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## THE 8<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL BOMPLENAZO 2014

### (r) evolucionado

#### A Celebration of Afro-Puerto Rican Culture, October 10 – 12

**(Bronx, NY)** - From October 10 to 12, 2014, the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture will present the 8th biennial celebration of Afro-Puerto Rican music and dance, ***BomPlenazo 2014*** “(r) evolucionado,” which this year focuses on how the art forms have maintained their vibrancy and relevance into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Over the course of the three days, some of New York’s leading ensembles and practitioners of the *bomba* and *plena* traditions will perform concerts for all ages, participate in panel discussions, and present workshops in a variety of venues in the South Bronx, including the Hostos Center, [Pregones Theater](#), the Bronx Music Heritage Center, and the [Rincón Criollo Cultural Center](#), popularly-known as “La Casita de Chema,” one of the shrines of *bomba* and *plena* in New York City for almost four decades.

A highlight of the festival will be the Saturday night performance of the *BomPlenazo* Artists Collective at the Hostos Center, in which 20 of the leading *bomba* and *plena* artists in New York will come together for the first time, under the direction of National Heritage Fellow Juan Gutiérrez.

A complete schedule of events is available at [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org) or by calling (718) 518-4455.

#### EVENT SCHEDULE

##### School Concerts

***BomPlenazo 2014*** kicks off on Friday, October 10, with two school concerts for young audiences in the Bronx Music Heritage Center at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. As part of its “Bomba & Plena: In the House” series, **Los Pleneros de la 21**, in collaboration with the Bronx Music Heritage Center and the Hostos Center, will present “*Pleneros y Bomberos de Nueva York*” a performance of New York home-grown Afro-Puerto Rican music and dance featuring BomPlenazo artists. For reservation and information, call (212) 427-5221.

##### Panel Discussion

At 6:30 p.m. that evening, **Pregones Theater** will host a panel discussion entitled, “**Retracing Our Steps and Marking New Paths: *Bomba* and *Plena* in the Diaspora.**” Julia Gutiérrez Rivera,

Jorge Vázquez and Bienvenido ‘Benny’ Ayala will discuss the evolution of the art forms, moderated by Marinieves Alba. Following the panel discussion, there will be a festive gathering in Pregones’ lobby, and then Francisco Vélez and his *parranderos* will lead a procession to the biennial’s opening reception in the Longwood Art Gallery at the Hostos Center. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended; please call (718) 585-1202.

### **Main Stage Performances at Hostos Center**

At 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11th the **BomPlenazo Showcase** in the Main Theater of the Hostos Center will highlight a range of folkloric dance styles to traditional *bomba* and *plena*, as practiced in New York by these five leading ensembles: the thirty-member folkloric Danza Fiesta, led by Gilda Rivera-Pantojas; Plena Sin Fronteras, one of New York’s most popular traditional plena groups, Siembra Maestra, led by the multi-percussionist / vocalist Obanilú Iré Allende performing a mix of a *bomba* and *plena* styles; Legacy Women, the female musical group rooted in Afro-Dominican and Afro-Puerto Rican traditions; and Ilu Aye, “the Drum of the World representing the next generation of Afro-Puerto Rican, Afro-Dominican, and Afro-Cuban percussionists and singers. General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children under 18.

For the first time in the history of the festival, Juan Gutiérrez, Artistic Director of [Los Pleneros de la 21](#), has put together an all-star ensemble featuring artists from leading New York groups that will perform on Saturday evening, October 11, 7:30 PM in the Main Theater.

The **BomPlenazo Artist Collective** is a collaborative effort involving more than 20 artists, some that are known as traditional *bomba* and *plena* practitioners with others more closely identified with Latin jazz. The artists include: Alexander LaSalle, Papo Vázquez, Benny Ayala, Camilo Molina, Tato Torres, Desmar Guevera, Donald Nicks, Tito Matos, Iván Renta, Jorge Vázquez, Juan Manuel Usera, Julia Gutiérrez-Rivera, Miriam Félix, Nelson Cabassa, Nelson Matthew González, Norika Hernández-Nadal, Obanilú Iré Allende, Tivo Ayala, and Ricardo Pons. The Collective will perform both original and standard works of the Bomba and Plena traditions. Reserved seating is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for students and children under 18.

