

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces



New Programming Announced for the Two-Week International
Festival Celebrating Cuban Culture
Featuring Music, Dance, Theater, Visual Art, and More

Taking Over the Kennedy Center
May 8–20, 2018

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces additional programming for *Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World*, a two-week festival celebrating the artistic richness that has emerged from this “island archipelago in the sun.” *Artes de Cuba* represents the breadth and vibrancy of Cuba with more than 400 Cuban and Cuban American artists across more than 50 events, May 8 through 20, 2018. A complete calendar of events begins on page three. Photography is available [here](#) or upon request.

Highlights of newly added performances and exhibits to the festival include a world premiere screening of a visual arts documentary commissioned by the Kennedy Center, a concert by Grammy Award® winner **Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble**, a cocktail tasting of traditional Cuban cocktails, and more free performances on the Millennium Stage, including a casino dance class with local dance group D.C. Casineros.

Large-scale visual art installations **from some of Cuba’s most celebrated visual artists** will take over the Kennedy Center during *Artes de Cuba*. The Center has commissioned world premiere works from Manuel Mendive, one of the most important Afro-Cuban artists to emerge from the island. Mendive, who will participate in several festival events, will also host a live paint performance, accompanied by **some of Cuba’s leading** musicians. Internationally renowned artist **Roberto Fabelo will showcase several sculptures that honor Cuba’s cultural identity**. Critically acclaimed artist, José Parlá will exhibit *Poly-Ritmó*, an installation that combines sculptural work and painting. Cuban American painter and muralist Emilio Perez, whose work has been featured in Times Square, will create an immersive multimedia video experience in the States Gallery. **In celebration of Havana’s iconic cars**, Esterio Segura, whose *Hybrid of a Chrysler*, recently featured at the 57th edition of the Venice Biennale will be on display on the River Terrace.

The Kennedy Center’s Terrace Gallery transforms into the “Cubano Club,” creating an authentic and immersive setting for select performances. Cuban visual artist Roberto Diago will design a striking façade for the Cubano Club using wood collected from neighborhoods in Havana. Audiences can enjoy performances and cocktail tastings in this evocative space, surrounded by vintage photos of Cuban and American-jazz musicians.

In the Nations Gallery, families will learn about Cuba’s exceptional biodiversity and culture through a special exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with scientists at the Cuban National Museum of Natural History entitled *¡Cuba!*.

This unprecedented gathering of Cuban and Cuban American artists represents some of the **world’s greatest from the island and the Diaspora, highlighting the profound artistic and cultural influence of the island nation**. Previously announced highlights include programming

that spans music, dance, theater, and film. Artists include: Omara Portuondo, the grande dame of Cuban music and face of the legendary Buena Vista Social Club; Los Van Van, one of the most recognized musical groups in Cuba today; New York based Afro-Cuban jazz artist Yosvany Terry; and Miami-based, genre-defying artist Aymée Nuviola. Famed prima ballerina Alicia Alonso and her Ballet Nacional de Cuba will return to Washington, in programs marking **the 40th anniversary of the company’s historic first tour to the U.S.,** which began at the Kennedy Center. The theater of Cuba will feature the acclaimed Teatro el Público and the award-winning Argos Teatro in Spanish-language productions.

Artes de Cuba will extend beyond the Center’s performance spaces, and spill out into its halls, terraces, and to the Millennium Stage, where Cuban, Cuban American, and local artists from Washington, D.C. will be showcased. These free Millennium Stage performances will be streamed, as they are 365 days a year, on the Kennedy Center website and via Facebook. The festival will also include a day of family fun on Saturday, May 12 with activities, classes, and performances for the entire family.

“Audiences that attend this festival will be a part of this historical celebration of Cuban art,” says Alicia Adams, the *Artes de Cuba* festival curator and Vice President of International Programming and Dance at the Kennedy Center.

Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World extends the Kennedy Center’s long history of presenting international festivals. Since opening its doors as the nation’s performing arts center in 1971, the Center has presented more than 20 such festivals which have explored countries and regions throughout Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia, and Central and South America. Over the decades, millions of visitors have attended these festivals to experience and explore the richness and beauty of global arts and cultures.

A full updated listing of festival programming is below and can be found on the Kennedy Center [website](#).

Schedule

Performance Dates

Theater

Show

May 8, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Opening Performance Featuring Omara Portuondo and Festival Highlights
MUSIC		
May 9, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Yissy & Bandanacha
May 10, 2018	Terrace Theater	Havana Lyceum Orchestra with soloists Ulises Hernández and Alí Arango
May 10, 2018	Cubano Club	Yosvany Terry Afro-Cuban Sextet
May 11, 2018	Cubano Club	Zule Guerra & Quinteto Blues de Habana
May 12, 2018	Terrace Theater	Piano Marathon featuring Aldo López-Gavilán and Jorge Luis Pacheco
May 13, 2018	Terrace Theater	Aymée Nuviola with special guest Dr. Ed Calle
May 14, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Manuel Mendive in Performance with special guest Yosvany Terry, Adonis Gonzalez, and Mauricio Herrera
May 16, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Haydée Milanés & Trio with guest artist Pablo Milanés
May 17, 2018	Cubano Club	La Reyna y La Real
May 18, 2018	Terrace Theater	The López-Nussa Family
May 18, 2018	Cubano Club	Dafnis Prieto Sí o Sí Quartet
May 19, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Los Van Van
May 20, 2018	Terrace Theater	Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble
THEATER		
May 16 & 17, 2018	Family Theater	<i>The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant: Teatro El Público</i>
May 19 & 20, 2018	Family Theater	<i>10 Million: Argos Teatro</i>
DANCE		
May 11 & 12, 2018	Eisenhower Theater	Malpaso Dance Company

