



**11<sup>th</sup> Biennial BomPlenazo 2020**  
**October 7 to October 11, 2020**  
**Bomba y Plena: En Acción**

The Hostos Center for Arts & Culture and the BomPlenazo Advisory Committee are excited to announce this five-day online BomPlenazo festival featuring 4 concerts, 2 panel discussions, 2 film screenings, and 2 workshops engaging with voices from both the island and the diaspora. Join us on Facebook Live, Zoom and YouTube from October 7 to October 11.

This year's festival – ***Bomba y Plena: En Acción*** - celebrates the bomba and plena legacies of struggle, resistance, action and resilience. The Festival pays tribute to the roles that *la gente* plena y bombera, from the island and throughout our communities across the diaspora, have played in Puerto Rico's historical and recent battles with hurricanes, earthquakes, environmental crisis, political corruption, gender, racial inequities, and most recently, COVID-19. During these times of strife, catastrophe and adversity, our drums, songs and dances are once again sources of healing, mutual aid, and a testament of Afro-Boricua pride and spirit.

All are encouraged to log on, watch, move, screen and comment as we celebrate our elders, our ancestors, and our younger generations. Like our people and music, BomPlenazo is alive and kicking, looking ahead - ¡y siempre pa'lante!

All events are Free\* and will be streamed online on Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube.

\* *Two workshops require pre-registration and will be streamed exclusively on Zoom.*

Visit [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

For information: [BomPlenazoPalPueblo@gmail.com](mailto:BomPlenazoPalPueblo@gmail.com) • Follow and add to the conversation: #BomPlenazoPalPueblo



## WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 7

6:30 - 7:45 PM



### **Plena Percussion Workshop with Hector "Tito" Matos Open to all levels**

**Pre-registration required by October 5, 2020 5 p.m. (EDT)**

**To register: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlscOyupjwrGdeG3md0hTyUwtRFNCA\\_kYus](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlscOyupjwrGdeG3md0hTyUwtRFNCA_kYus)**

Founding member of the BomPlenazo Festival's Advisory Committee, and maestro plenero, Hector "Tito" Matos, offers a comprehensive and interactive workshop on plena percussion and song. Join with your drums, panderos, güícharos, or table-tops, as all are welcomed to participate.

*To watch: zoom only, must pre-register to participate*

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm



### **Percussion Discussion with Hector Tito Matos Presented by The Bronx Music Heritage Center**

Percussion Discussion is an online series which features percussionists and drummers giving lecture / demonstration workshops and interviews about their crafts and careers hosted by the Co-Artistic Director of the Bronx Music Heritage Center, Bobby Sanabria. Watch LIVE on Facebook at [Facebook.com/bxmusic](https://www.facebook.com/bxmusic). Bobby and Tito will take questions from those watching--send your questions through the FB Comments section

View on <https://www.facebook.com/bxmusic>





**THURSDAY • OCTOBER 8**

**5:30 pm - 6:30pm**

**Conversatorio - Respuestas en Voz y Movimiento**

*A conversation and dialogue with bomberas, pleneras and justice visionaries*



**Featuring:** *Adriana Santoni (Puerto Rico), Denise Solis (Bay Area, CA), María Isa Pérez Hedges (Twin Cities, MN), Gloriann Sacha Antonetty Lebrón (Puerto Rico)* **Moderator:** *Marinievas Alba (NYC)*

Co-sponsored by Pregones/PRTT

Since inception, Plena and Bomba have been vehicles for capturing the voices, angst and resistance of the Puerto Rican people. From slave revolts to labor movements, to student manifestations, and most recently island-wide protests to oust ex-Governor Ricardo Rosselló, bomba and plena, and by extension Bomberxs and Plenerxs, have always been there - standing for the fight of their people. In this frank conversation, we go deeper, examining the perspectives of four powerful women, who have united their backgrounds and passions as Bomberxs and Plenerxs with their commitment for inclusion and justice. Co-presented by Pregones/PRTT, NYC's landmark Puerto Rican theater with a visionary commitment towards agency of our cultural voices, the discussion, offers insight from Puerto Rico's **Adriana Santoni** (Plena Combativa, Colectiva Feminista), **Gloriann Sacha Antonetty Lebrón** (founding editor of *Revista Étnica*), Oakland's **Denis Solis** (LGBTQIA activist, union organizer and Bomberx) and the Twin Cities' **María Isa Pérez-Hedges** (Youth activist, community organizer, Hip Hop Emcee and Bombera) to trace how issues of race, gender, equity, politics and music are confronted on the island and in the diaspora. This conversation will be hosted on Zoom, with live and interactive question and answer, moderated by NYC's **Marinievas Alba** (educator, curator and thought provoker).

