



Salsa Picante Dance Company's

Salsa Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

SEPT — OCT 2006

Salsa Picante Dance Company News

Welcome to the Salsa Picante Dance Company newsletter. Here you will find the latest news regarding the company, the school and everything salsa.

Salsa Picante Dance Co. will perform on Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:30pm at the Toronto Salsa Practice. This will be the 2nd Annual Salsa & Latin Dance Fundraiser in support of the Terry Fox Run. Yana and I are scheduled to perform.

I have just heard that Anga Diaz passed away recently. He is one of my favourite conga players. He will be missed.

Our Afro Cuban percussion group is back at High Park this under the gondola across the



swimming pool. High Park is at the corner of Bloor and Keele, Toronto. Class is from 11-2pm cost \$15. Jam session is from 2-5pm free.

Arthur Ga

Salsa Picante Dance Co. will be featured in an upcoming article celebrating dance companies around the world who love dancing Salsa On 2. The article will be published in the arts, community website, This Business of Dance and Music. Stay tuned.

Angá Diaz Info c/o <http://mimfilms.com/>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Salsa Congresses 2

In Salsa—Talk is Cheap 2

Class Reviews 3

Student Corner 3

Class Schedule 4

Miguel Angá Diaz, Grammy Award winning Cuban percussionist, is a musician of incredible ability who has developed a complete mastery of the congas. Known for his remarkable soloing and five-conga & percussion inventions, Anga has recorded and toured with The Afro Cuban All Stars, Ruben Gonzales, Irakere, Orishas, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Steve Coleman, Roy Hargrove, Tito Puente, John Patitucci, David Sanchez. Known for his explosive soloing and ground-breaking style, Cuban born Diaz represents the future of conga playing. Although Diaz sometimes records with four congas, he prefers to use five.

"Everybody asks me what my tuning is, but it depends on the type of music that I'm playing," he explains. "In music school, what I worked on was to listen. By listening to what is around me that should tell me how I'm going to tune. The same is true for how I play. I don't play according to the rhythm section; I play according to the melody. I also listen a lot to the piano and bass and try to fit into that ... It's not congas, or percussion, or clave—it's music!"

Born into a musical family in the small town of San Juan y Martinez in the Province of Pinar del Rio, Cuba, Angá started his musical studies at the Escuela Nacional de Arte de Pinar del Rio. Later he studied classical per-

cussion at the Escuela de Arte in Havana. But he didn't start learning to play the congas until he began watching legendary Cuban congueros Tata Güines, Changuito, and Jorge "Niño" Alfonso (who was the first conguero in Cuba to use five congas). "He had a technique that allowed him to play five congas with ease," Diaz told writer Victor Rendón. "I got a video of Niño from maestro Chucho Valdes [musical director of the prestigious/groundbreaking Cuban band Irakere] and studied it thoroughly. From there I united his style with mine." Diaz went on to join Irakere in 1987, and toured and recorded with the group for seven years.

Content by [lyw](#)

Salsa Congresses

The congresses are largely responsible for making salsa one of the most organized street dances in the world.

A salsero / salsera can make a career out of globe-trotting the congresses, sampling the best DJs, dancers, bands and performances that the host city has to offer. Today there are few cities where there isn't a salsa house to call home.

The congresses are able to showcase salsa performances that are too big for the night-

clubs. The host city's dance companies can also test and introduce new moves to the global salsa scene. The globe-trotters can then pick and choose their favourite moves and modify them to fit a social scene and thereby bringing something fresh back to their communities.

The congresses insure that our salsa communities not only prosper but also stay connected to other communities around the world. The congresses also help to create work and promotion for our

local dance companies and schools.

Salsa keeps coming on strong by successfully balancing the virtues of business and pleasure.

We may have something to teach the rest of the world on how to resolve our differences and live in harmony with each other: **dance salsa.**

Upcoming Salsa Congresses

Aug 30th – Sept 6th
Stockholm Salsa Congress
www.hotsalsaweekend.com

Aug 31st – Sept 3rd
New York Salsa Congress
www.nycsalsacongress.com

Sept 8th – 10th
Salsa Congress in Seattle, WA
www.nwcongress.com

Sept 22nd – 24th
UK Salsa Congress
www.ukcongress.com

Sept 29th – Oct 1
Salsa Congress Mexico
www.internationalsalsacongressmexico.com

Oct 5th – 8th
Salsa Congress, Vancouver,
www.vancouverinternationalsalsacongress.com

Oct 5th - 9th ---
Canada Salsa Congress, Toronto,
www.canadasalsacongress.com

In Salsa - Talk Is Cheap

Every passionate salsa dancer wants to improve her / his skills. We learn by practice, by watching and by listening to the music and each other. Verbal instruction is the first and most obvious way to learn, however, especially with salsa, we must mind some social etiquette regarding this.