May 15, 2018	Terrace Theater	Compañía Irene Rodríguez
May 29 & 30, 2018	Opera House	Ballet Nacional de Cuba: <i>Don Quixote</i>
May 31–June 3, 2018	Opera House	Ballet Nacional de Cuba: <i>Giselle</i>

FILM

May 12, 2018	Family Theater	
11 a.m.	Visual Arts Documentary: <i>Cuban Canvas</i> (2018). Kavery Kaul (14 min.)	
Classics of Cuban Cinema:		
1 p.m.	<i>Memorias del Subdesarrollo</i> (1968). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea (96 min.)	
4 p.m.	<i>Retrato De Teresa</i> (1979). Pastor Vega (103 min.)	
7:30 p.m.	<i>Lucía</i> (1968). Humberto Solas (160 min.)	
May 13, 2018	Family Theater	Havana Film Festival Awardees
1 p.m.	<i>Fresa y Chocolate</i> (1994). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea y Juan Carlos Tabío (108 min.)	
4 p.m.	<i>Suite Habana</i> (2003). Fernando Pérez (84 min.)	
7:30 p.m.	<i>Conducta</i> (2013). Ernesto Daranas (108 min.)	
May 14, 2018	Family Theater	Visual Arts Documentary
7 p.m.	<i>First Look</i> (1988). Kavery Kaul (60 min.)	
*Throughout the festival	Exhibition of Film Posters by Cuban Art Designers	

FREE PERFORMANCES ON MILLENNIUM STAGE

Performances happen at 6 p.m. everyday

*May 9, 2018	Millennium Stage	CaribeNostrum
*May 10, 2018	Millennium Stage	Adonis Gonzalez and Mauricio Herrera
*May 11, 2018	Millennium Stage	Orquesta Miguel Faílde
*May 12, 2018	Millennium Stage	Batucada for Cuba: From Brooklyn to Brazil
*May 13, 2018	Millennium Stage	Cuban Popular Dances by D.C. Casineros (<i>Casino dance lesson begins at 5 p.m.</i>)
*May 14, 2018	Millennium Stage	Arte y Moda Fashion Show
*May 15, 2018	Millennium Stage	La Dame Blanche

*May 16, 2018	Millennium Stage	Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience
*May 17, 2018	Millennium Stage	Luis Faife and D.C. Cuban All Stars
*May 18, 2018	Millennium Stage	<i>Cuba Goes Tap</i> by Keyla Orozco featuring Max Pollak
*May 19, 2018	Millennium Stage	<i>Guantanamera</i> Celebration
*May 20, 2018	Millennium Stage	Tiempo Libre

VISUAL ARTS

Locations to be announced

*Throughout the festival	Atrium	Roberto Diago
*Throughout the festival	Hall of Nations	Roberto Fabelo
*Throughout the festival	Hall of States	Manuel Mendive
*Throughout the festival	North Atrium Foyer	José Parlá
*Throughout the festival	States Gallery	Emilio Perez
*Throughout the festival	Nations Gallery	American Museum of Natural History's <i>¡Cuba!</i> exhibition
*Throughout the festival	Atrium	<i>The Art of Celia Ledón</i>
*Throughout the festival	River Terrace	Esterio Segura

SPECIAL

May 9, 2018	Cubano Club	Cócteles Cubanos: Cuban Cocktail Tastings
*May 12, 2018	Grand Foyer/Millennium Stage	Drum Beat Parade

Artists and performances are subject to change.

**Indicates free events*

Opening Performance Featuring Festival Highlights

May 8 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

An event in celebration of the opening of *Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World*, the opening performance will bring the vibrant culture of Cuba center stage with performances by the Latin Grammy Award®-winning “**Diva of Buena Vista Social Club**” Omara Portuondo, Cubadisco Award-winning pianist Rolando Luna, the Havana Lyceum Orchestra, jazz composer and dazzling pianist Aldo López-Gavilán, acclaimed composer and musician Yosvany Terry, piano sensation Jorge Luis Paceco, the renowned Orquesta Miguel Faílde, and Grammy®-nominated Aymée Nuviola.

Cócteles Cubanos: Cuban Cocktail Tastings

Hosted by Chef George Jesús Liens González

May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Cubano Club (Terrace Gallery)

Coming all the way from Cuba, award-winning Chef González launches the opening of the Cubano Club with an exciting cocktail tasting. Participants will taste and learn about the history of various Cuban national cocktails such as the Daiquiri, Mojito, Cubanito, Havana Special, and others. Chef González has worked as maître and chef for the *Casa de la Música* (House of Music) of Mirarmar for the last 20 years.

