FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

**VOCES “Mambo Legends: The Music Never Ends” PREMIERES ON PBS AND PBS.ORG ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024**

**Meet the Mambo Legends Orchestra -- Keeping the Classic Music of the**

**Afro-Cuban Greats Alive for the Next Generation**

Los Angeles, CA/August 28, 2024 – **“Mambo Legends: The Music Never Ends”** introduces audiences to the New York City-based Mambo Legends Orchestra which is committed to keeping the music of the great Afro-Cuban bandleaders Machito, Tito Puente, and Tito Rodriguez alive for both long-time fans and future generations. Comprised of several former members of these legendary orchestras, The Mambo Legends provide a link to the golden era of music in New York in the early 1940s, when the Machito Orchestra fused the big band sound of popular music with the rhythms of Africa, Cuba, and Puerto Rico to create an enduring musical genre beloved around the world. Produced and directed by Mari Keiko Gonzalez and produced by Lorraine Galvis, **“Mambo Legends: The Music Never Ends”** premieres on the PBS series **VOCES** on Friday, October 4, 2024, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](https://k8kgmkdab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BTdcUUPiBNiTdKKyEzFS4ss3UV-4YiRJpcdMeLV4zDWhyacDkUvQK92gYquh5CTc_Q9xwmXrxIDw5bAagLxfJ6rH52TyXUkP4MoaN1Yj-dEbVygWxrAoi9TFSffUROktCBrHENA9Z6mj49BVhttuCxW86VUkLMj_qnnyPmsBpks=&c=7sOnWQG9pd3EQEJvJqxUUGKVCRadqZ--B3Mt0pMb8243Injkyswpqg==&ch=DLVWhwLLdpG3rKJPlgn5nDXnDZkPVDcaaudWGwmfUNt_JyKIEsyo6Q==)) on PBS, [PBS.org](https://k8kgmkdab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BTdcUUPiBNiTdKKyEzFS4ss3UV-4YiRJpcdMeLV4zDWhyacDkUvQKwntSyWBe2XeZ_yFFCgiJg1U2lS4n01AfJxDcu8JhQBQ4oY8BtaLOsP45B5QfAdCHm2EfHvaVihUZBCKEKhkZH3m2FqhXA_JWw==&c=7sOnWQG9pd3EQEJvJqxUUGKVCRadqZ--B3Mt0pMb8243Injkyswpqg==&ch=DLVWhwLLdpG3rKJPlgn5nDXnDZkPVDcaaudWGwmfUNt_JyKIEsyo6Q==) and the [PBS app.](https://k8kgmkdab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BTdcUUPiBNiTdKKyEzFS4ss3UV-4YiRJpcdMeLV4zDWhyacDkUvQK3X9waneTvlKqRTKYb8VnoL1ExFzCdthzlBYFyyWhANZcO5Bs_vt5W2yhSWG1Uo0O4K0fGkFbC-7wen0FqaH3qulfh-3czIX-1LbT3-oFBh_wGTLNAdBJY4=&c=7sOnWQG9pd3EQEJvJqxUUGKVCRadqZ--B3Mt0pMb8243Injkyswpqg==&ch=DLVWhwLLdpG3rKJPlgn5nDXnDZkPVDcaaudWGwmfUNt_JyKIEsyo6Q==)

Latin music is one of music’s most diverse, influential, and exciting genres. Its roots come from traditional African music that, along with its people, made its way to Havana, New Orleans, and eventually New York City. In the 1940s and 50s, a large wave of Latinos migrated to Brooklyn, the Bronx, and East Harlem, and with them, a new sound began to take form. This new music was a fusion of traditional Cuban rhythms and popular big band arrangements, with Machito and his Afro-Cuban Orchestra at the helm.

Latin music is inherently dance music, and from 1948-1966, the Palladium Ballroom on 53rd Street in New York City was the genre’s epicenter, famous for staging legendary bands and fueling the mambo craze that swept the nation. Initially a dance studio with restrictive race policies, The Palladium eventually opened its doors to Blacks and Latinos and became home to “The Big Three”— the Tito Puente, Tito Rodríguez, and Machito orchestras. Regular patrons included Marlon Brando (often seen playing his bongos), Marlene Dietrich, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Frank Sinatra.

The Mambo Legends Orchestra is comprised of many former members of the Tito Puente Orchestra, who have come together to bring their sound to the world and expand the music they have been playing for over 40 years. The Orchestra’s musical director is Jose Madera and it is led by Johnny “Dandy” Rodriguez and Mitch Frohman, each having spent over 25 years working with Tito Puente.

While the Mambo Legends have successfully kept the sound of “The Big Three” alive and well, the reality is that many of these musicians are struggling more than ever to make a living. Lacking fair compensation during the peak of the music’s popularity, these trailblazers are often forced to hold fundraising gigs to pay for healthcare, housing, and even funerals.

Through candid interviews with orchestra members and exhilarating live performance footage, **“Mambo Legends: The Music Never Ends”** tells the story of the music through the musicians who helped create an enduring musical genre that remains popular around the world.