Verbal instruction should be primarily given by a dance instructor. If your partner doesn't ask for instruction or encourages you to give it, please respect this. Most lessons learned with our fellow students happen naturally and with practice.

Salsa reminds us that talk is often very cheap. Salsa asks us to try and communicate on a different level with each other: with the eyes,

hands, shoulders and hips. Don't deny yourself the pleasure of your partner's company or the song by stumbling over technicalities or disrupting the dance with a "Turn Left! Left!" And nothing kills a salsa faster than something negative like, "That's wrong!"

Learning salsa can be humbling at all levels. The student is dealing with his/her own self-confidence and that of his/her fellow students. What makes salsa so great is its playfulness and free-spirit that constantly reminds us to not take ourselves so seriously. Salsa can take something as prickly as one's pride and make faces with it, give it a good shake or two and take it for a spin.



Visit
[This Business of Dance & Music:](http://www.thisbusinessofdanceandmusic.com)
a community website
for dancers, writers
and
musicians.

Don Quixote by Picasso c/
o.Allposters.com

Class Reviews



Congratulations to all the salsa students who braved the heat with us this summer. It isn't easy dancing salsa at the Trinity if you've grown accustomed to air-conditioned environments. Just know that we have all thoroughly de-toxed our bodies.

We're also pleased to see our students at the Practice or the clubs. However, we also notice that some of you don't dance when you get

there. [???] If you are too shy to ask a stranger to dance, we encourage you to get to know your classmates and dance with each other. We can learn from students of all dance levels.

In fact, dancing with beginner students will strengthen any dancer's skills. If you can adapt and negotiate your moves with an uncertain partner and still come out as a dance, you are an accomplished dancer.

Afro-Cuban All-Stars is a Cuban band led by Juan de Marcos González (formerly tres player for Sierra Maestra). Their music is a mix of all the styles of Cuban music, including bolero, chachachá, salsa, son montuno, timba, guajira, danzón, rumba and abakua. They are especially well-known internationally for their 1997 album *A Toda Cuba Le Gusta*, which was recorded at the Buena Vista Social Club sessions. Members have included Rubén González, Raul Planas, Pío Leyva, Puntillita Licea, Yanko Pisaco and more recently Caridad Hierrezuelo and Pedro Calvo.

Info c/o <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

Student Corner



Intermediate 1

Students are invited to submit their salsa stories or ideas for this corner.

thisbusinessof-dancemusic@yahoo.ca

Colour, full-size pics available. Email me.



Intermediate 1



Shining with Adv. 1



Shining with Adv. 1



Salsa Picante Dance Company

Instructor: Arthur Ga
E-mail: salsamambotero@yahoo.com

Instructor: Eloisa Tobias
Tel: 416-562-3664

Web: www.salsapicantedanceco.com

"Learning to dance should always be fun. It's a great way to meet many wonderful people and a fun form of exercise and self expression. It can change your life."

- Arthur Ga

Do you want to add some spice to your life? Salsa Picante Dance Co. is just the place for you! Come and experience with us the wonderful world of Salsa dancing!

For more information on Salsa Picante Dance Co. or to join our distribution list, please email:

Instructor: Arthur Ga
E-mail: salsamambotero@yahoo.ca

To add your salsa news, stories or opinions to our content, please email:

Editor/Writer: lyw
E-mail: thisbusinessofdancemusic@yahoo.ca

For more info on lyw & lyw services visit:
Web: www.thisbusinessofdanceandmusic.com/lyw_bio.htm

Class Schedule 2006

(Check website for updated session details)

All classes are at Trinity St Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St W (just west of Spadina)

Cost of Group Classes: \$60 for 6 classes, or \$12 drop in, Private \$50 for 1 hour

NEW: We will start having Salsa Practices for our students every "First and Third Fridays" Sept 1 and Sept 15 from 9-10pm. Cost is free. Please invite your dance partners and friends.

NEW: Friday, August 25-September 29

Intermediate 3 Salsa On 1 — 7-8pm

Intermediate 1 Salsa On 1 — 8-9pm

Saturday, July 29-September 2

Beg-Inter Salsa On 1 — 12:30-1:30pm

Intermediate Salsa On 1 — 1:30-2:30pm

Inter-Advance Salsa On 1 — 2:30-3:30pm

NEW: Saturday, September 9-October 21

Beginner Salsa On 1 — 11:30-12:30pm

Beg-Inter Salsa On 1 — 12:30-1:30pm

Intermediate 2 Salsa On 1 — 1:30-2:30pm

Inter-Advance Salsa On 1 — 2:30-3:30pm