Patrons must be at least 21 years old to attend and need to present a valid photo ID to enter the event.



Yissy & Bandancho (Havana)

May 9 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

Yissy Garcia and her band, Bandancho, follow the routes of Latin jazz, funk, and electronic music. **Born in Havana's Cayo Hueso district, Garcia began her career as a member of the women's salsa band Anacaona.** Now, at the age of 25, she has already become an iconic figure of female percussion in Cuba.

Havana Lyceum Orchestra with soloists Ulises Hernández (piano) and Alí Arango (guitar)

May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Cuba's multi-Cubadisco Award-winning Havana Lyceum Orchestra, led by composer and pianist Ulises Hernández and directed by Maestro José Antonio Méndez Padrón, will perform music by Cuban-born composers. Two works by contemporary composer, conductor and musician Leo Brouwer **will be featured: "Bocetos para Piano" featuring pianist Ulises Hernández**, and *Concierto Elegíaco* for guitar and orchestra featuring guitarist Alí Arango in his U.S. debut. Other Cuban composers highlighted on the program are Gisela Hernández, Carlos Fariñas, Guido López-Gavilán, Moises Simons, and Jenny Peña.

Yosvany Terry Afro-Cuban Sextet (New York)

May 10 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the Cubano Club (Terrace Gallery)

Born into an illustrious musical family in Camaguey, Cuba, Yosvany Terry is an internationally acclaimed saxophonist, percussionist, and cultural bearer of the Afro-Cuban tradition. While best known as a blazing improviser, he is rapidly gaining renown as a composer, bandleader, and educator with a string of high-profile awards, appointments, and commissions. He plays his original compositions, blending exquisite post-bebop and ceremonial music with rhythms and chants from Cuba and West Africa.

Zule Guerra & Quinteto Blues de Habana (Havana)

May 11 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the Cubano Club (Terrace Gallery)

Zule Guerra and the Jazz quintet Blues de Habana, formed in 2012, are influenced by the music of the African Diaspora and Latin America. Their work includes Latin American songs, jazz standards, and original themes in a fresh and authentic jazz language.

Piano Marathon featuring Aldo López-Gavilán and Jorge Luis Pacheco (Havana)

May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Two of Cuba's premier jazz pianists join forces for a singular concert. Aldo López-Gavilán excels in both the classical and jazz worlds as a recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber music collaborator, and performer of his own electrifying jazz compositions. López-Gavilán has also played a very active role in the development of cultural exchange between the U.S. and Cuba. **Jorge Luis Pacheco is a fiery young pianist with "flying hands."** He has performed all over the world, including prominent jazz clubs, such as **Dizzy's Jazz at Lincoln Center**, and festivals, such as the Blue Note Jazz Festival in New York. A passionate, extravagant, exciting entertainer, Pacheco is a virtuoso pianist, composer, arranger, percussionist, and vocalist.

Aymée Nuviola (Havana) with special guest Dr. Ed Calle (Miami)

May 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Voted one of Miami's 25 most influential figures in 2014, Grammy® nominated, multi-genre artist, Aymée Nuviola, will present her real-time improvisation, wide range of up-tempo Cuban timba dance, and delicately crafted ballads in a collaborative musical performance with Dr. Ed Calle, one of the most recorded saxophonists in history. Calle, a five-time Grammy® nominee and winner of the 2015 Latin Grammy Award® for Best Instrumental Album, has been featured on more than 1,200 albums and almost 9,000 singles.

Haydée Milanés & Trio with guest artist Pablo Milanés (Havana)

May 16 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

Showcasing a style often described as shy, sultry, and jazzy, Haydée Milanés is an influential part of the Cuban fusion scene. She began playing piano at the age of six and singing at the Manuel Saumell Conservatory, where she studied music theory and choral direction at the Amadeo Roldán Conservatory. Widely known as **"Pablito," Haydée Milanés's father** Pablo Milanés is a singer, songwriter, guitar player, and one of the founders of the Cuban *nueva trova*. By the age of 15, he was active in "bohemian" musical circles and associated with the **"filin"** musicians. He has issued more than 40 solo records, and many more in collaboration with other artists from Cuba, Latin America, and Spain.

La Reyna y La Real (Havana)

May 17 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the Cubano Club (Terrace Gallery)

La Reyna (Reyna Mercedes Hernández Sandoval) and La Real (Yadira Pintado Lazcano) emerged as a duo in 2012. Their music explores the versatility of rap by merging it with other genres and styles of music with a Cuban flare. Their partnership aims to show a female image in a male-dominated genre.

The López-Nussa Family (Havana)

May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

In a rare joint performance, the López-Nussa Family will present the impressive artistry of Harold López-Nussa (pianist), Ernan López-Nussa (pianist), Ruy López-Nussa (percussionist), and Ruy Adrian López-Nussa (drummer). Harold López-Nussa alone has performed in many of Cuba's most important theaters and worked with jazz musicians such as Chucho Valdés, David Sánchez, Horacio "El Negro" Hernández, and Christian Scott. Collectively, the López-Nussa family has built a reputation as composers, arrangers, and interpreters, performing at venues and festivals all over the world.

