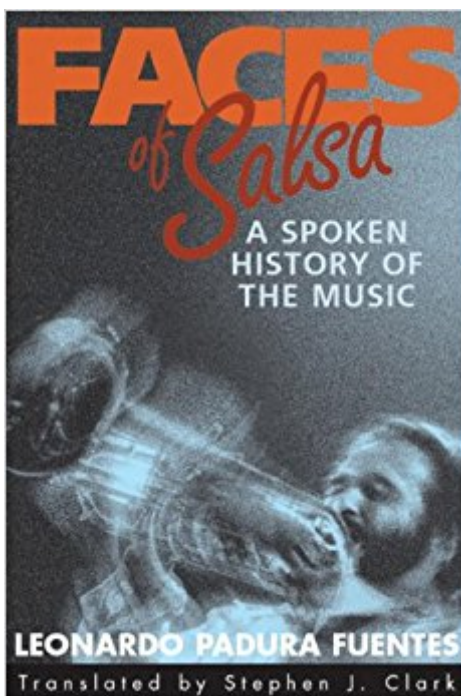


The book was found

Faces Of Salsa: A Spoken History Of The Music



Synopsis

In this collection of masterfully crafted interviews with some of the most famous creators of the music we call Salsa, prizewinning Cuban novelist Leonardo Padura Fuentes explores the genesis of the music, its rise in popularity, its social context, and its artistic legacy. Filled with personal revelations by the musicians, historical detail about their lives and times, and colorful anecdotes about their identities, friendships, and working relationships, the book is a tribute to the artistry and social commitment of some of the most inventive artists of our time. In his brilliant introduction about the idols of Latin music since the 1920s, and throughout the book, Padura takes up the old dispute about the relationship of salsa to the Cuban music known as son, but the book is not a search for origins. Rather, through his conversations with a group of extraordinarily articulate musicians, he reveals how the aesthetics of salsa filled a cultural void, transforming popular Latin and Caribbean dance music and creating a new generation of musicians who would establish a new model: the *salsero*, an artist who had embarked upon something his forbearers never did—a conscious project.

Book Information

Paperback: 236 pages

Publisher: Smithsonian Books (November 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1588340805

ISBN-13: 978-1588340801

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,366,687 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Salsa #283 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnic #435 in Books > History

> Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Cuba

Customer Reviews

Leonardo Padura Fuentes is a Cuban writer whose works include *Máscaras*, *La Puerta de Alcalá* y *Otras Cacerías*, *Vientos de Cuaresma*, and *Pasada Perfecto*.

For many, the word salsa connotes rhythm and excitement. For Leonardo Padura Fuentes, it

represents the struggle of a people to create music with meaning. In this book, the Cuban writer interviews thirteen men who figured prominently in the Latin music scene during salsa's early development. Their various journeys explore music as a form of expression, protest, and inspiration. And they all point to a genre that has sought to reconcile flash with substance, popularity with meaning. They point, writes Fuentes, to a "salsa with a conscience". No discussion of salsa history is complete without the unsolvable debate over the very word "salsa". How did the term come about, what music does it encompass, is it even a valid categorization of the music it connotes? Some of the very musicians responsible for making salsa what it is today give their take on the term and whether it should be used at all. Most interesting is Fania founder Johnny Pacheco's take on the term that he is said to have created to market the music, as well as Cuban musicologist Radamés Giro's more detached view on the label. The interviewees also discuss the roots of salsa, from its evolution from the Cuban son to the great variety of Caribbean influences to the development of its urban identity in the Latino barrios of New York. The exploration of salsa's roots and the labels that define it are not only a matter of history. Fuentes' interviews reveal the conscious struggle of Latin musicians to maintain a balance between salsa as music and salsa as commodity. Music can inspire, enlighten, reveal, and criticize. It can speak to people's conditions and point out injustices. It can also, on a purely musical level, push the limits of rhythm, instrumentation, and improvisation. But in spite of music's role as an art and a craft, it is also a commercial product and requires an audience that is willing to pay. These interviews express the tension between evolving as an artist and evolving to fit the popular taste of consumers in the context of salsa's unique story. They also explore the decline of the genre in the 1980s with erotic salsa and reveal the lessons that this decline has for salsa musicians in the future. The ability of Fuentes' book to touch on universal themes in salsa music extends also to the figures he interviews. Though the title emphasizes salsa - and all the complicated baggage that the term entails - Fuentes includes interviews from three merengueros who should never be left out of any serious discussion on Latin music over the past half century: Johnny Ventura, Wilfrido Vargas, and Juan Luis Guerra. And, though Fuentes is a Cuban writer and emphasizes the Cuban connection in salsa, he interviews Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban musicians. The interviews also make constant reference to Latin jazz (which is basically inseparable from salsa) as well as to the variety of influences across the Caribbean that have made salsa such a unique blend of musical elements. What I enjoy most about this book is that Fuentes provides an excellent introduction to the central themes the interviews address and blends his own commentary throughout the book, keeping his voice and creating unity even with the variety of perspectives that he offers. His interviews manage to give insight into the history and culture of

