



**19th IFE-ILE Afro-Cuban Dance Festival  
August 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

IFE-ILE Afro-Cuban Dance Company invites the community of dancers, choreographers, *santeros* (religious practitioners) and scholars to participate in the 19th IFE-ILE Afro-Cuban Dance Festival: "Two shorelines, one horizon, a single culture" from August 17 – 19, 2017. The festival includes an array of events including dance and drumming workshops, an academic panel, vendors, and a closing gala performance. The main venue for this edition is the Koubeck Center in addition to supporting venues, such as the HistoryMiami Museum.

Within the framework of the festival, we invite you to present your papers and personal experiences at the academic conference segment. The conference is open to academics, artists and practitioners of Regla de Ocha (also known as Santería). We aim to establish a dialogue on topics important for the continuity and preservation of this tradition, of which there are thousands of followers around the world. The conference will take place on **Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017** from 8:00am to 8:00pm at the HistoryMiami Museum, a collaborator and sponsor of the festival.

### **Call for Papers**

The topic of the academic section of the festival this year is:

***“Following the Steps of the Orishas: Afro-Cuban Spirituality in Urban Spaces”.***

The focus of the call allows panelists to present any work focused on Regla de Ocha or Santería in the religious or cultural aspect. Presentations directed towards dance are welcome.

According to political scientist Ronald F. Inglehart:

“Postmaterialistic values are epitomized by concern for social equality; increased participation in important decisions impacting one’s life; increased desire for freedom, increased concern for quality of life, self-expression, sense of community, and environmentalism. Overall, broad value changes, characterized by spirituality and

spiritually-oriented ideals, are becoming embedded in societies around the world<sup>1</sup>...On the other hand, materialist values express concern for prosperity, security and control<sup>2</sup>...”

It can be argued that postmaterialism, then, reflects the platform of values on which Regla de Ocha has expanded at a global level as a cultural and religious phenomenon. However, despite modern society’s apparent postmaterialist values, power, gender, economic, and racial relations affect the religious structure and spirituality of this tradition as it spreads around the world through the Cuban Diaspora.

Based on this precept, we would like to investigate the following topics during the conference:

- Have aesthetic values been transformed in Regla de Ocha (in performance or in the religion in general) as a mechanism of social resistance and/or to satisfy the market? Do international choreographers (and others) assume respect for the Orichas tradition while negotiating contemporary aesthetics? How do Cubans receive credit as a source of reference?
- In what ways are gender differences or contradictions apparent?
- What has been the criterion for inclusion and/or exclusion of what is traditional in the practice of this religion in the United States? How has globalization affected the preservation of the Regla de Ocha in Cuba as the center of this tradition?
- How is Regla de Ocha assimilated and redistributed as a reformed cultural practice? What are the goals of initiates outside of Afro-Cuban/Cuban culture?
- How does the market affect the religiosity and practice of the Rule of Ocha?
- Are there ideological or racial contradictions among practitioners in the new spatialities in which this tradition settles?
- What are the ritual commonalities and what are the differences between Nigeria and Cuba as the mecca of Oricha religion?
- Is the role of syncretism relevant in the Regla de Ocha?
- Is it necessary to institutionalize this religion?
- What do the old *santeros* recommend us to maintain the religion’s original purpose of being a unifying and supportive practice for those in need?

Conference sessions will include:

- **Individual Paper Presentations** – original research including in-depth exploration and analysis of an issue related to the conference theme. [20 minutes paper/10 minutes for Q & A]
- **Personal experiences** – any description of a personal anecdote or any lived situation related to the conference topics

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<sup>1</sup> Giacalone, Robert A. and Jurkiewicz, Carole, “Toward a Science of Workplace”, Handbook of Workplace Spirituality and Organizational Performance edited by Giacalone, Robert A. and Jurkiewicz, Carole, Routledge, 2010, pp 3 -28.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

- **Panels** – organized panels of 3-4 papers on related topics, each presenting original research related to the conference theme. [3-4 panelists – 1.5 hours] [15-20 minutes paper/10 minutes for Q & A]
- **Movement Sessions** – practical presentations of dance forms including a narrative component based on the applied Oricha dance styles [50 minutes – 10 minutes for Q & A]

### **Submission Guidelines**

Digital submission only – Mailed paper proposals will not be accepted

#### **Deadline for abstracts and videos: May 31st**

Notification of acceptance: June 30<sup>th</sup>

Abstracts should be submitted online to: [ifeiledc@gmail.com](mailto:ifeiledc@gmail.com)

### **Abstract Submission Details**

1. Abstracts should clearly explain the question, concern, issue, or project goals of your presentation. The proposal must address the conference theme. No photos, text boxes, bullet points or tables (250-word limit).
2. Name and contact information for lead presenter (full name, preferred address, phone number and e-mail) should be submitted in a separate field from the abstract.
3. Biography for each panelist—150-word limit.
4. Track of session – Choose one of the categories as per the above guidelines (Individual Paper, Personal Experience, Panel and Workshop).
5. Audio/visual requirements – State requirements for your presentation. The following A/V devices will be available: projector and screen, computer, DVD player, CD player and speakers.
6. Conference portion registration fees: US\$20 (suggested donation)  
(Full festival pass early registration \$220, at the door \$240 - includes workshops, gala performance and closing party).
7. Notification date (of acceptance): May 31<sup>st</sup>. All accepted panelists must register upon abstract submission at **[www.ife-ile.org/festival](http://www.ife-ile.org/festival)**