Dafnis Prieto Sí o Sí Quartet (Miami)

May 18 at 7 & 9 p.m. in the Cubano Club (Terrace Gallery)

Born in Santa Clara, Cuban percussionist Dafnis Prieto's revolutionary drumming techniques and compositions have had a powerful impact on the Latin and Jazz music scenes, nationally and internationally. A classically trained musician who at an early age absorbed the multifaceted percussive traditions of his native Cuba, Prieto transposes elements from his Afro-Cuban musical heritage incorporating congas, timbales, and the layered rhythmic patterns of rumba and *son*. His playing is characterized by a finely calibrated command of textures and nuances and an ability to execute highly complex, polyrhythmic structures with extraordinary speed and precision. Through his recordings and compositions, his leadership of numerous ensembles, and additional projects involving dance, film, and opera, Prieto is infusing Latin jazz with a bold new energy and sound.

Los Van Van (Havana)

May 19 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

Led for many years by the late bassist Juan Formell, Los Van Van is one of the most recognized musical groups in Cuba today. Formell and former band members Changuito and Pupy are some of the most important figures in contemporary Cuban music. Initially their sound was a fusion of *son montuno*, rumba, and North American rock and pop. Later, the band incorporated funk, disco, and Hip Hop, as well as salsa. These influences gave rise to a style known as *songo*, and later *timba*. The band received the 2000 Latin Grammy Award® for the album *Van Van is Here (Llegó Van Van)*.

Arturo O'Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble

May 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Arturo O'Farrill—pianist, composer, educator, and founder and Artistic Director of the nonprofit Afro Latin Jazz Alliance—was born in Mexico and grew up in New York City. His professional career began with the Carla Bley Band and continued as a solo performer with a wide spectrum of artists including Dizzy Gillespie, Lester Bowie, Wynton Marsalis, and Harry Belafonte. Arturo is a five-time Grammy Award® winner: his well-reviewed and highly praised "**Afro-Latin Jazz Suite**" from *Cuba: The Conversation Continues* won in 2016 for Best Instrumental Composition, followed by a 2018 win in the same category for his recording *Three Revolutions*.



The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant

Teatro El Público (Havana)

Author: Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Director: Carlos Díaz

May 16 & 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Theater

Teatro El Público will present their theatrical reinterpretation of playwright Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*. **The company's** irreverent founding director, Carlos Díaz, **one of Latin America's most well-known** theater directors, brings his uniquely post-modernist Cuban sensibility to this award-winning, actor-driven production, in which the three main female characters are all played by male actors. The production showcases the unique sensibilities that have characterized Díaz and Teatro El Público since their emergence on the Cuban stage, offering new meaning to Fassbinder's tale.

Since its inception in 1992, Cuba's Teatro El Público has premiered more than 40 plays and has become a Havana institution. Díaz, an acclaimed director who won the National Theater Award in 2015, has been the subject of numerous scholarly works and is widely known for his ability to handle complex and sensitive dialogue without missing a drop of humor. *In Spanish with English supertitles*

10 Million

Argos Teatro (Havana)

Author and Director: Carlos Celdrán

May 19 & 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Theater

10 Million is a portrayal of a generation, an autobiographical theater piece by Argos Teatro's founder, Carlos Celdrán, depicting his experience as a child and adolescent in Cuba, navigating his relationship with his parents, his links with history, and the tumultuous events that shaped his life. *10 Million*, awarded the 2017 Cuban Critic Award, was conceived as a personal diary and took almost a decade to develop for the stage. The production will feature Argos Teatro company members Caleb Casas, Daniel Romero, Maridelmis Marín, and Waldo Franco.

Argos Teatro, founded by Celdrán in 1996, was established as a laboratory for actors and students in search of a common theatrical language. The techniques and methodologies they developed have created a unique and memorable stamp recognized by critics and audiences alike. Many of the actors have gone on to direct their own works and train actors at art schools in Cuba and around the world. Celdrán and company members have received numerous awards, including the National Theater Award in 2016. *In Spanish with English supertitles.*



Malpaso Dance Company (Havana)

May 11 & 12 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

In less than five years since its establishment in 2012, Malpaso Dance Company has already become one of the most sought-after Cuban dance companies with a growing international profile. Emphasizing a collaborative creative process, the 14 member company is committed to working with top international choreographers while also nurturing new voices in Cuban choreography, music, costume design, and lighting design. Based in Havana and with a growing international profile, the company is an associate company of Joyce Theater Productions and, together, has commissioned original works from a number of prominent North American choreographers. The engagement will feature the works *Indomitable Waltz* (choreography by Aszure Barton; music by Alexandre Balanescu, Michael Nyman, and Nils Frahm), *Ocaso* (choreography by Osnel Delgado in collaboration with the dancers; music by **Arturo O’Farrill**), and *24 Hours and a Dog* (choreography by Osnel Delgado in collaboration with the dancers; music by **Arturo O’Farrill**).

