

THANKS TO ALL FOR SUPPORTING THE MINNESOTA CUBAN FILM FESTIVAL!

Los 100 Sones Cubanos, by Darryl Streeter, Global Cultural Advocate and Macalester Alumnus

Like most or perhaps only some persons who are not Cuban, the first thought that comes to mind is what is a *son(es)*? After consulting Google, Wikipedia, the dictionary, and my Latino homies, I've learned that a *son* is a quintessentially Afro-Cuban musical style that emerged from African slaves in the mountains and rural areas of eastern Cuba. Which brings us to the documentary film *Los 100 Sones Cubanos*. This scenic and enticing film takes viewers on an 81 minute music-laden journey throughout Cuba and the Dominican Republic. This journey profiles various musicians and artisans on these Latin/Caribbean oases of culture and history. The film is not the ultimate nor the final authority on the history of *son*, but it does shed light on the music genre, and how it evolved.

One interesting scene, which places the history in context is the playing of the *botija* instrument (a clay jug). The *botija* played in the film is noted as being 300 years old, and plays better and produces a richer sound than the *botijas* made today, according to the *botija* player. One plays the *botija* by blowing into it like a wind instrument. Additional instruments like the *marimbula* and various bamboo instruments, and certain organs are played in live performances in the film as well. A special segment also highlights the Bantu and Dahomey contributions to the music genre *son*. Which essentially, encompasses the musical spices and flavorings of West African countries like Nigeria, Niger, Congo, Cameroon, Angola, Zambia, and Benin. Adding to this potpourri of fragrances and aroma, the Cuban Film Festival committee brought back due to popular demand Benny More of *El Benny* in *Los 100 Sones Cubanos*. Well, just kidding folks, its actually Beny Villy, who is touted as being the world's best Benny More impersonator. But the spirit of Benny More lives on through this artistic music genre *son*, which is a delight to any ear that appreciates Latin music.

Stay tuned, maybe one day *El Benny* shall return!

Tr30 Cubanía

Closing night party
starts at 9:00 pm at

Pracna on Main:

Viviana Pintado,

Gloria "la Niña" Rivera
and Shai Hayo

Upcoming events

Join the Minnesota delegation to Cuba for May Day: The US-Cuba Labor Exchange is leading a delegation to Cuba from April 28 through May 5, with an optional one-week extension. The price is \$1,300 for one week or \$1,700 for two weeks and includes all expenses except for airfare to and from Cancun. This trip is a travel challenge; the delegation travels without a license from the US State Department and has done so without incident for several years. At least three people from the Twin Cities will be part of the delegation and have flyers available about an informational meeting and fundraiser to be held on April 17. If you are interested in joining them, the deadline for applications is April 15. For more information, visit our website.

Pastors for Peace: The annual caravan to Cuba will come through the Twin Cities in early July. Help plan this event and consider going on the caravan.

Next year's film festival: Planning for next year's festival will start up again soon. Let us know if you'd like to be part of it.

The Minnesota Cuba Committee meets every two weeks The next meeting is on Sunday, April 7, at 6:00 pm at Boneshaker Books. Anyone interested in finding out more about our work is welcome.

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