

Ballet Hispánico

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: EDUARDO VILARO



Workshops and Performance for Young People

Tito on Timbales

Program Information, Context, Activities, and Resources

Exploring Dance

Tito on Timbales

Music & Dance Traditions

Dance and music are a major part of cultural identity. A lot of the music and dances coming out of Latin American communities were created through the mixing of African, Indian, and European cultures. The term Latin America commonly refers to countries where Spanish and Portuguese languages are spoken, including Mexico, most of Central and South America, plus the Caribbean islands of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Latin America is, therefore, defined as all those parts of the Americas that were once part of the Spanish and Portuguese Empires. (see map on following page)

For more information about specific dances styles and music of Latin America, consider referencing the following books:

- *Everynight Life: Culture and Dance in Latino America*; edited by Celeste Fraser Delgado and José Esteban Muñoz
- *The Latin Tinge: The Impact of Latin Music on the United States*; by John Storm Roberts
- *National Rhythms, African Roots: The Deep History of Latin American Popular Dance*; by John Charles Chasteen
- *Voices of the Americas: Traditional Music and Dance From North, South, and Central America, and the Caribbean*; edited by Ray Allen

Suggested Activities

Activity A

- Ask your students as a whole group to brainstorm who they consider to be major Latino artists of today, what their cultural heritage is, and what they are known for. Individually they can then do further research on one of the artists.
- In groups, have your students research the variety of Latin dances that have a specific type of music unique to that dance (Merengue, Flamenco, Cha Cha, Mambo...where it originated and what distinguishes it). They can prepare a 2-3 minute presentation for the whole group.
- Have the group reflect on whether they see any connections between the dances and music they have researched and the Latino artists they researched.



Tito on Timbales (1984) William Whitener Music by Tito Puente, Sr.

William Whitener's creative choreography brings the memories of Tito Puente's high-pitched drums to life. This revival is a tribute to the master whose sophisticated patterns and impassioned rhythms move us to this very day.



William Whitener

William Whitener is currently the Artistic Director of Kansas City Ballet and a favorite among the dance world today. He has choreographed for every major ballet company in America and has worked with stars of the stage and screen, even working with Olympic champion skater John Curry.



Tito Puente, Sr. (1923 –2000)

Born Ernesto Antonio Puente, Sr., Tito Puente was a Latin Jazz and Mambo musician. He was the son of native Puerto Ricans, Ernest and Ercilia Puente, and he grew up in Spanish Harlem in New York City. Tito Puente is a Grammy Award winning artist, famous for his rendition of "Oye Como Va" with Carlos Santana. He is often credited as "El Rey" (the King) of the timbales and "The King of Latin Music".

Exploring Dance

Tito on Timbales

Music & Dance Traditions: The countries of Latin America



Further Resources

Choreographers/Musicians

Talley Beatty

Long, Richard A. *The Black Tradition in American Dance*. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1989

Perpener, John O. *African-American Concert Dance: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond*. University of Illinois Press, 2001

Talley Beatty in: www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/-documentary that chronicles the role that African-American choreographers and dancers have played in the development of modern dance as an American art form

Douglas Rosenberg, dir., *Talley Beatty: Conversations with Contemporary Masters of American Modern Dance* (American Dance Festival, 1993)

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa - www.redcircles.nl

Andrea Miller - <http://www.gallimdance.com/andrea-miller>

Vincent Nebrada - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincente_Nebrada

William Whitener - <http://www.kcballet.org/aboutus/company/artisticdirector>

Tito Puente

Tito Puente - King of Latin Music (Book) by Jim Payne and Tito Puente (2006)

Tito Puente: When The Drums Are Dreaming by Josephine Powell (2007)

Books for Young Readers

4-8 Years Old

Alvin Ailey Andrea Pinkney (Author), Brian Pinkney (Illustrator)

Brazil (A to Z) Justine Fontes; Ron Fontes

Carnaval, George Ancona

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican Hat Dance (Stories to Celebrate)

Alma F. Ada & F. Isabel Campoy

Dance! With Bill T. Jones; Susan Kuklin

Dancing in the Wings; Debbie Allen (Author), Kadir Nelson (Illustrator)

A Dictionary of Dance; Liz Murphy

José! Born to Dance: The Story of José Limón; Susanna Reich and

Raul Colon (Illustrator)

Kitchen Dance; Maurie J. Manning

Mexico ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of Mexico (Country Abcs)

Heiman (Author), Sarah (Author), Ouren (Illustrator), Todd (Illustrator)

Mis Bailes/My Dances (We Are Latinos); George Ancona; Children's Press

My Friend Maya Loves to Dance; Cheryl Willis Hudson

9-12 Years Old

Brazil (True Books); Tara Walters

Capoeira: Game! Dance! Martial Art!; George Ancona

Dance (DK Eyewitness Books); Andre Grau (Author)

Festivals of the World: Brazil; McKay, Susan

The History of Latin Music; Dorothy Hoobler

Mexico (True Books); Elaine Landau

Mexico: 40 Activities to Experience Mexico Past & Present; Kaleidoscope Kids

Modern Dance (High Interest Books); Cheryl Tobey

Latin and Ballroom (Dance) Susie Hodge; *young adult*

Watch Me Dance: Family Celebration Board Books; Andrea Davis Pinkney; *pre-school*

Film

Mad Hot Ballroom, Documentary about New York City students learning ballroom dance



Ballet Hispanico

Education & Outreach

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Page 2: Waldemar Quinones-Villaneuva, Jessica Batten in Tito on Timbales

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Ballet Hispanico explores, preserves, and celebrates Latino cultures through dance. The mission unfolds in the work of the professional Company, the School of Dance, and the Education & Outreach programs. Together, these divisions celebrate the dynamic aesthetics of the Hispanic diaspora, building new avenues of cultural dialogue and sharing the joy of dance with all communities.

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