Compañía Irene Rodríguez (Havana)

Desde nuestras raíces: Traditional Flamenco with Afro-Cuban Flair

May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Theater

Focused on creating and exploring new avenues to evolve flamenco dance, dancer, and choreographer Irene Rodríguez melds the fiery passion and exhilarating footwork of flamenco with a unique **Afro-Cuban flair**. **Her company’s** program showcases different dance styles ranging from genuine flamenco like Bulerías and Tanguillo de Cádiz; to Afro-Cuban dances like *guaguancó*, *son*, and *rumba*; to La Guajira and La Habanera. Among her many honors, Rodríguez has been awarded First Prize in the Ibero-American Choreography Competition “**Alicia Alonso**” in 2012, and an award from the Author’s Foundation of the Spanish General Society of Authors and Editors (SGAE).

Ballet Nacional de Cuba (Havana)

Alicia Alonso, Artistic Director

Opera House

Don Quixote, May 29 & 30 at 7:30 p.m. (Minkus/Alonso, after Petipa)

Giselle, May 31–June 3 at 1:30 & 7:30 p.m. (Adam/Alonso, based on Coralli and Perrot)

With the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra

Internationally renowned Ballet Nacional de Cuba made its landmark U.S. debut at the Kennedy Center 40 years ago. Last seen at the Kennedy Center in 2011, the company returns

to the Opera House stage with two extraordinary ballets—**Artistic Director Alicia Alonso's** definitive staging of the romantic classic *Giselle*, with choreography after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, and its acclaimed version of *Don Quixote*, choreographed by Alicia Alonso after Marius Petipa.

Admired for their beautiful footwork, strong dancers, and impeccable technique, the company has embraced a tradition of romantic and classical excellence since Alicia Alonso, Fernando Alonso, and Alberto Alonso (the first professional dancer in Cuba) founded it in 1948. The Ballet Nacional de Cuba has established itself as the highest expression of the Cuban school of ballet, based on a cultural legacy that spans several centuries of tradition in theatrical dance combined with a unique character infused with the essential features of the national culture. Alonso, who is one of the most revered dancers within ballet, danced with American Ballet Theatre, and among her many leading roles, is famous for her portrayal of the title role in *Giselle*.



Havana Film Festival 40-Year Retrospective

Retrospectiva 40 años del Festival de Cine de La Habana

May 12 & 13 in the Family Theater

The International Festival of the New Latin American Film in Havana (aka Havana Film Festival) takes place every year during the first half of December. The Festival presents feature productions, documentaries, animated films, and short films from Latin America and countries all across the world. From the late 1970s to its ongoing success in the present day, this festival enchants audiences from all over the world and attracts numerous producers, directors, actors, and enthusiastic fans to Havana. Ivan Giroud, president of the Havana Film Festival is considered one of the most qualified specialists in Latin American Cinema. For *Artes de Cuba*, Giroud selected six films to highlight the history of the Havana Film Festival, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2018.

May 12: Classics of Cuban Cinema (Clasicos del Cine Cubano)

1 p.m.— *Memorias del Subdesarrollo* (1968). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea (96 min.)

4 p.m.— *Retrato De Teresa* (1979). Pastor Vega (103 min.)

7:30 p.m.— *Lucía* (1968). Humberto Solas (160 min.)

May 13: Havana Film Festival Awardees (Premios del Festival de Cine de la Habana)

1 p.m.— *Fresa y Chocolate* (1994). Tomás Gutiérrez Alea y Juan Carlos Tabío (108 min.)

Awards: Primer Premio Coral, 1993.

4 p.m.– *Suite Habana* (2003). Fernando Pérez (84 min.) Awards: Primer Premio Coral, 2003.
7:30 p.m.– *Conducta* (2013). Ernesto Daranas (108 min.) Awards: Primer Premio Coral, 2014.

Documentaries Directed by Kavery Kaul

Born in Kolkata, India, this now New York-based independent filmmaker has directed and produced award-winning documentaries that have been shown in theaters, on television, and at major festivals throughout the world.

Screened in the Family Theater, free general admission tickets will be distributed 30 minutes prior to each screening in front of the theater (two tickets per person in line).

World premiere

Cuban Canvas (2018)

May 12 at 11 a.m. in the Family Theater

Commissioned for the festival, *Cuban Canvas* takes you to Havana to meet artists in Cuba today. A leading artist of the new generation, Roger Toledo Bueno mines the past through the masters who came before him: Manuel Mendive, Rocio Garcia, and Roberto Diago. With his contemporary Ariamna Contino, he looks to the future. This intriguing inter-generational story opens a rare window on rich experimentation with form and content as it connects the lines between art and life. The screening will be followed by a talk by Kaul, Mendive, and Diago.

First Look (1988)

May 14 at 7 p.m. in the Family Theater

Narrated by Harry Belafonte, *First Look* travels with the first-ever U.S. exhibit of contemporary Cuban art, when Cuban painters Eduardo "Choco" Roca and Nelson Dominguez met American masters James Rosenquist, Alice Neel, Al Loving, and a curious American public.

