



Press contact:

John MacElwee - 718-518-6539, jmacelwee@hostos.cuny.edu

Tom Pryor - 718-753-3321 tom.pryor@gmail.com

Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture presents

CITA RODRÍGUEZ Y SU ORQUESTA:

Tributo a Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez

**with Dr. Pete Rodríguez (Musical Director & Trumpet) with guest vocalists
Azuquita, Tito Allen, and Frankie Vázquez. Felipe Luciano is MC**

Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 7:30pm

“No one should forget my father, Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez. I know what music represented to him. That is why I continue to sing.” – Cita Rodríguez

[LINK TO HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS](#)

(Bronx, NY) Hostos Center for the Arts presents its first salsa performance of the fall 2017 season with the acclaimed singer **Cita Rodríguez & Su Orquesta** and **special guests** in a special tribute to her late father, former Fania All Star and singer Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez. The performance is on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Main Theater at the Hostos Community College, located at 450 Grand Concourse in the Bronx. Orchestra seating is \$35, mezzanine seating is \$25, and for students and ages 18 and under, tickets are \$5. Tickets can be purchased at 718-518-4455 or www.hostoscenter.org. The box office is open Monday to Friday, 1 PM to 4 PM and will be open two hours prior to performance.

Through her own concerts and at a special concert at Lincoln Center Out of Doors in 2014, Cita Rodríguez has paid tribute to her father Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez, who passed in 2000 at the age of 67, and was considered to be one of the greatest salsa singers of all time. For the Hostos Center presentation, her brother, trumpeter / vocalist Dr. Pete Rodríguez will lead her orchestra which features guest singers who performed with “El Conde” at different stages of his career. These include the Panamanian-born **Azuquita**, who has appeared on countless recordings and now resides in Puerto Rico; Ray Barretto and Típica ’73 vocalist **Tito Allen**; and former Manny Oquendo & Libre vocalist **Frankie Vázquez** who, along with Cita Rodríguez, performs with The Mambo Legends which includes members of the former Tito Puente Orchestra. The concert will be hosted by poet, activist, lecturer, and news reporter, **Felipe Luciano**.

Members of the Cita Rodriguez Orchestra include Miguel Rodríguez, trumpet; Chris Thompson, trumpet; Ángel 'Cookie' Lebrón, trombone; Hiram DeJesús, piano; Carlos Rodríguez, bass; Roberto 'Chino' Bolanos, congas; Luis Hernández, bongos, coro; and Tony Cruz, coro. Among the selections to be performed include "Ecantigo," "Catalina La O," "Tambo," and "Pueblo Latino."

Biographies

Born January 31, 1933, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, **Pete "El Conde" Rodríguez** (Pedro Juan Rodríguez Ferrer) first began playing percussion as a young boy. After working with local groups in Ponce, Puerto Rico, he moved to The Bronx during the 1950s where bandleader Johnny Pacheco saw him performing in a bar and soon recruited him for his orchestra. Their first album together titled *Sua 'vito*, was released in 1963. Just a year later, Pacheco and his lawyer Jerry Masucci founded The Fania All-Stars, a combination of the best Latin singers and musicians at that time. After many albums with Pacheco and the All Stars, Rodríguez made his debut recording (*El Conde*) as a leader in 1974, which was followed by more recordings under his own name. In 1983, he and Pacheco reunited for four more albums, among which was the 1987's Grammy-nominated *Salsobita*. In the '90s, Rodríguez decided to make the switch to using a full orchestra behind him (as opposed to the smaller conjunto) , and released *Generaciones*, which featured his son and daughter in 1993 as well as *Pete y Papo* with pianist Papo Lucca in 1996. Four years later, on December 1, 2000, after a career highlighted by performances with some of salsa music's greatest stars, "El Conde" died of a heart attack at his home in the Bronx.

Cita Rodríguez, the daughter of the famed salsa singer Pete "El Conde" Rodríguez was born in the Bronx and attended Boys and Girls Harbor School in Spanish Harlem, where she studied flute and sang in the chorus. She moved with her family to Puerto Rico in 1979, and soon after she appeared frequently with her father's band. While a student at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, Rodríguez became part of the salsa group Los Hijos de Salsa which involved recording and touring. In 1991 after the family returned to New York, Rodríguez and her brother, Pete, became part of the group Generaciones with her father. Since her father's passing in 2000, she has performed and recorded with her own group as well as being a featured vocalist, often performing Graciela tunes, with the Mambo Legends, comprised of former members of the Tito Puente Orchestra.

Trumpeter, vocalist and percussionist **Dr. Pete Rodríguez** carries the bloodline of Nuyorican salsa as he takes the tradition of Afro-Cuban jazz to new places. The son of renowned salsero Pete "El Conde" Rodríguez and godson of Fania Records bandleader Johnny Pacheco, the younger Rodríguez has backed up some of the greatest names in Latin music. He became his father's musical director at the age of 19. Coached by pianist Oscar Hernández, the former musical director for "El Conde" and Ruben Blades, Rodríguez was playing trumpet, singing coro, playing maracas and giving cues to the band. As a vocalist, he sang on Tito Puente's Grammy-award winning *Mambo Birdland*. As an instrumentalist, he's appeared with legends including Celia Cruz, Eddie Palmieri, Chico O'Farrill and Bebo Valdéz. Rodríguez's music comes from a deeply personal place, reflecting on his connections to his father and heritage, as well as the influences of Hip Hop from his Bronx childhood, classical music from his time with the Symphony of Puerto Rico, and jazz, which he learned to love while in the U.S. Army. He holds his bachelor and master of music degrees in jazz from Rutgers University. He obtained his doctorate of musical arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007.

