



# Welcome Salseros!

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.

This month, you can:

- [Watch a video showing the basics of Cuban Salsa.](#)
- [Listen to a famous Salsa song - often requested in class.](#)
- [Read about the history of Cuban Salsa.](#)
- [Keep up to date with class news & timetables.](#)
- [Have your say about our classes & newsletters.](#)

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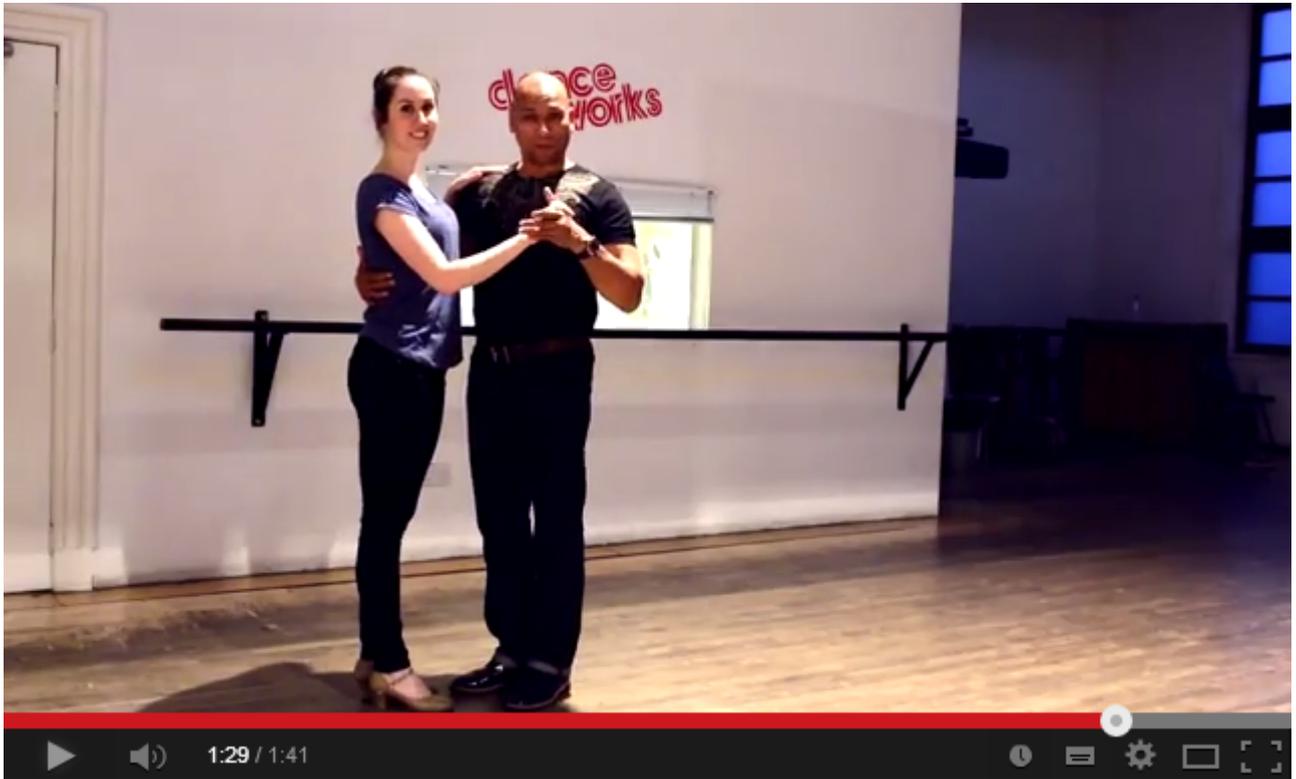
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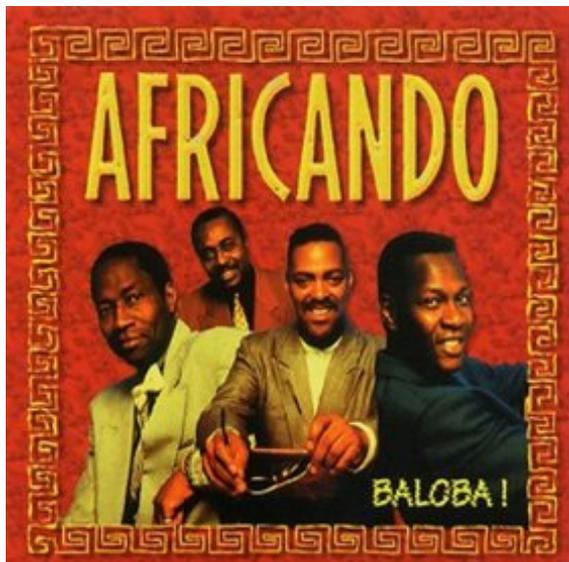
Instructional video

[The basic steps of Cuban Salsa](#)



## Song of the month

# Aicha – Africando



The song Aicha was made popular by an Algerian singer called Khaled who sang it in French and Arabic. The Salsa version of this song was sung by the orchestra Africando and became an immediate hit on the Salsa dance Clubs in 1998.

## Cuban Salsa Article

# The origins of Cuban Salsa

In the 80s, Salsa as a dance form spread to Europe, once again due to the new number of immigrants arriving to the region but Salsa also suffered a transformation as it also changed on the dance floor. Other styles developed like the Colombian style, the

NY style and LA style albeit the last two not being genuine as such and being more like a ballroomised version of Salsa as such, still some people chose to learn these styles and all of them are popular around the world.

Salsa as a dance form originated in Cuba, from an old form of dance and music called Son which appeared in the eastern part of the country around 1917 and eventually made its way to Havana where it proceeded to become popular not only in the dance halls for the average person but in the lavish dance halls or “sociedades” where the upper classes came to dance and socialize. In those days and well into the 1920s most Cubans danced Danzon which was a very slow and in a way “controlled” dance with a strong European influence, unlike the Son which used more African derived percussion instruments and was later enriched with horn, including trumpets, trombones, etc. making it more punchy and enjoyable for the dancer.



The greatest exponent of this amalgamation of sounds and the first one to create a “Salsa” sound as such was the great Beny More of Cuba who’s music has been copied and played by most of the greatest Salseros of today, like Oscar de Leon.

Son’s fastest style was called Guaracha and this is what many people began to play and danced in the US after the big migration of Cubans from the island due to Castro’s regime, in the early 60s. Salsa as such was a term used to market the Cuban Son although it was enriched by other Caribbean rhythms as well as Jazz and Blues. Besides Cubans like Celia Cruz, Machito and Chano Pozo, some Puerto Ricans also help to promote Salsa in America, like Willie Colon, Ray Barreto and Andy Montanez to name a few as well as the Dominican Tito Puente. But most of South and Central America remained

oblivious to this great music and dance phenomenon till well into the 70s or 80s with the exception of Venezuela.

## News & Timetable

# Updates for June/July

There will be classes as usual on:

- Mondays – 8:30 – 9:30pm (General)
- Thursdays – 7:00 – 8:00pm (General)
- Thursdays – 8:00 – 9:00pm (Intermediate/Advanced)
- Sundays – 2:30 – 3:30pm (Beginners)

Classes are held at [Danceworks Studios](#) in Central London.

## Feedback

# Ask a question; share your thoughts

We would greatly appreciate any feedback you may have. If you have a request for the next newsletter, we will be happy to accommodate you.

You can get in touch by e-mailing us at [nelsoncuba@yahoo.com](mailto:nelsoncuba@yahoo.com). We look forward to hearing from you.



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