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651 ARTS Launches First Four-City U.S. Tour with Cuban Jazz Musician YISSY & BandAncha

Brooklyn, NY, January 20, 2015 – On Friday, February 20 at 7:30PM, 651 ARTS presents Cuban Jazz percussionist YISSY and her band BandAncha at Irondale Center, 85 South Oxford St. Brooklyn, NY 11217. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 students and seniors.

The Brooklyn presentation of YISSY & BandAncha marks the beginning of their first four-city U.S. tour that includes Knoxville, Washington DC, and Miami.

“651 ARTS is excited to present YISSY & BandAncha at this time when the relationship between the United States and Cuba is being restored after 50 years. We are proud to highlight and celebrate a tradition and shared cultural experience we call Jazz,” says Executive Director, Shay Wafer.

YISSY is making her mark on the Jazz world by pairing electronic beats with traditional instrumentation and the compliments of a DJ. Her take on Jazz, R&B, Soul and Funk ranges from musical simplicity to complex, virtuous harmonies and rhythms, all while expressing a deep Cubanness. Among the main influences that define YISSY’s music are Jazz greats Herbie Hancock, Roy Hargrove, and Jojo Mayer.

As the daughter of Cuban percussionist Bernardo Garcia, YISSY became interested in percussion at a young age. During her time attending Cuba’s premiere academy of music, Amadeo Roldan Music Conservatory, YISSY excelled, winning international competitions, sharing the stage with the likes of Roy Hargrove, and playing timbales as a soloist in the National Symphonic Orchestra.

In later years, as a member of the all women’s Salsa band Anacaona, YISSY toured the world making stops at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Sunfest, and playing with Grammy award-winning saxophonist David Sanborn in Aruba. At the age of 25, YISSY launched her career as a bandleader and composer. Now, YISSY leads her band, BandAncha, which defines itself as a sample of the New Sound of Cuban Jazz. The band is composed of Jorge Aragón (piano), Julio César González (bass), Julio Rigal (trumpet), el Jigüe (DJ) and YISSY (drums).

During their time with 651 ARTS, YISSY & BandAncha leads a drumming workshop on Wednesday, February 18 with partner organization Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy. Students will learn the basics of Cuban rhythms that YISSY pairs with her DJ on stage to achieve her unique sound. YISSY will share insights about her work in Cuba and the music that inspires her.

Following Friday’s performance, Cultural Curator Kaisha S. Jackson leads a discussion with YISSY and her band about their innovative sound and the state of Jazz in Cuba today. Audiences can follow the conversation virtually by using #YissyinBK.

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THEATER

DANCE

MUSIC

COMMUNITY

651 ARTS' presentation of YISSY is made possible through The Performing Americas Program, a partnership between the National Performance Network (NPN) and the Network of Cultural Promoters of Latin America and the Caribbean (La RED) and is designed to increase artistic exchange in the Western Hemisphere. The Performing Americas Program is supported by NPN with funding provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. For further information, visit the NPN website at www.npnweb.org.

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About 651 ARTS:

651 ARTS is committed to developing, producing and presenting performance and cultural programming from the African Diaspora, with a primary focus on contemporary performing arts. 651 ARTS serves the cultural life of New York City, with a particular focus on Brooklyn, one of America's most culturally diverse communities.



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