salsa while touching on universal themes that influence the development of every musical and creative genre. The only drawback for those who are not very familiar with salsa history and music is that the interviews are not preceded by short biographies or historical background on the references that his interviewees make. Those readers will get more from the book by doing a little historical research first to better inform their reading. However, Fuentes' collection of interviews provides an enjoyable and stimulating variety of perspectives on the creation and continuous re-creation of salsa.

Very good book, interesting and made reminisce about the old days growing listening to this music.

En que otro libro puedes leer de tan diversos personajes de la musica latina como Juan Formell, Juan Luis Guerra, y Willie Colon?El libro esta lleno de entrevistas muy interesantes, y se nota el amor del autor a la musica. Lo mas importante que saque de este libro es esto:1. Casi todos los musicos salseros de Puerto Rico escuchan Timba Cubana2. Casi todos los Timberos Cubanos escuchan Salsa de Puerto RicoHay un tema de union latina que es muy positivo. Si van a conseguir un libro, y solo un libro, sobre la musica salsera este es una muy buena seleccion.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Faces of Salsa: A Spoken History of the Music Draw Faces: How to Speed Draw Faces and Portraits in 15 Minutes (Fast Sketching, Drawing Faces, How to Draw Portraits, Drawing Portraits, Portrait Faces, Pencil Portraits, Draw in Pencil) How to Salsa Dance: A Beginner's Guide to Learning How to Salsa Dance Salsa!: ...or "Everything Your Mother Never Told You About Salsa Dancing!" (The little book of dancing... 1) Dance Secrets Presents Salsa Bootcamp - Insider Secrets to Salsa Dance Salsa Lovers Cookbook: More Than 180 Sensational Salsa Recipes for Appetizers, Salads, Main Dishes and Desserts Salsa Teachers Guide Book (Salsa Instruction 1) Salsa!...or "Everything Your Mother Never Told You About Salsa Dancing!" (The Little Book of Dancing) (Volume 1) Listening to Salsa: Gender, Latin Popular Music, and Puerto Rican Cultures (Music/Culture) American Latin Music: Rumba Rhythms, Bossa Nova, and the Salsa Sound (American Music Milestones) Draw Manga Faces for Expressive Characters: Learn to Draw More Than 900 Faces How to Remember Names and Faces: Master the Art of Memorizing Anyone's Name by Practicing w Over 500 Memory Training Exercises of People's Faces | Improve ... & Communication Personal Social Skills How to Draw Realistic Portraits: With Colored Pencils, Colored Pencil Guides, Step-By-Step Drawing Tutorials Draw People and Faces from Photographs (How to Draw Faces, How to Draw Lifelike Portraits) World History, Ancient History, Asian History,

United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history) Cuba: 101 Awesome Things You Must Do in Cuba.: Cuba Travel Guide to the Best of Everything: Havana, Salsa Music, Mojitos and so much more. The True ... All You Need To Know About the Cuba. Sounding Salsa: Performing Latin Music in New York City (Studies In Latin America & Car) Salsa Rising: New York Latin Music of the Sixties Generation The Latin Beat: The Rhythms and Roots of Latin Music, from Bossa Nova to Salsa and Beyond The Book of Salsa: A Chronicle of Urban Music from the Caribbean to New York City (Latin America in Translation/en TraducciÃ n/em TraduÃ§Ã£o) Decisiones: A look inside the legal battle between Salsa music legends Willie Colon and Ruben Blades, and an Iraq War Veteran caught in the middle, fighting for his honor and reputation.

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)