



Havaneres were brought back to Catalonia by people returning from Cuba over one hundred years ago

Calella de Palafrugell celebrates its last night of the Havaneres festival

Havaneres is a unique musical form sung by 19th century sailors

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Imagine the quantity of cultural fusions that occurred throughout the centuries of Iberian colonisation in the Americas. The words themselves — *Havaneres* and *rom cremat* — say it all. *Havaneres* are sea shanties that were brought back from Cuba by sailors in the 19th century to the Catalan seashores. Accompanied by guitar, accordion and sometimes bass, these songs are embedded with verses about lost love or long lost ancestors. From 28 June to 3 July, the town of Calella de Palafrugell has been celebrating its Havaneres Festival, a tribute to the limericks sung by the sailors of yesteryear along with a toast of their drink, the rum that nursed their sorrows.

Havaneres concerts are staged throughout the summer, but the captain of them all is the *Cantada* (Singing) *d'Havaneres* Festival held

late June, early July of every year in Calella de Palafrugell, one of the very sites where this distinctive Euro-Cuban cultural immersion took place. The songs are usually listened to while sipping *rom cremat*, rum flambeed with coffee beans in terra cotta dishes. Quite a sight, if you consider the historical relevance. A Catalan nobleman by the name of Bacardi once travelled to far away Cuba to refine such a sugar cane spirit.

What is known today as Havaneres are the result of a long and complex series of historic events. It seems that they originated in Cuba in the 19th century. Their roots can be found a little earlier, when the rhythm of a European dance known as *contradanza* (said to be from a 16th century country dance) leapt upon the island. Cuban musicians wove this European dance into its

own African-rooted rhythms. This cross-atlantic musical cocktail was then shipped off to Spain, and you can catch wiffs of it in Spanish Zarzuelas. *La Verbena de la Paloma* and *Don Gil de Alcalá* are two well-known Zarzuelas that contain Havaneres. European classical music also includes these sea shanties in its vast repertoire, ranging from the works of the French Ravel and Debussy to the Spanish Albeniz and Falla. In Catalonia there has always been a tradition of forming musical groups to sing the woeful sea songs.

In cozy Calella de Palafrugell on the Costa Brava, tonight the festival is finishing off with its biggest night. It starts at 8:00 p.m. on Paseig del Canadell with a group called Els Cremats i el Taper. Then at Port Bo Square at 10:30 p.m., an ensemble of bands with more quirky names like Peix Fregit are performing.

Lambda gay and lesbian film festival to honour Pons and Balletbó-Coll

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The Casal Lambda has put together its latest collection of top films for its 9th International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The event focuses on the issues of identity faced by member community, always going beyond the purely sexual. Catalan film directors Ventura Pons and Marta Balletbó-Coll will be honoured with the Lambda award for their portrayal of the realities lived by homosexuals in their films. The festival kicked off yesterday with the film

Latter Days, starring Jacqueline Bisset. And tonight at 10:30 p.m., *Merci Docteur Rey* should not be missed. It is about a sexually undecided young person who soon gets tied up in a mysterious crime. The film stars 70s sex bomb Jane Birkin, along with Dianne West and Jerry Hall.

Casal Lambda was founded in 1976 as a non-profit organisation to spearhead the fight for gay and lesbian rights around Spain. Their number one goal is "the normalisation of homosexuality in society," as

the mission statement reads. In their film festival they emphasise the importance of being yourself and the need to celebrate differences.

"Being human, you will always be different from one another," the festival's director Jaume Gil i Llopert writes. "We can have differences in political beliefs, in the way we dress. Our sexuality is only another difference," he adds. Apart from Casal Lambda, films will be shown in CCCB, Casa Asia, FNAC and PubliFilm until 8 July.

New releases ▶

"WORLD IN LOVE WITH BARCELONA"

VARIOUS
Label: EMI
Genre: *World music*
Playing time: 70'56"

The spirit of the Barcelona International Fòrum 2004 on record. Presented as a result of the world's love affair with Barcelona, this compilation brings together some of the most important musical styles and traditions from around the world. Brazilian Caetano Veloso, Tribalistas and Marisa Rub shoulders with the likes of Neneh Cherry and Youssou N'Dour, Lila Downs, Estrella Morente, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Papa Wemba among other artists of the World Music scene.



"SUPERGRASS IS 10. THE BEST OF 94-04"

SUPERGRASS
Label: EMI
Genre: *Pop-rock*
Playing time: 71'26"

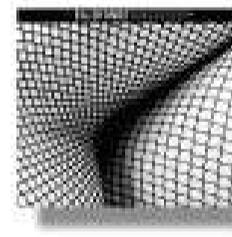
After Blur and Oasis one of the most genuine and popular of Britpop bands, Supergrass are celebrating their 10th anniversary with a double DVD and this CD bringing together 21 songs, including two completely new ones. Present here are the jewels in Supergrass' crown, namely, the singles. But along with their hits we also come across some of the most intense tracks taken from their four albums. Perhaps unexpectedly there are seven tracks from their debut album here, the classic *I Should Coco*.



"BAJOFONDO TANGO CLUB"

VARIOUS
Label: Universal
Genre: *Post-tango*
Playing time: 78'28"

"For the two countries separated by the River Plate, Argentina and Uruguay, these are difficult times, times of electricity and tango," writes Enrique Lopetegui about this exceptional record. *Bajofondo Tango Club* can only be described as an alliance of producers, musicians and singers, all directed by the Argentinian Gustavo Santaolalla and the Uruguayan Juan Campodónico. These two South American talents reinterpret tango from an electronic and techno perspective producing surprising and completely unique results.



"BOSSANOVANDO"

DAMILLS
Label: Subterfuge
Genre: *Bossa nova*
Playing time: 42'05"

As part of their collection *Música para un guateque sideral*, Subterfuge have released the first musical work of the Barcelona artist, David Amills. This is a curious experiment that manages to bring to the world of bossa nova new songs by artists such as Nirvana, The Style Council, The Beatles, Portishead, The Rolling Stones and David Bowie to mention but a few. These interpretations are done with a great sense of respect for the originals and an excellent sense of taste. It may seem like a joke, but nothing could be further from the truth.

