



# Bianca Rossini

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If you are a Brazilian film fan, you will now have two Brazilian Film Fests every year to see and celebrate the best in Brazilian film. The first one this year was the first **Hollywood Brazilian Film Fest**, founded by **Talize Sayegh**, and held at the **Egyptian Theater in Hollywood**. Among the winners were **Best director: Guel Araes** for *Romance* and the **documentary - "Balé de Pé no Chão"** (Bare Foot Ballet).



**The Los Angeles Brazilian Film Festival (LABRFF)** was launched last year by Meire Fernandes and her husband, journalist Nazareno Paulo. The gala opened night and events took place at the **Landmark Theater** in Westwood. Among the winners were **Best director: Selton Mello "December"** and **Best actor: Leonardo Medeiros** and **Caua Raymond** in *"Should nothing else work out."* Bravo! To the organizers and volunteers in both festivals for their extraordinary work and dedication to bring the best in Brazilian film to Los Angeles.

*"Love in Black and White,"* a book of my poetry with atmospheric photographs by the internationally acclaimed photographer **Michael Ken- na** is now scheduled to be released in Autumn 2009 by Nazraeli Press. [You-Tube - Bianca Rossini & Michael Ken- na "Love in black and white"](#)

**UCLALive at Royce Hall:** In a very upbeat, joyful performance The **Klez- matics** combined diverse styles of music: folk, Balkan, jazz, Arabic, African, avant-garde, art song and more. Featuring vocalist and accordion player **Lorin Sklamberg** and trumpeter **Frank London**, co-founder **Paul Morrissett** (bass, tsimbl) along with **Lisa Gutkin** (fiddle, vocals), **Matt Darriau** (clarinets, sax, kaval) and **Aaron Alexander** (drums). For most part I felt as if I was in a Bar mitzvah, and wedding celebration. My favorites were the number commissioned by the Pilobolus Dance Company and the Eastern European Wedding Music.



**Guillermina Quiroga Dance Company "Tango, Historias Breves"** featured classically trained **Quiroga's** stunning choreography and performance. Intertwined with some of Argentina's best poetry, music, and

sensuous dance, the entire company was pure perfection, but Quiroga's performance was pure poetry, her lyrical, bird-like quality, flexibility and style that was just extraordinary. Her partner **Cesar Coelho** was joined by three couples and the group **Los Cosos de al Lao**, led by conductor and bandoneon player **Gustavo Paglia**.

**The Master Musicians of Jajouka** hail from a small ancient village in the foothills of Morocco's Rif Mountains; they have performed their enthralling, trance-inducing music for thousands of years. Described by **Mick Jagger** as "one of the most musically inspiring groups in the world," led by **Bachir Attar**, whose family has passed down the group's traditions from father to son for generations, this all-male ensemble features 15 rhaïta (imagine the oboe) players and five drummers. Before the music started Attar mentioned his gratitude to UCLA LIVE and how happy he and his group were to be performing in America, and how it nearly didn't happen since it was almost impossible for the group to gain visa to enter the States.

**Jon Hassell & Maarifa Street** with special guest Dhafer Youssef. Jazz trumpeter Jon Hassell is considered one of the most innovative and important composer alive. The visionary creator of a style dubbed "Fourth World" – an ethereal, magical realistic fusion of ancient and digital, composed and improvised, and Eastern and Western. The evening featured Tunisian vocalist and oud player **Dhafer Youssef**, whose soaring voice and jazzy sound is rooted in Sufi laments, world traditions, and Arabic lyricism.

I watched as if hypnotized by the impeccable, intense and passionate performances of **Los Farruco**, which featured three generations of dancers: **Farru**, his mother, **La Farruca**, his aunt, **La Faraona**, his cousin, **Barullo** and his sister **La Faraona**.



The 31<sup>st</sup> **Playboy Jazz** Press Conference held at the Playboy Mansion was hosted by the great Quincy Jones. I had a chance to speak to Quincy and with some of the festival artists present: **Wayne Shorter, Patti Austin, Alfredo Rodrigues** (Quincy Jones' newest protégé, a 23-year-old Cuban pianist), **Luis Conte, Ndugu Chancler and Vincent Wilburn.** Producer **Dar-**

**lene Chan** announced the very eclectic musical line up for what I think will be one of the best PJF's ever.



To find everything from hidden bars and tiny boutiques to the best clubs and vintage markets, ***Total Sao Paulo: A Guide to the Unexpected (Unhinged Jaw Press)*** is a must-have travel resource for discerning creative types. Written by **Phuong-Cac Nguyen**, an American journalist who has been reporting and breathing Sao

Paulo's pop culture/lifestyle beat for years, **Total Sao Paulo: A Guide to the Unexpected (TSP)** will be released in April 2009 through Unhinged Jaw Press, and independent bookstores worldwide.

**Disney Hall:** For nearly 30 years, **Kodo** has explored the boundless potential of the ancient Japanese drum, the taiko. It was riveting to watch the group's performance strength, fluidity and perfect team playing combined with the feminine, singer soloist. Their concentration never took away their inherent joy in performing throughout the night. ■

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