

THE DOCUMENTARY FILM

KUMPAÑÍA



Flamenco Los Angeles



A PIECE O' WORK PRODUCTION PRESENTS KUMPIAÑIA FLAMENCO LOS ANGELES FEATURING ANTONIO DE JEREZ VANESSA AGOSTA-ALBALLOS MIZUHO SATO BRUSEYDA ZARATE FERNANDEZ JOSE TANAKA ANTONIO TRIANA
 JOEY HEREDIA MANUEL DE LA CRUZ PALOMA RIOS TIMO NUNEZ GERARDO MORALES GABRIEL LAUTARO OSUNA DEBORAH LAWLER BRUCE BISZNZ COMBATANTASGRAPHY AVI COHEN EDITOR NOAH BEARLOW MUSIC EDITOR FRAN GALA
 SCORED BY CANYON COOY & GNOTS CO-PRODUCERS NOAH BEARLOW CRISTINA LUCIO MARGO ALEXANDER JOSH HSIEH LAURIE KIRBY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN DUNN PRODUCED BY WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY KATINA DUNN

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“KUMPANIA Flamenco Los Angeles” Snapshots of Extraordinary Artists Keeping The Music Alive

The mysterious pull of an old Spanish Romani art on a group of contemporary musicians in Los Angeles is the essence of the documentary film **KUMPANIA**.

These artists love flamenco and are devoted to keeping it alive in the city.

"For people who don't know flamenco, I'm sorry for them," says Bruce Bisenz. The retired Hollywood sound mixer ("Purple Rain") and flamenco *aficionado* has photographed the artists for years, capturing their most poetic moments onstage. "It's incredibly beautiful," says Bisenz. His commitment to the art's survival is part of the story of **Kumpania**.

KUMPANIA is a Romani word meaning "people who travel the same territory." The movie follows this collective of artists whose paths intersect much like the freeways they drive from homes in Long Beach, Downey, Moreno Valley, Burbank, Woodland Hills, North Hollywood and Santa Barbara to perform with each other all over Los Angeles.

Starring:

Antonio De Jerez, Vanessa Acosta-Albalos, Mizuho Sato, Briseyda Zarate Fernandez, Antonio Triana II, Jose Tanaka, Gerardo Morales, Manuel Gutierrez (De La Cruz), Kai Narezo, Joey Heredia, Timo Nunez and Paloma Rios.

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De Jerez, whose father was the great flamenco singer Romerito De Jerez, stepped into a blanketed closet in Boyle Heights to sing to the West Coast hip hop score by **Sean Dwyer “Gnotes”** and **Canyon Cody**. In the improvisational spirit of true flamenco, De Jerez unleashed dazzling vocals with his own lyrics, and didn’t miss a beat.

“I do feel like an outcast...,” says **Acosta-Albalos**. “It’ might not be a cool thing for a lot of people.”

Sato says “When we love something, we love until we die.”

While enjoying a relatively stable existence as a schoolteacher, **Zarate Fernandez** stunned her family - boyfriend included – by running off to Spain to pursue her dream of dancing flamenco.

Guitarist **Triana** comes from a legacy of world-class performers. His father was a choreographer for Hollywood films. “Hollywood is not the place to inspire flamenco,” he says. “It loses its spirituality.”

One-time rock guitarist **Tanaka** is sort of the godfather of the L.A. flamencos, finding them gigs and introducing them to other artists. He started a website teaching flamenco guitar so students don’t “waste their talent” learning how to play the wrong way.

Guitarrista and percussionist **Morales** played with many bands, including the Black-Eyed Peas, but now “flamenco is in my soul,” he says.

Gutierrez (De La Cruz) was born in Montpelier, France, and says he wants “nothing more than to feel flamenco.”

Narezo is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and guitar instructor. As a child, while watching a TV episode of ‘The Odd Couple,’ he was floored by Roy Clark playing “*Malaguena*.” He is now famous for his “Anti-Polka Dot Manifesto” which is explained in greater detail in the film.



Heredia played drums on the 1991 "Scott Henderson-Gary Willis Tribal Tech" album, as well as with Stevie Wonder, Billy Childs and Dianne Reeves. He wept after a performance at a flamenco festival in Irvine a couple years ago and found his way to flamenco shortly thereafter.

Nunez was hailed as "The greatest flamenco dancer in the United States!" by FOX TV's "So You Think You Can Dance."