**VOCES “Mambo Legends: The Music Never Ends”** will stream simultaneously with broadcast and be available on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://k8kgmkdab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BTdcUUPiBNiTdKKyEzFS4ss3UV-4YiRJpcdMeLV4zDWhyacDkUvQKx9DV5eycOGNzv4OAjP4H8X7hvJrRs1-iUUntHsDWd-oKg36gFTCzl8AkPVG-cC7ip2T9i7Dm9eqPfwODDKLvBg=&c=7sOnWQG9pd3EQEJvJqxUUGKVCRadqZ--B3Mt0pMb8243Injkyswpqg==&ch=DLVWhwLLdpG3rKJPlgn5nDXnDZkPVDcaaudWGwmfUNt_JyKIEsyo6Q==) and the PBS app, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

**About the Filmmaker**

**Mari Keiko Gonzalez (Producer/Director)**began her filmmaking career with the experimental short films *The Love Thang Trilogy, Target*, and*X-Girl*. She became an award-winning editor and worked at Lorne Michaels’ Broadway Video and Sony Music Studios until their doors closed in 2007. She continued to focus on music, live performances, concerts and documentaries for many artists, including Michael Jackson, Tony Bennett, Billy Joel, Lauryn Hill, John Legend, Paul Simon, Wynton Marsalis, Parliament Funkadelic, Ziggy Marley, and Alicia Keys. In 2015, she edited the documentary *Live From New York!*, which looked at 40 years of comedy, music, politics and popular culture through the lens of *Saturday Night Live*. From 2015 to 2019, she edited the Nina Simone, Stevie Nicks, Joan Jett, NWA, Tupac, Janet Jackson and The Cure's induction films for HBO’s *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.* She was the editor of the documentaries *Apache 8*, *Jimmy Carter Rock and Roll President*, *Tom Petty Somewhere You Feel Free*, and executive producer, co-writer and editor of *James Brown: Say It Loud!* She is currently producing and editing a film about Curtis Mayfield and is directing a film about the first female emcee MC SHA-ROCK.

**About VOCES**

Produced by Latino Public Broadcasting, the acclaimed PBS documentary series [VOCES](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TtcSXKqUHzgscH7N9h7uu-uVS993O9KNr0s3Fj1Li557sAihKiGL0YQwpwdfHvNnWBrGuk_nmDVTovx8FJIUoXQUNO_iuFByj6JQ3lkM0HMfnjn3B8Y3l8TxIFJlvcQaQ57cdcoAfSH3oXAH83QB-NTEFCW5Bqe8&c=fEz-iviZg0wNhGikxeljd-XZaHm-4xQKDay2jdsmSjcxi2_CdUq9xA==&ch=Cmgi0rWcnVjPqSeLKnuQcfjViX2LVYfq5yISBDxf-wYi4MLTjLOruw==) features the best of Latino arts, culture and history and shines a light on current issues that impact Latino Americans. Devoted to exploring the rich diversity of the Latino experience, VOCES presents new and established filmmakers and brings their powerful and illuminating stories to a national audience — on TV, online and on the PBS app. Luis Ortiz is series producer; Sandie Viquez Pedlow is executive producer. Follow us on [Facebook](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TtcSXKqUHzgscH7N9h7uu-uVS993O9KNr0s3Fj1Li557sAihKiGL0YyLgSNDHJsCiAX6NFY0KlPXGiBHj2PntyFKxegRsOtUPWGNptWEgmLsV6LbjmQpY7cZsQJwFMYlmlrOaXeBcYPHT4va6wE96qIducYnFwXo&c=fEz-iviZg0wNhGikxeljd-XZaHm-4xQKDay2jdsmSjcxi2_CdUq9xA==&ch=Cmgi0rWcnVjPqSeLKnuQcfjViX2LVYfq5yISBDxf-wYi4MLTjLOruw==)and [X](https://x.com/VocesMedia). Funding for VOCES is provided by PBS.

**About Latino Public Broadcasting**

[Latino Public Broadcasting](http://lpbp.org/) (LPB) is the leader in the development, production, acquisition and distribution of film and digital cultural media that is representative of Latino people or addresses issues of particular interest to Latino Americans. These programs are produced for dissemination to public broadcasting stations and other public media entities. Latino Public Broadcasting is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. LPB also produces the acclaimed PBS documentary series VOCES, exploring the rich diversity of the Latino experience.

Between 2009 and 2023, LPB programs won over 135 awards, including three prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards as well as Emmys, Imagen Awards and the Sundance Film Festival Award for Best Director, Documentary. LPB has been the recipient of the Norman Lear Legacy Award and the NCLR Alma Award for Special Achievement – Year in Documentaries. Sandie Viquez Pedlow is executive director of LPB; Edward James Olmos is co-founder and chairman.

Contact:

CaraMar Publicity

Mary Lugo 770 851 8190 [lugo@negia.net](mailto:lugo@negia.net)

Cara White 843 881 1480 [cara.white@mac.com](mailto:cara.white@mac.com)

*For images and additional up-to-date information on this and other PBS programs, visit PBS PressRoom at*[*pbs.org/pressroom*](https://pressroom.pbs.org/)*.*