### **Free Workshops**

Free 90-minute workshops will be offered on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00 AM at Hostos Center for amateur and aspiring artists. Tito Matos, co-founder of the popular group *Viento de Agua*, will lead a workshop in plena percussion. Participants need to bring their own *panderetas*. *Bomba* dance for men, intermediate level and up will be taught by Nelson Matthew González, of Danza Fiesta and Los Pleneros de la 21. Although the workshops are free, registration is required. Please call (718) 518-4455.

### **Vente Tú at “La Casita de Chema”**

As is the tradition, *BomPlenazo* will close with the **Vente Tú** (“You Come”) on Sunday, October 12, beginning at noon, with informal performances and jamming from festival artists and others at “La Casita de Chema” located at 749-753 Brook Avenue in the Bronx. Admission is free, and food and drink is available for purchase.

*BomPlenazo* 2014 is made possible by support from the Eugenio María de Hostos Community College Foundation, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Office of New York City Councilwoman María del Carmen Arroyo, the Office of New York Assemblyman José Rivera, and the Office of New York State Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo.

For ticket and general information, call the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture at (718) 518-6539 or log onto [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org) The Hostos Center box office at 450 Grand Concourse in the Bronx, is open Mon. – Fri. 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and two hours prior to ticketed performances. The Hostos Center is easily accessible by public transportation including the 2, 4, 5 subway lines and the BX1, BX2, BX19 bus lines to 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Concourse.

*Editor: A BomPlenazo abbreviated schedule follows this release*

### **About Hostos Community College**

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change that has been transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. It serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, as well as a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. The College's unique "Student Success Coaching Unit" provides students with individualized guidance and exemplifies its emphasis on student support services.

Recently named one of the top 10 finalists for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, Hostos offers 27 associate degree programs and two certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to The City University of New York's (CUNY) four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. Hostos is part of CUNY, the nation's leading urban public university, which serves more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges.

## BOMPLENAZO 2014

For a complete listing of events and venues, log on to [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org) or call (718) 518-4455

### **School Concerts**

Fri. Oct. 10, 10:00 AM and 12 Noon  
Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd., Bronx  
Reservations and Information: (212) 427-5221

*Pleneros y Bomberos de Nueva York*

Artists: Los Pleneros de la 21

### **Panel Discussion / Opening Celebration**

Fri, Oct. 10, 6:30 PM  
Pregones Theater, 571 Walton Avenue, Bronx  
Free Admission, reservations recommended (718) 585-1202

*Retracing Our Steps and Marking New Paths: Bomba and Plena in the Diaspora*

Participants: Julia Gutiérrez-Rivera, Jorge Vázquez, Benny Ayala; moderated by Marinieves Alba

Followed by musical procession to the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Center for the Opening Celebration

### **BomPlenazo Showcase**

Sat., Oct 11, 12 p.m.  
Hostos Center Main Theater, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx  
General Admission: \$10 (Students and Under 18 - \$5)

Artists: Danza Fiesta, Plena Sin Fronteras, Siembra Maestra, Legacy Women, Ilu Aye

### **BomPlenazo Artists Collective**

Sat., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Hostos Center Main Theater, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx  
Reserved Seating: \$15 (Students and Under 18 - \$7.50)

Artists: Juan Gutiérrez, Musical Director, 20 leading New York Bomba and Plena artists

### **Closing Event: Vente-Tú**

Sun., Oct 12, 12 p.m.  
Rincón Criollo Cultural Center, "La Casita de Chema", Brook Avenue / 157<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx  
Free Admission (limited capacity)

Artists: TBA

**Free workshops** Saturday, Oct, 11, at 10 AM to 11:30 AM at Hostos Center: plena percussion with Tito Matos, and bomba dance for men with Nelson Matthew González. Registration required, call (718) 518-4455.