

15 June 2010

CUBA'S GREATEST DANCE BAND COMES TO QPAC!

Melbourne Arts Centre - 11 Aug
Queensland Performing Arts Centre -13 Aug
Sydney Opera House - 15 Aug

Get ready for Cuba's greatest dance band in its most anticipated Latin concert tour of Australia in recent years.

Direct from Havana, for the first time in Brisbane, Cuban super-group **Los Van Van** will bring the music that has created legions of fans throughout the world to **QPAC's Concert Hall** stage on **Friday 13 August**.

Known as the '**The Rolling Stones of Latin Music**', the 17-piece *Los Van Van* orchestra will be joined by special guest dancer **Eric Turro Martinez**, (choreographer and soloist - **Bar at Buena Vista & Buena Vista Social Club**), Brisbane's own 11 piece Afro – Cuban Salsa sensation, **Chukale and DJ Cubanito.au**.

Formed just 10-years after Castro's 1959 Revolution, *Los Van Van* has remained the biggest name in the history of Cuban dance bands ever since. At the vanguard of Cuba's music scene, *Los Van Van* has kept the people of the Caribbean nation dancing for 36 years with an infectious musical message capable of encouraging and inspiring everyone and anyone through good times and bad.

Under the direction of founder and bassist Juan Formell, affectionately known in Cuba as 'Saint Juan', *Los Van Van* revolutionized dance music. Genre-blending Cuban son and rumba with rock - funk, hip hop, jazz, disco, merengue and salsa, the *Van Van* sound came to be known as songo (based on the songo rhythm), which laid the base for the later development of Timba.

Unlike the Ry Cooder/Nick Gold led project, the **Buena Vista Social Club**, which gave long overdue respect to a disparate group of 'old guard' performers of classic Cuban repertoire, *Los Van Van* have been a constant evolving presence on the cultural scene since their formation in 1969. *Los Van Van* is a band that has lived with the people of the island providing each person with a soundtrack to their lives. Outside Cuba, whole generations of musicians and music fans venerate Formell's group for the originality of

its approach, the power of its music and its contribution to the evolution of the salsa idiom.

Los Van Van have produced over 30 albums including five of the most important Timba albums of all time - featuring the anthems, ***Esto Te Pone La Cabeza Mala*** and ***Sandungera***. *Los Van Van* picked up a **Grammy** in 2000 for **Best Salsa Album** for *Llego Van Van* adding to this irrepressible Cuban super-group's glowing – and lengthy - legacy.

**DCE Entertainment & QPAC Present
Los Van Van with Special Guest *Eric Turro*
Supported by *Chukale & DJ Cubanito.au***

WHEN Friday 13 August, 8pm
WHERE Concert Hall, QPAC, South Bank Cultural Centre
TICKETS From \$69
BOOKING www.qpac.com.au or phone 136 246

For media enquiries (English) contact: Cindy Ullrich, Publicity Manager ~ 07 3840 7589 ~ 0434 366 038 ~ cindy.ullrich@qpac.com.au or Inga Tracey Publicity Coordinator ~ 07 3840 7489 ~ 0409 625 842 ~ inga.tracey@qpac.com.au

For media enquiries (Spanish) contact: Dwight Escobar ~ 041 7708 703~ office 02 9313 6713

Los Van Van members

Juan FORMELL, bass
Samuel FORMELL, drums
Mario RIVERA "Mayto", vocals
Abdel RASALPS "Lele", vocals
Yenisel VALDÉS "Jenny", vocals
Roberto HERNANDES "Guayacan", vocals
Manuel LABARRELA, congas
Julio NOROÑA, guiro
Álvaro COLLADO, trombone
Jorge LIEBRE, flute
Edmundo PINA "Mundo", trombone
Hugo MOREJÓN, trombone, synthesizer and organ
Irving FRONTERA, violin
Roberto Carlos RODRIGUEZ "Cucurucho", piano
Pedro FAJARDO, violin
Boris LUNA, keyboards
Pavel MOLINA, bass

Special Guest: Eric Turro – Dance Soloist

Eric Turro is a master of Cuban street and salon dance styles and regularly performs in Havana with the ***Buena Vista Social Club***. He is the choreographer of the international hit touring show ***The Bar at Buena Vista*** and he performs in the show as principle dancer with **Odaysis Valdes**.

As well as being the organiser and choreographer of musical shows he is the dancer, artistic director and founder of the "***comparza espectáculo la mazucamba***" and the company of traditional dance and traditional Son "Sabor Caribeno", which, for 3 years, worked on the coast near Havana.

Supported By: Chukale

One of Australia's finest Afro-Cuban Salsa bands, in only two years, this Brisbane based band has developed an extensive and enthusiastic following, not only within the Latin Community but also with music and dance enthusiasts from all cultural backgrounds.

Chukale was born in Brisbane during the summer of 2005. An 11 piece Afro-Cuban Salsa band, fronted by 2 vocalists & dancers, Tika Roberte and Maygualida Rodriguez, make the band easy to identify and hard to forget, no wonder Chukale is just as exciting to see as it is to hear. The powerful brass section is Conservatorium trained; Burke Turner and Bob Schultz on Trumpets and Shane Hannan & Mikael Strand on Trombones, they sail over the groove laid down by the driving rhythm section; young talents Christo Iconomidis on Piano and Carlos Gomez on Bass. Gustavo Cereijo commanding style on Congas combined with Alex Osorio's on Timbale contributes to the bands cutting-edge. Backing this ensemble is Brisbane's renowned Latin drummer, Sacha Kloostra.

