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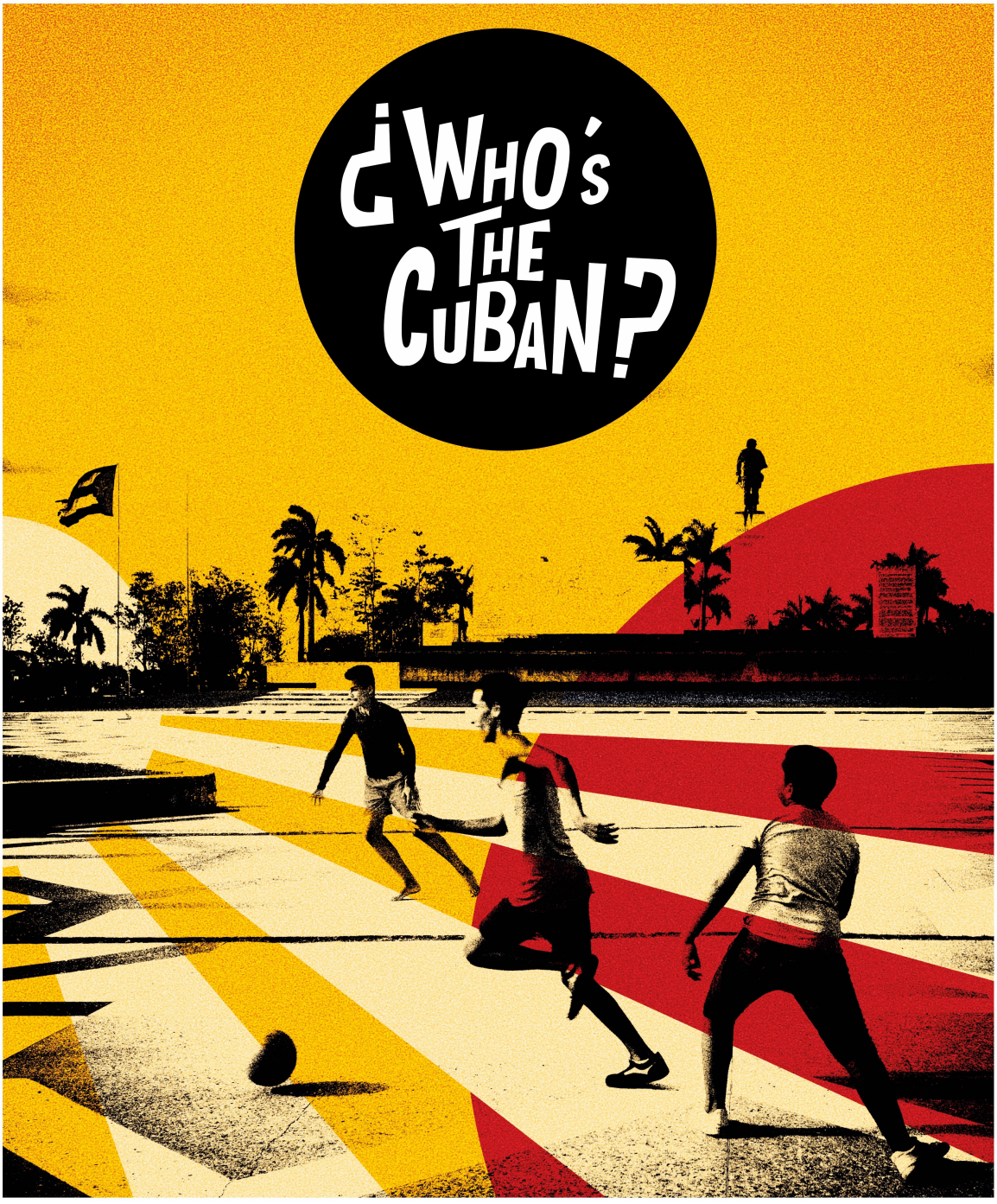

Who's The Cuban? : that is the question. The Franco-Cuban combo did not come out of nowhere, it made its mark in the wake of Cuban tradition under the name of "Son Del Salón". The band has made its way through the musical jungle: they have made 3 albums, played more than 500 concerts including a tour in Cuba and performed on prestigious European stages. Now they have an irresistible desire for a new start ¿Who's The Cuban? is their new name and the album Circo Circo is their musical revolution.

2019 © SMASH

NEW ALBUM
CIRCO CIRCO

Circo Circo album artwork © SMASH production

Circo Circo, 1st album under the new name ¿Who's The Cuban? is released on March 29, 2019. This album includes 12 tracks, produced by Lucien Zerrad and recorded at Studio 180 in Paris.

ALBUM PRESENTATION

¿Who's The Cuban? : that is the question. The Franco-Cuban combo did not come out of nowhere, it made its mark in the wake of Cuban tradition under the name of "Son Del Salón". The band has made its way through the musical jungle: they have made 3 albums, played more than 500 concerts including a tour in Cuba and performed on prestigious European stages: Paléo Festival, Nancy Jazz Pulsations, Montreux Jazz, etc. They were awarded the prize for the best new band in 2016 at the Tempo Latino Festival, the biggest European Latin music Festival.

Now they have an irresistible desire for a new start ¿Who's The Cuban? is their new name and the album Circo Circo is their musical revolution.

The old-school "son cubano" is over, let's make room for their own mixture: songs to live and dance to . The six compañeros nowadays dare to mix the music they love. Strong and proud of this new hybrid identity, ¿Who's The Cuban? nevertheless has Cuban culture shot through every note, as if it were the DNA common to all its compositions. Thus Circo Circo is a record that inevitably leads to Havana. On the way, the salsa piano montunos meet electric guitars from a dark club in Liverpool. During a gliding flight over the Caribbean, the keyboard layers highlight the most swaying rhythms. In the distance, African roots echo throughout the Cuban tres and percussion. A reminder of a glorious past that joins drums, basses and amps... At the end, the group delivers a collection of sad or funny, futile or serious stories that are brimming over with life experience and the sun.