View on: <https://www.facebook.com/PregonesPRTT>





**THURSDAY • OCTOBER 8**

**7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**



**Concert and Convo: Redobles de Cultura, RDCNYC**

**A premiere of a musical presentation by NYC's own Redobles de Cultura  
NYC's next-generation Bomberxs**

*Following the performance, stay tuned and participate in a meet & greet convo with the band members  
and BomPlenazo Advisory Committee*

*Simulcast on Facebook and YouTube*

Made up of first and second generation NuyoRicans, RDC unites top talents and leaders of NYC's Bomba community. Founded in 2017, the group hit the ground running with an unprecedented month-long tour across the country, four days after Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico. Through their performances, workshops and community building, the ensemble reaffirmed the power of Bomba as a vehicle for resilience and gathering. Three years later, the ensemble continues to perform in cities across the country - oftentimes bringing Bomba and DiaspoRicans into host venues for the first time - while also offering consistent Bomba jam sessions, reigniting the Bombazo scene in NYC. Their vigorous drumming, amazing vocals and unparalleled dancing showcase NuyoRican pride...as one cemented by the teachings of their elders.

View on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98557882093>

View on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

View on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HostosCenter>



**FRIDAY • OCTOBER 9**

**5:30pm - 6:45 pm**

**Bomba Dance Workshop with Julia Cepeda and Denise Solis (Taller Bombalele)**

**Open to all levels**

**Pre-registration required by October 5, 2020 5pm (EDT)**

**To Register: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdemgqjIjGNduqQz\\_1kaeNrlGrxtBtXi0](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdemgqjIjGNduqQz_1kaeNrlGrxtBtXi0)**



Learn how to dance Bomba Cali-Rican style with the incomparable Julia Cepeda and top primo player Denise Solis, of Taller Bombalele. Founded in 2014 by Julia Cepeda (granddaughter of Rafael Cepeda Atilas) and Denise Solís (director of Las Bomberas de la Bahía), Taller Bombalele has consistently opened space and gathered community in California's Bay Area for anyone to learn and appreciate the foundational knowledge of Santurce style Bomba. The Taller Bombalele community welcomes different cultural experiences, gender identities and expressions, and values intergenerational participation. Through their commitment to heritage practices and their local community Julia and Denise have created a unique sound and space for Bomberx to practice and celebrate practice and process through drums, song and dance.

*To watch: Zoom only*



**FRIDAY • OCTOBER 9**

**7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Concert and Convo: Plena Combativa**

**A premiere of a musical presentation by Puerto Rico's powerful plena ensemble, Plena Combativa**

*Following the performance, stay tuned and participate in a meet & greet convo with the band members and BomPlenazo Advisory Committee*

*[Simulcast on Facebook and YouTube](#)*



Uniting Plena, Gender justice and Puertorriqueñidad in one, Plena Combativa has been at the forefront of all major social change movements in Puerto Rico since 2017 - a direct response from the inaction and disregard experienced on the island post-Hurricane Maria. Stemming from the work of composer, percussionist and community organizer, Adriana Santoni Rodríguez, Plena Combativa is an all-female ensemble which uses their voices and drums as their most powerful tool for voicing injustice and affecting change. Their socially-conscious lyrics have been heard in many conferences, countless protests and across numerous stages throughout the island. In 2018, they were featured in Santiago de Cuba's Festival de Fuego, and in July 2020, amid an island-wide shut down, they produced, recorded and released their debut album - demonstrating the prowess of Plena, and feminine strength.

View on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91564953979>

View on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

View on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HostosCenter>



**SATURDAY • OCTOBER 10**

12pm - 1pm

**“En Plena Acción” - Film Screening & Discussion**  
***A film by Mariana Reyes and Calle Loíza Productions***



Broadcast premiere of a documentary that captures the voices of Pleneros in San Mateo de Cangrejos (Santurce, PR). Puerto Rican plena has been a tool and vehicle in social movements on the island for over 100 years. Los Pleneros de la 23 Abajo and Los Sapos del Caño are just two examples of how the pandereta is a plenero’s weapon of choice. In this film and post screening discussion, practitioners from the island talk about their experiences and invite you to explore the plena in protest movements, from the historical plena song *Tintorera del Mar* to most recently the summer of 2019 challenging political injustices on the island. Following the film, the director is joined by elder voices of the Cangrejos community (Héctor “Tito” Matos, Roberto Cipreni, Juan Emilio “Llonsi” Martínez) for a frank conversation and discussion of the island’s current climate, after gentrification, discrimination and displacement.