Born Roberto Romero in Puerto Rico, **Tito Allen** has been described as "El Elegante de la Salsa" (The Elegant One of Salsa) because of his smooth voice and polished singing style. Allen came to New York in 1972 where he played in a quartet with Colombian pianist Eddie Martínez. In 1973, Allen replaced

Adalberto Santiago as lead singer of Ray Barretto's band for the album *Indestructible*. He again filled Santiago's slot in 1976 as lead vocalist with Típica 73 on their *Rumba Caliente*. As a soloist, he is known for his album *El Intocable* with production, musical direction, arrangements and piano by Isidro Infante) and a collaboration with Ralphie Santi on *Llegaré*, again with musical direction and arrangements by Infante. He has also performed and/or recorded with the Puerto Rico All Stars, Tito Puente, Conjunto Clásico, Noche Caliente, Justo Barreto, Louie Ramírez, and on the Alegre label from 1975 – 1981 as it was absorbed by Fania.

Born in Colón, Panama, to singers of Cuban son and Panamanian tamborito, Camilo Luis Argumédez or **Azuquita** signed his first professional contract to sing in Peru at the age of 15. Azuquita moved to Puerto Rico in the mid-1960s and sang lead vocals on the album *Se Pone Bueno/It Gets Better* by Roberto Roena y Sus Megatonos. In 1977 Camilo replaced Tito Allen as lead singer of Típica 73. Azuquita relocated to Paris in the late 1970s. In 1981 Azuquita sang lead vocals and composed half the songs on Tito Puente's album *Ce' Magnifique*. The same year he appeared on the same bill as Bob Marley at a concert in Bourges, France, where he performed in front of an audience of 75,000. Azuquita's own band, Melao has made multiple albums. He has also performed and/or recorded with Rafael Cortijo, Kako, The Salsa All Stars, Charlie Palmieri, Israel "Cachao" López, Louie Ramírez, Pupi Legarreta, Johnny Pacheco, La Sonora Matancera, Isidro Infante, José Febles, Oscar Hernández, Rodolfo Pacheco, José Madera, and others.

Born in Salinas, Puerto Rico **Frankie Vázquez** was handed his first conga at the age of 10 and created his own band, Los Generales at the age of 16. In 1977, his cousin David Sánchez singer of the orchestra Fuego '77 invited him to New York, where he sang on their Al Santiago-produced record by the same name (Alegre, 1978.) Vázquez has performed with Sonido Taiborí, Orquesta Calidad, Orquesta Metropolitana, Héctor Lavoe Orchestra, New Swing Sextet, Javier Vázquez, Wayne Gorbea, Jimmy Bosch, the Lebrón Brothers, Azuquita, Yuri Buenaventura, and Herman Olivera. He is most known from his work with Orquesta Manny Oquendo y Libre, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, and his own project Los Soneros del Barrio. He appears frequently with the Mambo Legends which includes former members of the Tito Puente Orchestra.

A two-time Emmy recipient, former WNBC-TV news anchor, **Felipe Luciano** was born in New York City and raised in poverty in East Harlem by a single Puerto Rican mother. In 1964, at the age of sixteen, Felipe was convicted of attempted manslaughter after a gang fight and sentenced to five years in prison. Upon his release, he attended Queens College and became involved in student activism during that period, and was a founder of the Young Lords Organization. After leaving his post as YLO Chairman in 1971, he produced the acclaimed radio show *Latin Roots*, the first English language program in the United States to feature Latin culture which aired on WRVR. This led to a television career at WNBC. He is the former Director of Communications for the City of Newark. Luciano currently lectures for Fortune 500 companies, colleges and universities, unions, and fraternal organizations.

About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

Founded in 1982, The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, based at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, serves the cultural needs of residents of the South Bronx and similar inner-city communities who do not have the means or inclination to attend arts events in mid-town Manhattan. The Center, which includes a 900-seat theater, a 350-seat theater, and museum-grade art gallery, creates forums in which the cultural heritages of its audiences are affirmed and nurtured. The Center's programming consists of a performing arts presenting series; a visual arts exhibiting series; periodic festivals promoting cultural traditions, especially Afro-Caribbean; The Hostos Repertory Company; and an individual artists' program with commissions and residencies. Nearly 60,000 partake in the Center's programs each year. www.hostoscenter.org

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 for nearly half a century. Since 1968, Hostos has been 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. 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 500,000 students at 24 colleges. <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/>

What: Cita Rodríguez y su Orquesta: Tributo a Pete “El Conde” Rodríguez with Dr. Pete Rodríguez, Azuquita, Tito Allen, Frankie Vázquez, Felipe Luciano

When: Saturday, October 21, 2017, 7:30pm

Where: Main Theater, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

How much? \$35 orchestra seating; \$25 mezzanine seating (\$5 for students and Under 18)

Phone Number: 718-518-4455

Box Office: Window hours are Mon. – Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM and 2 hours prior to performance.

Website: www.hostoscenter.org

Subway/Bus: IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses BX1, BX2, BX19 to 149th Street and Grand Concourse