latin Hip-Hop band Agua Libre. His 2000 solo album, *My Power*, was dedicated to Puerto Rican freedom fighters. His 2003 song, *Yo Naci*, was featured on the acclaimed Hard Knock Records anti-war Hip-Hop album. No matter which musical configuration Pabón finds himself in, whether salsa or Hip-Hop or somewhere in between, his poetic lyrics are bound by the theme that struggle feeds beauty. Pabón is bringing his newest group, **De La Fé**, to the 2009 Encuentro. Boasting some of the Bay Area's most talented young musicians, the members are **Ayla Davila** on bass; **Camilo Landau** on guitar, tres and vocals; **Hector Lugo** on percussion and vocals; **Melecio Magdaluyo** on sax and flute; **Mike Olmos** on trumpet; and **David Flores** on drums and timbales. Under Pabón's direction, De La Fé draws the connections between the traditional music he heard growing up at home with the music he listened to and danced to on the streets of New York. "Hip-Hop became our traditional music, the sons and daughters of immigrants, but for most of us it didn't replace our deep love for the music of our roots. De La Fé is my proof," said Pabón.

Saturday's second act is the clamorous combination of **Deuce Eclipse** (vocals) and his new group, **Bang Data**, composed of **Juan Caipo** (drums and keys), **Dave Lopez** (guitar) and **Marco Guzman** (bass). Straight out of the Bay in early 2008, their mash-up of latin, Reggae, Hip-Hop and Rock make the perfect canvas for Deuce Eclipse's bilingual rhymes and melodies. With deep roots in the Bay Area's music community, their musical journey travels from Samba-Ska-Cumbialandia, passes through electro-Bossanova-burg, and reaches the destination of synth bass-heavy stooges-infused beat. Bang Data is set to drop their much awaited debut CD "*Maldito Carnaval*" any minute now, featuring a new arrangement of Piero's '70s Latin-American classic "Mi Viejo" — a tribute to all immigrant fathers. Their live performance will be edgy, energetic and contagious.

The dynamic Hip-Hop quartet known as **BRWN BFLO** will open Saturday night. In a world of black and white, they represent for brown — storytellers of the diverse Chicano experience and the struggles of indigenous peoples worldwide, **Giant, Jacinto, Somos One** and **Big Dan** are the perfect mix of old school and new school. The Oakland-based trio credit their community roots with keeping them grounded. When not creating change on the stage, these activist/artists are changing it up in the 'hood through workshops on violence prevention, youth organizing, creating writing, visual arts and music production. Their highly anticipated self-titled debut album was released on Cinco de Mayo 2009.

Saturday night emcees are two members — **Rosa González** and **Luis "xago" Juarez** — of **headRush**, the irrepressible trio of storytellers, comedians and educators. Self-defined as "a unique rush of psycho-political spoken word, teatro and popular education to ignite critical dialogue and social action" headRush is an unstoppable force.

The Encuentro del Canto Popular is sponsored in part by grants from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Additional support has come from West Bay Law/Wartelle, Weaver & Schreiber, Oliver & Sabec, Instituto Familiar de la Raza, ¡Venga! Empanadas, Espiga del Oro, La Peña, A. Maciel Printing, El Tecolote, Univision KDTV 14, Telefutura 66, and KPFA.

More information is available at www.accionlatina.org

Tickets available at:

Accion Latina office -2958 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 9 to 5pm (415) 648-1045

Modern Times Bookstore - 888 Valencia St. San Francisco, Ca. (415) 282-9246

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/86789

[Digital images available upon request.](#)