Rios studied with the Farruco family in Spain, and drives from Santa Barbara to perform in Los Angeles. As is the case with the rest of the cast, Rios says "I pay to do flamenco."

Flamenco's genesis is the music of outcasts in Southern Spain hiding from extreme forces of prejudice. Hundreds of years later in Los Angeles, the artists of **Kumpania** reach back in time to summon the gods and demons of the original flamencos.

"Convivencia" was that time in Medieval Spain under Moorish rule when people of all backgrounds including Muslims, Christians and Jews co-existed with the Romani in harmony more than less. All their music with the music and culture of the Spaniards influenced the origin of flamenco.

In 21st Century Los Angeles, people of Spanish, Mexican, Caucasian, French, Romani, and Japanese background work together to further this art they cannot live without.

Directed by Katina Dunn, Cinematography by Avi Cohen, Film Editing by Noah Berlow.

Score by Canyon Cody and Sean Dwyer "Gnotes" both of Granada, Spain, and Boyle Heights, Los Angeles.



Executive Producer Kevin Dunn is a veteran actor now in the cast of HBO's series "VEEP."

Director & Producer Katina Dunn

After seeing the flamencos performing before a scant audience last year in L.A., Dunn was compelled to tell their story with a camera. She attended Werner Herzog's Rogue Film School in 2010. She is extremely fortunate to work with the inspired talents who are invaluable to the Kumpania project. After earning a degree in Communications from Northwestern University, Dunn began a career in journalism for decades. Starting at the historic City News Bureau of Chicago, she has published in the South Town Economist, Chicago Tribune, Newsweek, the Chicago Reader, the New York Times and Orange County Register. She was the Art Director for the underground rock 'zine Triad and later founded the Mt. Wilson Observer weekly.

Director of Photography Avi Cohen

Cohen is a self-taught whiz kid who has filmed music videos, commercials and films. His subjects include Slash (Guns 'n Roses), Tommy Lee (Motley Crue), Sully Erna (Godsmack), Zack De La Rocha (Rage Against The Machine) and Scott Stapp (Creed). Cohen recently wrapped shooting for ESPN on a documentary about the Auburn Tigers football team. Cohen has worked all over the world from Bali to South Africa.

Film Editor Noah Berlow

Berlow was Co-Head Post Production of Steven Spielberg's "Survivors of The Shoah Visual History Foundation" and edited its award-winning "'Recollections" documentary. He is freelance Director/Editor for Rolling Stone.com and USMagazine.com. Berlow has edited and produced documentary video for Van Halen, Ricky Martin, Taylor Swift, John Mayer, Sully Erna of Godsmack, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and the TV shows



“Dancing With The Stars” and “So You Think You Can Dance.”

Score by Canyon Cody and Sean Dwyer “Gnotes”

Cody, a Cuban-American, was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study the origins of flamenco and produced the CD “Granada Doaba” on the record label he shares with Dwyer - *Gnowledge Records*. They sponsor musical events around Los Angeles as **Subsuelo**.





KUMPANIA Film Score

The film score is by Gnawledge, a collaboration between Canyon Cody and Sean Dwyer "Gnotes".

The approach to composing the film score for "*Kumpania Flamenco Los Angeles*" was guided by their desire to find an organic balance between electronic and acoustic elements.

Drawing inspirations from Andalucia and Los Angeles, Gnawledge built the score upon Cody's academic research as a Fulbright scholar in ethnomusicology studying the global roots of flamenco, with Gnotes' experience as a touring rapper, global music producer, and flamenco guitar student.

Many of the songs were originally built within *compas*, a framework used as digital skeletons, later dissected and re-assembled during electronic elaboration.

These improvised vignettes were then developed into full songs with the collaboration of iconic Los Angeles flamenco artists, including Antonio De Jerez, Jose Tanaka, and Kai Narezo.

The unique characters of West Coast hip-hop and Southern Spanish *cante jondo* find common ground inside the Akai MPC, the Japanese digital sampler and drum machine used by Gnawledge to compose the film's music.

Digital warbles, interwoven with *rasqueados* and *alzapuas*, crash through heavy drums flanked behind *jaleos* and *tacones*.