In this album, produced by Lucien Zerrad (Angélique Kidjo, Zaz, Charles Aznavour, Enzo Enzo...) ¿Who's The Cuban? want to make people vibrate, like an old Cuban radio station that would broadcast today's sound waves.

Circo Circo vinyle artwork © SMASH production

ALBUM INFORMATION

Release date: Friday, March 29, 2019
Distributed by L'Autre Distribution
Release Party: Monday, April 29, 2019 - New Morning, Paris

Authors, composers, performers:

Julio David López Pérez: lead vocals, minor percussion
Anthony Hocquard: guitars, tres, keyboards, minor percussion, backing vocals
Sylvain Richard: trombone
Olivier Herrmann: baby bass
Thibaut Chipot: drums, percussion

Guests :

Anais Ramos: vocals
Youssef Essawabi: trombone
Stéphane Montigny: trombone
Natascha Rogers: percussion
Pedro Barrios: percussion
Dayron Ramirez Hernandez: backing vocals & trumpet
Jeanne Michard: backing vocals

Recorded and mixed at studio 180, Paris /Mastered at studio Basalte, Beaumont.
Album production : Lucien Zerrad
Sound recordings: Arnaud Bascuñana / Mixing: Lucien Zerrad & Arnaud Bascuñana
Mastering : Simon Capony

2019 © SMASH

BAND HISTORY

In the spring of 2009 the first notes rang out through the night from a "salón" in Nancy. A French-Cuban combo met up to play traditional Cuban standards. It was to be named "Son Del Salón".

Photo © Cetrobo

After a first tour in a tiny car, the desire to play was still strong. Then came the time to study in depth the "son cubano". The band explored the whole musical jungle: they recorded three albums, played more than 500 concerts including a tour in Cuba and performances in prestigious European venues such as the Paleo Festival, Jazz In Montreux or Nancy Jazz Pulsations. They were awarded the prize for the best new band in 2016 at the Tempo Latino Festival, the biggest European Latin music Festival.

A basic copy/paste of Cuban traditional music is not their credo. A secret heresy bubbles up within the band - to search for its own interpretation of Cuban music, daring to break the rules of tradition and allowing their different deep musical loves to mix. Yes we CAN bring together influences from Radiohead and The Buena Vista Social Club, French "chanson" and Hector Lavoe, The Smashing Pumpkins and Los Van Van.

For the band needs to get free. The "salón" walls and clichés of Cuban postcards have to be pushed aside. 2018 is now the time for musical revolution - a brand new repertoire whose balance point is located at the crossing of cultures and personalities.

With a new start comes a new band name. ¿Who's The Cuban? is the question everybody ALWAYS asks the group. Not so easy to distinguish a Cuban guy from a French guy singing in Spanish with an accent coming from nowhere. They don't really care actually. Anyhow they'd rather ask you before you ask them.

NEWS

Videoclip release « Buscando una forma de liquidarte »

Friday, March 8, 2019
Filming location: Théâtre Bleus De Bar, Bar-le-Duc
Production & editing: Alex Balcon (https://www.alexisbalcon.com)

Artistic residency

The group was in creation residency throughout 2018, with 4 weeks of creation in the SMACs: La Souris Verte in Epinal, L'Autre Canal in Nancy, Le Trait d'Union in Neufchâteau. This long period of work was used to adapt the new album to the stage.

2019 © SMASH

Tour in Canada 2019

The world-renowned Festival d'été de Québec (FEQ) is Canada's largest outdoor music festival, and ¿Who's The Cuban? will perform at Place d'Youville on July 4th (this is a confidential information until the program is officially announced by the FEQ, please contact us before publicizing this information).

photo © Festival d'Été de Québec – Place d'Youville

The tour is currently being planned, other dates will be announced soon.

Nancy Jazz Pulsation 2019 – Projet Orchestra

After a performance in 2017 (under the name of Son Del Salón) with Emir Kusturica, ¿Who's The Cuban? is back with a new project: ¿Who's The Cuban Orchestra?

This is a creation with 19 musicians: an adaptation of the Circo Circo album for big band, ¿Who's The Cuban? joins forces with the Nancy Ska Jazz Orchestra (NSJO) for a show at the Chapiteau de la Pépinière. (confidential information until the official announcement of the program by the NJP, please contact us before publishing this information).

The beauty of the arrangements, written by Youssef Essawabi (director of the NSJO), brings a jazzy atmosphere that evokes both the great mambo orchestras of the mid-20th century (Chano Pozo, Benny Moré, Tito Puente...) and the "salsa dura" music in vogue in New York for over 50 years (Ray Barretto, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri...). The spectrum of possibilities offered by a brass ensemble gives ¿Who's The Cuban? compositions a jazzy, gliding or ska waves.

¿Who's The Cuban Orchestra? is tribute to the richness of Cuban music. It will offer an original and unique repertoire, bringing together the modernity of the artistic influences from ¿Who's The Cuban?'s new album and performed by a large ensemble which is emblematic of the development and export of Cuban music throughout the world.

photo © Dorian Cessa – Nancy Jazz Pulsations, Chapiteau de la Pépinière

CONTACT US

Website

www.whosthecuban.com

Management / Booking

Foucauld LEDESERT
+33 6 61 67 85 28
hello@whosthecuban.com

Production

SMASH Production
www.smash-prod.com
smashprod54@gmail.com

Press agency

Tanguy AUBRÉE
Promotion nationale
tanguy@daydream-music.fr
+33 (0)6 84 12 40 94

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