Poster Exhibit: Carteles Cubanos

Cuban Film Posters: A Retrospective

Atrium

Film posters are a signature art form in Cuba. Featuring 28 original posters, created between 1964 and 2015, for movies from Cuba and abroad from 1964 to 2015, this exhibit showcases different generations of Cuban designers selected in collaboration with Sara Vega, director of the film poster archives in the Cinemateca de Cuba. Among the designers: Silvio Gaytón, Julio Eloy Mesa, Rafael Morante, Antonio Fernández Reboiro, René Portocarrero, Alfredo Rostgaard, Eduardo Muñoz Bachs, Raúl Martínez, René Azcuy, Antonio Pérez (Ñiko), Ernesto Ferrand, Roberto Ramos, Giselle Monzón, Michele Mijares, Raul Valdés, Nelson Ponce, Claudio Sotolongo, Alejandro Rodríguez, José (Pepe) Menéndez, Victor Junco. *See the website for a complete list.*

World Premiere *Artes de Cuba* Posters by Cuban Art Designers

Atrium

In partnership with "CartelION," a project promoting graphic design in Cuba, 12 new posters will be created for the festival by Nelson Ponce Sánchez, Michele Miyares Hollands, Raúl Valdés González (Raupa), Edel Rodríguez Molano (Mola), Idania Del Rio González, Alberto Nodarse Galindo (Tinti), Alejandro Rodríguez Fornés (Alucho), Marwin Sánchez Morales,

Claudio Sotolongo Menéndez, Norberto Molina Martínez, Miguel Alejandro Castro Sánchez, and Liz Capote Alonso.



World premiere

La Naturaleza, El Espíritu, y El Hombre/Nature, Spirit, and Man (2018)

Fragmento de Paisaje/Fragement of a Landscape (2017)

By Manuel Mendive (Havana)

Hall of States

Perhaps the most important Afro-Cuban artist to emerge from Cuba, Mendive works across mediums—including paint, wood, and organic matter—to create art that is strongly influenced by the Santería religion, expressing ways in which African culture has shaped **his country's** national identity and culture. *Fragmento de Paisaje* is a series of dreamscapes where people, animals, plants, and clouds morph into one another, reflecting his vision of the universe as one. Commissioned for the festival, *La Naturaleza, El Espíritu, y El Hombre* will allow viewers to experience both the inside and outside of various three-**dimensional sculptures**. **One's** gaze is inevitably pulled upward, encouraging contemplation of the poetry of nature and its profound relationship with man.

Join Us:

Manuel Mendive in Performance with special guest Yosvany Terry, Adonis Gonzalez, and Mauricio Herrera

May 14 at 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Theater

A unique opportunity to watch Mendive exercise his creativity and painting skills, accompanied by musicians. Its visual arts, music, and dance all integrated into an once-in-a-lifetime performance.

World premiere

Sombras Silvestres/Wild Shadows (2018)

By Emilio Perez (New York)

States Gallery

Created for *Artes de Cuba*, this site-specific, multi-channel video installation is inspired by the rhythms of Cuba and the New York-born, Cuban American painter and muralist's personal **history with the island**. **Perez's abstract composition merges photos and artwork he made in Havana with architectural surfaces to create animated paintings set to a score by Andrew Yeomanson a.k.a DJ Le Spam**. In 2016, Perez's "Dream Season" lit up Times Square for three minutes as part of *Midnight Moment*, the world's largest digital art exhibition. *Sombras Silvestres* is his second experiment in the genre; Perez is primarily known for large-format

works combining painting and kinetic lines made with an X-ACTO knife. *Video is approximately six minutes; screened throughout the day.*

Mundos/ Worlds (2005–2018)

Torres/ Towers (2000–2018)

Ronda Infinita/ Endless Rounds (2015)

Cafedral (2017)

By Roberto Fabelo (Guáimaro)

Hall of Nations

Absurdist Cuban painter, sculptor, and illustrator Roberto Fabelo is a member of “the generation of sure hope” that emerged in the 1980s, credited with reinvigorating the country’s creative environment. Fabelo won his first official recognition at the age of 21, and in 1984 took home the International Drawing Prize at the first Havana Biennial, an event that put Cuba on the international art map. Today his impressive credits include dozens of solo and group shows as well as some 20 national and international awards. He’s the recipient of the prestigious Alejo Carpentier medal, Cuba’s highest honor for artistic achievement. With *Mundos*, accumulations in the shape of the Earth are Fabelo’s commentary on urgent problems facing society today. Stacks of everyday cookware in *Torres* suggest that assuring man’s daily sustenance is a towering achievement. In *Ronda Infinita*, figures walking along the rim of a cauldron evoke man’s ongoing struggle for survival. For *Cafedral*, Fabelo erected coffee pots into a cathedral, positioning the beverage as a symbol of cultural identity.