View on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93999609594>

View on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

View on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HostosCenter>



## SATURDAY • OCTOBER 10

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Concert and Convo: Bomba con Buya**



**Premiere of a musical presentation by Chicago's powerhouse ensemble, Bomba con Buya**

*Following the performance, stay tuned and participate in a meet & greet convo with the band members and BomPlenazo Advisory Committee*

*Simulcast on Facebook and YouTube.*

When you hear **Buya's** name, you will inevitably soon hear: "buya, buya va" - a reverie and fiery shout that can only be attributed to Chicago's powerful Bomba ensemble. Known for upholding the southern style of Bomba, Buya members, proud representatives of the first generation of Bomberos in Chicago, boast over 25 years of experience. They offer their own twist to historical classics, wearing fitted hats and sneakers - in homage of their Chicago Barrio roots - and always engaging all those within earshot to dance and sing along. The release of their latest album "Southern Sessions" in 2019 has propelled them as one of the busiest Bomba ensembles in the diaspora, with performances throughout the Midwest, having played in San Juan's Las Fiestas de la Calle San Sebastián (the only Diaspora-based bomba ensemble to have performed in the island's incomparable Carnival), and have an exciting lineup of concerts and events including an upcoming trip to Spain.

View on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98105971716>

View on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

View on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HostosCenter>

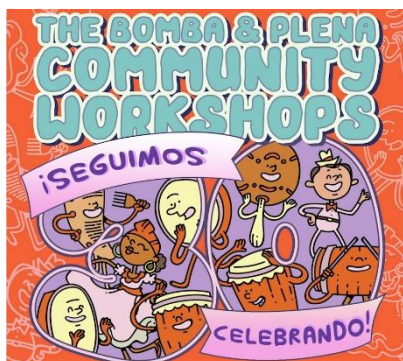




**SUNDAY • OCTOBER 11**

**11:00 - 12:00 pm**

**Bomba & Plena Community Workshops - Learning through Distance**



***Film screening and discussion capturing Los Pleneros de la 21's online semester of Bomba and Plena teaching***

Co-produced by Los Pleneros de la 21

Los Pleneros de la 21 is NYC's landmark Bomba and Plena ensemble, having toured the world for over 30 years while also fostering the knowledge and passion of future generations of Bomba and Plena practitioners through their pioneering Bomba and Plena Children's Workshop (established in 1989). COVID-19's eruption in NYC disrupted what would have been the Workshop's 30th anniversary.

Through the vision of LP21's staff, the talents of the Workshops' teachers, and the commitment of the parent community, kids finished their year-long program online, learning legacy traditions and making new discoveries along the way. Tune in to watch a short synopsis of the program's final (filmed) event, followed by a conversation with LP21's teachers and staff talking about their experiences online. Q&A are encouraged!

View on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97851091521>

View on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

View on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HostosCenter>





**SUNDAY • OCTOBER 11**

**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Closing concert and Convos: Los Bravitos de la Plena**



**A premiere of a musical presentation by the next generation of pleneros in Puerto Rico, Los Bravitos de la Plena**

*Following the performance, stay tuned and participate in a meet & greet convo with the band members and BomPlenazo Advisory Committee*

*Simulcast on Facebook and YouTube*

Playing music, writing songs and performing from since before their teens, using plena panderos who's size rivaled their own body height, Los Bravitos de la Plena, a group of friends and siblings from Ceiba, Puerto Rico, broke out on the Plena scene in 2016, surprising and endearing all those who saw them play. The speed, knowledge and sophistication of their sounds matched those of groups three times their age, truly showcasing the promise of the next generation of Pleneros on the island. For the first time ever on BomPlenazo's "stage", Los Bravitos close out the BomPlenazo digital Festival, ending with an eye towards the future showcasing a new wave of plena, directly from El Taller Comunitario La Goyco.

View on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95313560662>

View on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HostosCenterfortheArtsCulture>

View on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HostosCenter>

**BomPlenazo** is a biennial Festival, established in 2000, that presents and celebrates the practices and the communities of Puerto Rican Bomba and Plena, from both the island and diaspora communities. Produced by the Hostos Center for Arts & Culture and guided by an Advisory Committee of musical practitioners and community members, the BomPlenazo is made possible by funding support from: National Endowment for the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, The Howard Gilman Foundation, the offices of City Council member Rafael Salamanca, Jr. and New York State Assembly Jose Rivera.



**Program Management and curation:** Julia L. Gutiérrez-Rivera

**The concepts, organization and outreach directed:** the BomPlenazo Advisory Committee (Julia L, Gutiérrez Rivera, Juan J Gutiérrez Rodríguez and César Colón Montijo).

**Partnership support provided by:** Pregones/PRTT, Los Pleneros de la 21 and the Bronx Music Heritage Center

**Production partners and concert venues:** Viento de Agua, La Calle Loíza, Taller Comunitario La Goyco, The HoneyBee, Segundo Ruíz Belvis Center, and Teatro Pregones/PRTT

**Music and Video editing by:** Javier Raez, Camilo Molina Gaetán

**Graphic design by:** Albert Tong

**Social Media Coordinator:** Marlena Fitzpatrick