

RAÍCES ET RÉSISTANCE

DUNIYA DANCE & DRUM COMPANY X ARENAS DANCE COMPANY X DANCE MISSION THEATER

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subsidies
are available

"Raices et Résistance" directed by Bongo Sidibe and Susana Arenas Pedroso, with dancers and musicians from Duniya Dance and Drum and Arenas Dance Companies, alongside renowned **guest artists from Los Muñequitos de Matanzas**, explores the vibrant, layered, and largely unknown social-political relationship between Guinea, West Africa and Cuba, forged by the transatlantic slave trade as well as the post-colonial cultural exchange that began in the 60s. Bringing together their cultural expertises, their passion, their senses of joy and justice, Pedroso and Sidibe have created a unique performance built on storytelling and cultural collaboration. "Raices et Résistance" embodies the past as well as the present, a story of Black people defining themselves through dance and music, during and after the traumas of slavery and colonization.

After independence from France, Guinea elected socialist president Sekou Touré, one of the African continent's prominent independence leaders. Touré aligned closely with Cuba's Fidel Castro, and through this alliance came cultural exchange between the two countries. Artists were invited to festivals by the government's of both countries, and national music groups in Guinea, like Bembeya Jazz, created music with heavy Cuban influence. This story informs the collaboration between Duniya and Arenas dance in "Raices et Résistance."





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“The more the dancers embrace the power of their movements, the more clear it becomes that the dances themselves are a victory.”

48hills

“it would rank among the most dynamic and enthralling dance performances of the past year.”

San Francisco Chronicle

MEET THE DIRECTORS



SUSANA ARENAS PEDROSO

Pedroso, an internationally recognized Cuban Folkloric and popular dancer began her career at age twelve, studying at La Casa de Cultura de Matanzas and at Cojunto Folklorico Nacional in Havana. In 2004 Pedroso formed Arenas Dance Company, a company that has rare expertise in both folkloric and popular Cuban dance traditions.



BONGO SIDIBE

Sidibe is a percussionist and vocalist from Guinea, West Africa who trained with world renowned Djembefola Mamady Keita. He became the Co-Artistic Director of Duniya Dance and Drum Company in 2008. Sidibe is also the lead of a band called 'Bongo and the Tontons' and he is a beloved arts educator in the Bay Area.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

WEST AFRICAN DANCE, CUBAN DANCE, WEST AFRICAN DANCE AND MUSIC CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL DISCUSSIONS + Q&A SESSIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Including outdoor excerpts, all ages workshops and community dance parties

RAICES ET RÉSISTANCE

“Raices et Résistance” travels with 14 dancers, 10 musicians, 1 Company Manager, 1 Sound Engineer, and 1 Technical Director. The performance runs approximately 99 minutes, with a 15-minute intermission.

VIEW TRAILER >> 