



CONTRA-TIEMPO, Los Angeles, CA

CONTRA-TIEMPO is an urban Latin dance-theater company founded in 2005 by choreographer Ana María Alvarez. Fusing salsa, Afro-Cuban, hip-hop, and abstract dance-theater, the company's performances are unique for their physical intensity and political astuteness. CONTRA-TIEMPO has toured throughout the US and to Cuba, engaging audiences across social and cultural divides and taking a progressive approach to the way in which artists function within communities.

About the Artistic Director

Ana María Alvarez is a Cuban-American choreographer raised in the US. She has trained with Dr. Elenor Gwynn, Urban Bush Women, Cutumba Baile Foklorico de Santiago de Cuba, Narcisco Medina (La Habana), Katherine Dunham, Vic Marks, and David Rousseve and at the North Carolina School of the Arts. Alvarez received her MFA in choreography from the world arts and culture department at UCLA, where she began deconstructing salsa for the concert stage and founded CONTRA-TIEMPO. She has received numerous awards, including Brooklyn Arts Exchange's Artist in Progress Award and Mujeres Destacadas (La Opinión), and was named guest choreographer for Festival Internacional de Teatro de Los Angeles' (FITLA) and Instituto de Cultura de Puerto Rico, among others. She is a four-time grant recipient from the Center for Creative Innovation and the National Association for Latino Arts and Cultures, was named an artist in residence at the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and was awarded a grant from the NEA as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Alvarez has been commissioned by Jamie Nichols' Celebrate Dance, St. Joseph's Ballet, CounterPULSE's Performing Diaspora Festival, and Cornerstone Theater. She was invited to speak about fusion and the use of traditional movement forms in contemporary dance at the DanceUSA Annual Conference in Washington, DC, was selected to represent Los Angeles Contemporary Dance at the Tanzmesse in Dusseldorf, Germany, and was invited back to Germany the following month to participate in a choreographers lab called Kindling (through IPAY).

Press Quotes

"...represents the kind of socially aware contemporary work that only a few dance artists such as Bill T. Jones reliably provide...in heart, mind and soul—this is the real thing!"

Los Angeles Times

"...an edgy examination of the complexity of resistance and struggle for Latinos in the United States, and a joyous celebration of community."

San Francisco Bay Guardian

"Alvarez is a rising star of the dance world."

BackStage, NYC

Company website

www.CONTRA-TIEMPO.org

www.pentacle.org/contratiempo

Video Excerpts

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29TAf6VUnR8>



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