U.S. premiere

Permanent History (2017)

By Roberto Diago (Havana)

Atrium

At just 37, Havana-born Roberto Diago has long been one of Cuba’s most critically-acclaimed and commercially lauded artists. With a focus on raw subject matter, including deep reflections on race, slavery, and religion, Diago works across media, including paintings, sculptures, and mixed media and found-art installations. For the festival, the celebrated artist will debut this new installation *Permanent History*. The installation will also include video interviews with friends from Diago’s childhood, based in neighborhoods of Havana, in the municipality of Mariano.

Hybrid of a Chrysler (2016)

By Esterio Segura (Havana)

River Terrace

Born in Santiago de Cuba, artist Esterio Segura is a graduate of Havana’s prestigious Instituto Superior de Arte. He uses humorous imagery to address socially and politically charged themes from Cuban history. Different manifestations of winged animals and machines, airplanes, and submarines appear in his work—all symbolic of an attempt to reconcile issues of isolation, freedom, death, immigration, and exile. In *Hybrid of a Chrysler*, wings are attached to the roof of a vintage car. The car, similar to the classic autos used daily in Cuba, appears ready for flight.

Poly-Ritmó (Polyrhythm) (2018)

By José Parlá (Miami)

North Atrium Foyer

Born in Miami, Florida, to Cuban immigrants, José Parlá is a critically-acclaimed, multidisciplinary artist whose oeuvre spans painting, large-scale murals, photography, video, and sculpture. Among his many public works is a commission by One World Trade Center for his monumental mural painting, *ONE: Union of the Senses*, the largest painting of its kind in New York. For *Artes de Cuba*, the internationally recognized Parlá will present an installation combining sculptural works and two paintings *Nuevo Rumbo* and *Amistad América*.

The Art of Celia Ledón

By Celia Ledón (Havana)

Atrium

On the “frontier of fashion” (*Vanity Fair*), Cuban designer Celia Ledón fuses fashion and art in show stopping creations that have graced haute couture runways, theater stages, and art films. This installation will feature select costume art by Ledón, including a work commissioned for *Artes de Cuba*.

CUBA Festival Family Fun

¡Cuba!

Collaboration with the American Natural History Museum, New York

May 9–20

Nations Gallery

The Kennedy Center presents special displays adapted from an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History in close collaboration with scientists at the Cuban National Museum of Natural History. Families can enjoy coloring animals; **learn about Cuba’s geologic history**: get an up-close look at birds, snails, and butterflies indigenous to the nation; play Cuban wildlife games on I-pads; explore maps featuring the major flora and fauna in **Cuba’s national parks, as well as the many baseball teams across Cuba**; **gather around tables** for playing dominos, a favorite Cuban pastime, and more.

Cuban Natural Wonders

Meet the Scientist: Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski

May 12 at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., & 1:30 p.m. in the Cubano Club

Free. Limited seating; first-come, first-served.

Located just 94 miles from Florida’s shores, Cuba is a place of exceptional biodiversity and cultural richness. Technically an archipelago of more than 4,000 islands and keys, Cuba is the largest island nation in the Caribbean and one of the region’s most ecologically diverse countries.

Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski, director of the Center of Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Natural History Museum in New York, as she discusses the biodiversity across **Cuba’s** forests, deep caves, expansive wetlands, and dazzling reefs. In a richly illustrated and interactive presentation, and drawing from a recent expedition to Humboldt National Park, Dr. Porzecanski will introduce you to Cuba’s remarkable and unique animals and plants, their biology and connections to Cuban culture, and how Cubans are working towards their

conservation. Each session will include a 30-minute presentation with visual projections of the flora and fauna of Cuba as well as interactive activities for children 5 years of age and older.

Dr. Porzecanski was the co-curator of the acclaimed 2017 exhibition *¡Cuba!* about Cuban nature and culture, developed in collaboration with the Cuban National Museum of Natural History.

Drum Beat Parade

May 12, 2–3:30 p.m. in the Grand Foyer/Millennium Stage

FREE, no tickets required

Three exciting bands from Cuba, New York and the D.C. metro area will perform in a **boisterous display of sonic unity in the Kennedy Center’s Grand Foyer**. Orquesta Miguel Faílde from Matanzas, Cuba, the First Panamanian Marching Band of MD, and Brooklyn United Marching Band (New York) bring the rhythm of the drums in an interactive family parade that highlights the African roots of drumming in Cuba and the unique ways that these roots are expressed in drumming rhythms and styles in other parts of the world.

FREE PERFORMANCES ON THE MILLENNIUM STAGE

As part of *Artes de Cuba*, the Kennedy Center will spotlight Cuban and Cuban American artists, including those based locally, in two weeks of free performances on the Millennium Stage. Highlights Include:

CaribeNostrum (Havana)

CaribeNostrum is a quartet recognized for the modern freshness that its musicians blend with classical composition. Fused with elements of jazz and Latin American folklore, CaribeNostrum moves musically between the traditional classical **quartet style and today’s** popular music.

Adonis Gonzalez (Atlanta) & Mauricio Herrera (New York)

Classical keys and Cuban rhythms collide when Latin Grammy®-nominated pianist Adonis Gonzalez and Grammy® nominee and master percussionist Mauricio Herrera join forces for a one-of-a-kind mashup.

