

The **AFROCUBAN DANCE FESTIVAL** is an event, conducted annually by **Afro Cuban Dance & UR Capoeira London**, a social enterprise that aims at making the physical, mental, emotional and social benefits of Afro-Cuban dance & Capoeira better known by and accessible to all, regardless of their previous experience, abilities or age.

Event concept

The aim is to offer an authentic learning environment similar to that experienced by professional dancers training in Cuba. Participants develop a better understanding of both Afro-Cuban music and dances and of Cuban popular dances like Danzon, Son, Mambo or Salsa - among others.

Main objectives

- to give dance enthusiasts the opportunity to be taught by professional dancers and teachers in Cuba and discover and/or understand the roots of Afro-Cuban & popular Cuban social dances and traditions
- to enable participants to make fast progress (whatever their level) in an intensive course taught by highly qualified and experienced teachers
- to give the opportunity to Cuban professional artists, teachers and musicians who cannot leave the country easily to share their knowledge and experience of their life within this music and dance culture
- to enable participants to discover and enjoy Cuban culture and practice what they have learnt in the workshops in a variety of venues in the Cuban capital
- to keep Cuban dance and music traditions and heritage alive in and outside of Cuba

Teachers

Luanda Pau

Born in Havana (Cuba)

24 years of professional experience

Graduated from the National School of Art of Cuba (ENA) in 1994 as a dancer and teacher of folkloric dances

Certificate of the first level Choreographer awarded by the Cuban Ministry of Culture in 2001 Certificate of Artistic Direction, Script and Production awarded by the Cuban Ministry of Culture in 2001

Youth leader (dance and sports) diploma obtained in France in 2010

The dance festival is organized and conducted by **Luanda Pau** with active participation of her father **Domingo Pau**.

Luanda danced as a soloist with the National Folkloric Ballet of Cuba for 8 years. With 19 years of experience as a teacher, dancer and choreographer, she has participated in numerous festivals and artistic events in Cuba, Europe, America and Africa, she is still just as passionate about her culture and continues to develop a variety of projects to maintain it alive.

Currently based in London, Luanda organizes and teaches a great variety of master classes, workshops; she also organizes and participates in a number of UK and international events with the aim to increase sensitivity to and understanding of Afro-Cuban culture and heritage outside of Cuba. In the future, she is hoping to open a Cuban dance academy for adults and children.

Classes in Havana are overseen by **Master Domingo Pau**. Musicians, teachers and assistants have been selected for their high standard of professionalism and for their extended knowledge. Several of them have over 50 years of professional experience in Afro-Cuban dance & music.