

## 12 月度木曜例会 (2008/12/04)

10,11 月に引き続きゲストスピーカーはキューバの ERNEST さん。今回のタイトルは Celebrations and Culture in Cuba、Cuban company ballet theatre です。毎回高度な内容ですが今回もついていけるのでしょうか？

国民的英雄、人間国宝バレイのプリマ アリシア アロンソについて、なぜこんなにもと思うくらい熱く語り始めました。キューバとバレイの結びつきが疎かった我々も、聞き終えると充分納得。では彼のスピーチ内容をまとめてアリシアの経歴を追ってみましょう。



Alicia Alonso (born Alicia Ernestina de la Caridad del Cobre Martínez Hoya on December 21, 1920) is a Cuban prima ballerina assoluta and choreographer. She is considered a legend and is most famous for her portrayals of Giselle and Carmen. Since she was nineteen, Alicia was afflicted with an eye defect and was partially blind. Her partners always had to be in the exact place she expected them to be, and she used lights in different parts of the stage to guide her.

The dancer's rapid progress in her lessons came to an abrupt halt in 1937. After her marriage she changed her last name to Alonso. The new couple moved to New York City, and managed to continue her training at the School of American Ballet. She then arranged a travel to London to study with the renowned Vera Volkova.

ここで彼女に重大な危機が訪れました。片方の目が見えず手術を繰り返しましたが直りません。

"I danced in my mind. Blinded, motionless, flat on my back, I taught myself to dance Giselle." Finally, she was allowed to leave her bed

Back to Work at Last En el American Ballet theater

Nearly mad with impatience and still partially blind, Alonso traveled back to New York in 1943 to begin rebuilding her skills.

Igor Youskevitch was a ballet dancer and a choreographer of Russian-Ukrainian origin, famous as one of the greatest male ballet dancers of the 20th century, as a master of the classic style and as a dance partner to Alicia Alonso.

A New Endeavor in Havana



Alonso's desire to develop ballet in Cuba led her to return to Havana in 1948 to found her own company, the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company, which she maintained with little financial support, this company eventually became Ballet Nacional de Cuba

The company debuted briefly in the capital and then departed for a tour of South America. The performances were a hit with audiences everywhere, but Alonso found herself funding the company with her savings to keep it going despite donations from wealthy families and a modest subsidy from the Cuban Ministry of Education. Meanwhile, she commuted between Havana and New York to recruit the world's best teachers to train her new students. She remained a sought-after prima ballerina during this hectic time, dancing twice in Russia in 1952 and then producing and starring in Giselle for the Paris Opera in 1953.

Between 1955 and 1959, Alicia danced every year with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo as guest star. She was the first dancer of the Western Hemisphere to perform in the Soviet Union, and the first American representative to dance with the Bolshoi and Kirov Theaters of Moscow and Leningrad (St. Petersburg) respectively in 1957 and 1958. During the decades to follow Alicia Alonso had cross-world tours through West and East European countries, Asia, North and South America, and she danced as guest star with the Opera de Paris, the Royal Danish Ballet, the Bolshoi and with other companies.[2] She

has staged her versions of Giselle, Pas de Quatre, and Sleeping Beauty for the Paris Opera. She also staged Giselle at the Vienna State Opera and the San Carlo Theater of Naples, Italy; La Fille Mal Gardee at the Prague State Opera, and Sleeping Beauty at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan.

右はアリシアの似顔絵、彼があつという間にかいたものです。



### Political Change in Cuba

By the mid-1950s, the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company was in dire straits financially and politically. A dictator, Fulgencio Batista, had taken control and was determined to squash the heavy opposition to his rule. Supported by the island's financial infrastructure, the Mafia, and American business interests, he mercilessly repressed anyone who stood in his path. Declaring that all artists and intellectuals were left-wing sympathizers, he drastically cut what little funding the government had given Alonso's ballet school and touring group.



### Return to Cuba

When Fidel Castro took power from the Batista dictatorship on 1 January 1959, Castro vowed to increase funding to the nation's languishing cultural programs. Encouraged by this

sudden change and eager to see her homeland again, Alonso returned to Cuba and in March 1959 received \$200,000 in funding to form a new dance school, to be called the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, along with a guarantee of annual financial support. Alonso has since described receiving a message from Castro in 1958 sent from the Sierra Maestra inviting her to head the company upon the triumph of the July 26 Movement[3]. She officially founded the school in 1960, and within several years her dancers were winning international dance competitions.

#### Disappearance from American Artistic Scene

Because of her intense and passionate affiliation with the new communist government in Havana, American audiences turned their backs on the prima ballerina and she vanished from the country's cultural radar. However, her company continued to build its powers and achievements in both Eastern and Western Europe. In 1967 and 1971 she performed in Canada, where reviewers noted that Alonso was still the greatest ballerina of her time.

Alonso was permitted to perform again in the United States in 1975

In June 2002 she was designated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for her outstanding contribution to the development, preservation and popularisation of classical dance and for her devotion to the art-form, through which she has promoted the ideals of UNESCO and the fellowship of the world's peoples and cultures.

She continues to direct her Ballet Nacional de Cuba, even though she is in her eighties and almost blind.

そしてキューバの祝日、フェスティバルを通してのキューバ文化を紹介してくれ、バレイのようなクラシカルなものも好き、敬虔な祈りも好き、だけどばか騒ぎも大好きというラテンの真髓を示してくれました。

1 JANUARY New Years Day and Liberation Day. Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution.

1 MAY Día Internacional de los Trabajadores. International Workers Day or Labor Day

26 JULY National Rebellion Day and Anniversary of the Moncada Attack.

10 OCTOBER Anniversary of the beginning of the Wars of Independence in 1868.

25 DECEMBER Christmas Day

FEBRUARY Havana Jazz Festival

July Havana Carnival

OCTOBER International Electroacoustic Music Festival

JANUARY Havana International Contemporary Music festiva

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#### July Santiago de Cuba Carnival

While the partying in Havana is in full swing, holiday makers almost 620 miles away in Santiago de Cuba will also be enjoying the street party of a lifetime. The best days for this most famous of Cuba's festivals are from the 24th to the 26th, where you will find a city that literally never sleeps! People gather in the streets partying all night long, waiting for the exciting annual performance at the Cuartel Moncada. Holiday makers will delight in the colourful and eclectic



mark the moment when Christmas Eve becomes Christmas Day.

Cubans celebrate Christmas with traditional fervor and revelry. Those who can afford it try to make a special meal and decorate their houses, and church-going Christians attend services. Cubans spent the days before Christmas buying pork, apple cider, beans, bananas and other fruit in preparation for their holiday festivities.

三ヶ月連続ゲストスピーカー、大変お疲れ様でした。キューバという国がすごく身近に感じられます。