Opening **Kumpania Quejillo** by Antonio De Jerez

Kumpania Lamento sung by Antonio De Jerez

Siguiroya sung by Fernando de Malaga "El Roto" with Patric Oliver on percussion

El Camino del Saz written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody



Brook's Zambra written by Sean Dwyer, Canyon Cody & Kai Narezo,
guitar by Kai Narezo

Syrian Chant & Arabic Percussion written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon
Cody

Where Do I Go? Written & performed by Antonio De Jerez

Una Noche Sin Luna written by Sean Dwyer, Canyon Cody & Antonio
De Jerez, sung by Antonio De Jerez

Entre Medio written by Walter Molina, guitar by Walter Molina

Me Quedo Con Los Recuerdos written by Sean Dwyer, Canyon Cody,
Antonio De Jerez & Jose Tanaka. Sung by Antonio De Jerez, guitar by Jose
Tanaka.

Traditional Flamenco Improvisation Bulerias by Jose Tanaka, Kai
Narezo & Gabriel Lautaro Osuna, Sung by Gabriel Lautaro Osuna

La Andaluza Solea por Bulerias by Antonio Triana II, Kai Narezo &
Antonio De Jerez. Sung by Antonio De Jerez.

Kyoto written by Jose Tanaka, guitar by Jose Tanaka

En La Huerta Bamberas guitars by Antonio Triana II & Kai Narezo,
percussion by Joey Heredia

Te Llamas Maria sung by Rosa Marie Pratts

Esta Noche No Me Acuesto sung by Rosa Marie Pratts

Duende Solea guitars by Antonio Triana II & Kai Narezo, percussion by
Joey Heredia

Ya No Se Por Que Sera written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody

Trinquete written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody



Traditional Flamenco Improvisation Solea por Bulerias guitar by Kai Narezo, percussion by Joey Heredia

Traditional Flamenco Improvisation Buleria Moron guitar by Jose Tanaka

Osamu written by Jose Tanaka, guitar by Jose Tanaka

Traditional Flamenco Improvisation Granaina, guitar by Jose Tanaka

La Luna y El Rio – Solea written by Jose Tanaka, guitar by Jose Tanaka

Traditional Flamenco Martinete sung by Gabriel Lautaro Osuna

Quejillo sung by Marysol Fuentes

Courage written by Jose Tanaka, guitar by Jose Tanaka

Traditional Flamenco Improvisation Solea por Bulerias guitars by Jose Tanaka, Kai Narezo & Gabriel Lautaro Osuna

El Tribunal De Dios Solea written by Paco Cortes, guitar by Kai Narezo

Callejon written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody

Traditional Flamenco Improvisation Alegrias guitar by Kai Narezo, palmas by Antonio De Jerez, percussion by Gerardo Morales

Juerga Flamenca guitars by Antonio Triana II & Kai Narezo, percussion by Joey Heredia, sung by Antonio De Jerez

Las Cadenas Del Pasado written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody

El Espejo De Agua written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody

El Flojo De Arena written by Sean Dwyer & Canyon Cody

Silencio guitar by Kai Narezo



Solo De Cante Rumba guitars by Antonio Triana II & Kai Narezo,
percussion by Joey Heredia, sung by Antonio De Jerez

Tacita De Plata Alegrias guitars by Antonio Triana II & Kai Narezo,
percussion by Joey Heredia, sung by Antonio De Jerez





"Kumpania" Cast & Crew Facts:

1. **Brook Zern**, who narrates the history segment, is a renowned flamenco scholar knighted by the King of Spain in November 2008.
2. **Narrator Bruce Bisenz** is a retired sound mixer from Hollywood films. He worked on projects with John Ford, John Wayne, and Albert Magnoli on Prince's 'Purple Rain.'
3. **Singer Antonio De Jerez** is the only Gitano (Spanish-Rom) in the documentary.
4. **Music Editor Fran Gala** shares the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Record as sound engineer for "Resonance Big Band Plays Tribute to Oscar Peterson."
5. **Film Editor Noah Berlow** was Co-Head of Post Production on Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. He has edited video for Red Hot Chili Peppers, Ricky Martin and Slash among others.
6. **Dancer Timo Nunez** was featured on FOX-TV's 'So You Think You Can Dance' introduced as 'America's number one flamenco dancer.'
7. **Co-composers Canyon Cody and Sean 'Gnotes' Dwyer** were awarded "Best Eastside Club Night 2012" by L.A. Weekly for their "Subsuelo" nights at East Side Luv in Boyle Heights featuring 'New Latin' improvisations starring flamenco artists in "Kumpania" including Jose Tanaka, Gerardo Morales & Gabriel Lautaro Osuna.
8. **Cinematographer Avi Cohen** has filmed for ESPN as well as music videos for DJ Chuckie, Obie Trice and DMX with MGK.