Orquesta Miguel Faílde (Matanzas)

Led by flutist Ethiel Fernandez Faílde—grandson of namesake bandleader Miguel Faílde—**Orquesta Miguel Faílde celebrates Cuba’s *danzon***, the national dance and music of Cuba. In addition to presenting traditional and well-loved tunes, the group also premieres *danzons* of **contemporary composers, preserving their nation’s musical history while appealing to new** generations.

Batucada for Cuba: From Brooklyn to Brazil (New York/ DC)

With an opening performance by New York-based youth drumming squad Brooklyn United Marching Band, and a full performance by the D.C.-based, Afro-Brazilian, all-female percussion band Batalá, the Millennium Stage pays tribute to the roots of Caribbean and Latin drumming traditions and presents a taste of Caribbean and Brazilian rhythms.

Cuban Popular Dance by D.C. Casineros

The world-renowned dance ensemble will take audiences on an interactive journey throughout the history of Cuban popular dance. The company performs many Cuban dance styles, including rueda de casino, son, rumba, and reggaeton. *Casino dance lesson begins at 5 p.m., performance begins at 6 p.m.*

Arte Y Moda Fashion Show (Havana)

Celebrate the ingenuity, art, and style of Cuba. *Arte Y Moda* is a fashion show and showcase that combines fashion, fine art, and design. Through the use of industrial recycled products and Cuban natural resources. Cuban designers take their inspiration from paintings and sculptures by Cuban masters to create extraordinary costumes. Designers featured include Sandra de Huelbes, Celía Lédon, and Ignacio Carmona.

La Dame Blanche (Paris, France)

With her explosive mix of Hip Hop, nu cumbia, reggae, and Latin beats, Cuban singer, flutist, and percussionist Yaite Ramos—aka La Dame Blanche—delivers powerful and compelling sounds that summon the spirits. La Dame Blanche comes to Washington following international tours that included stops at SXSW, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, **New York's Summer stage, France's Babel Med Music, and Germany's Rudolstadt Festival.**

Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience (New York)

The Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience, a five-piece ensemble led by Dizzy Gillespie's bassist John Lee, showcases the unique rhythms and well-loved melodies Gillespie's oeuvre of Cuban bebop, or Cu-Bop. The great trumpeter developed the style with Cuban percussionist Chano Pozo in the 1940s and 1950s, and the Dizzy Gillespie Afro-Cuban Experience musicians carry forward his legacy today.

Luis Faife and D.C. Cuban All Stars (Washington, D.C.)

An Afro-Cuban saxophonist of panache and volatility, Luis Faife is a regular presence in the club scenes both in D.C. and New York. He has maintained a personal artistic aesthetic that unites his upbringing in Holguin, Cuba, with the American jazz that has always captured his **imagination. Under Faife's direction, D.C. Cuban All Stars** bring live Cuban Timba music to the D.C. area and perform a variety of traditional and contemporary Cuban rhythms.

CUBA GOES TAP by Keyla Orozco featuring Max Pollak (Washington, D.C. / New York)

Created by Cuban Dutch composer Keyla Orozco and featuring acclaimed tap-dancer Max Pollak, *Cuba Goes Tap* merges American rhythm tap with Afro-Cuban music and dance. The central focus of the program is Orozco's *Traveling Shoe Stories*, a work for tap dancer and chamber ensemble, in which Cuban and Venezuelan folk music, western classical tradition, pop, jazz, improvisation, and tap come together. Written and improvised music and dance have equal roles in the show, which includes works by Cuban composers from the 19th and 20th centuries, reimagined alongside tap improvisation.

Tiempo Libre (Miami)

Three-time Grammy[®] nominated Tiempo Libre are true modern heirs to the rich musical tradition of their native Cuba. Celebrated for their sophisticated performances of timba music, an irresistible, dance-inducing mix of Latin jazz and Cuban *son*, Tiempo Libre has introduced

Cuban music to new audiences through appearances on shows such as *The Tonight Show*, *Live from Lincoln Center*, and *Dancing With the Stars*, and through concert performances at many of the world’s major venues.

Guantanamera Celebration

A musical celebration of the poetry of José Martí, whose works became the basis for the famous song “Guantanamera.” This interactive performance gathers hundreds of voices from the area and abroad to sing and pay tribute to one of Cuba’s most beloved songs.

Artes de Cuba: From the Island to The World (festival logo)

By Giselle Monzón Calero (Villa Clara)

The logo for the *Artes de Cuba* festival was specially designed by Giselle Monzón Calero. **Born in Villa Clara, Cuba, in 1979, Monzón graduated from Havana’s Higher Institute of Design (ISDI) and currently lives and works in Havana.** Monzón primarily designs promotional posters for theaters, festivals, and films. Her work has appeared in solo and group shows in Cuba, Switzerland, France, Germany, and other European countries.

Ticket Information

Tickets for all paid *Artes de Cuba* events are now on sale. For more information please visit the Kennedy Center website, in-person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, or call (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324.

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