

# Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

## MEDIA ALERT

### MEET THE STARS OF *CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ* AT PRESS EVENT

**TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008**

**10 AM – 1 PM**

Adrienne Arsht Center  
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall

- DATE:** 10 AM – 1 PM  
Tuesday, June 17, 2008
- EVENT:** Meet the bilingual cast of the hit musical ***CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ*** as they prepare for their Miami premiere and the launch of the show's international tour. Chat one-on-one with **Anissa Gathers** (performing the lead role of Celia "the star"); **Modesto Lacén** (Celia's beloved husband Pedro Knight); **Selenis Leyva** (performing the role of Celia "the woman"); and **Pedro Capó** (Celia's nurse).
- LOCATION:** Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts  
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132  
John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall  
**\*Entrance at 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Biscayne and N. Bayshore Drive\***
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#### About the Show

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County hosts the Miami premiere and international tour launch of the hit New York musical ***CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ***. From **June 18 – July 6**, audiences will be taken on a 60-year journey through the life and music of the sensational salsa diva, from her humble beginnings in Cuba to the international superstardom that made her one of the most remarkable Hispanic artists who has ever lived. Told through the eyes of her beloved husband Pedro Knight, ***CELIA*** features a magnificent cast of 16 singers, dancers and musicians in a live performance that highlights the global music icon's most beloved hits.

Select performances contain dialogue in both English and Spanish while others are spoken exclusively in Spanish. All songs, however, are sung in Spanish at every performance.

Direct from New York, the bilingual cast stars Anissa Gathers singing and acting in the lead role of Celia during the highlight of her musical career, Modesto Lacén as Pedro Knight, and Selenis Leyva as a young Celia. Music director Isidro Infante (who performed with the real Cruz) leads a seven-piece band that accompanies Gathers and the cast in faithful live renditions of the Salsa Queen's repertoire, including "La Bomba," Celia's groundbreaking collaboration with Tito Puente which is credited with sparking the popularity of salsa music in the '70s, as well as "Guantanamera", "Quimbara," "Toro Mata," "La Vida es un Carnaval" and dozens more that became universal sensations.

*Celia* is written by husband and wife duo Carmen Rivera and Candido Tirado, produced by Henry Cardenas and David Maldonado (the team behind the hit musical, *Who Killed Hector Lavoe?*) and directed by Jaime Azpilicueta, one of Spain's most distinguished theatre and television directors.

*This engagement is presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center and PerilloMusic by arrangement with Cardenas Marketing Network, Inc. Sponsored by American Airlines, Budweiser, Café PILON and Hilton.*

### **Tickets**

Tickets for **CELIA: The Life & Music of Celia Cruz** are \$50 (First Tier Seating), \$75 (Orchestra Seating) and \$95 for a VIP seating package that includes a post-performance meet and greet with cast members, an autographed poster and a Celia keychain and pin. Tickets are available through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at (305) 949-6722 or online at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org).

### **About the Cast**

**ANISSA GATHERS** (Celia) proudly hails from her Off-Broadway debut as Celia Cruz to sold out houses in New York! Originally born in Puerto Rico, Anissa ventured to New York City at the age of 17 and soon found her career in Salsa Companies throughout the New York Area, reaching thousands of people with her unique gift of Salsa dancing and singing. Naturally, Ms. Gathers was always drawn to the music of Celia Cruz and during her tenure with Mestizo Company (NY), she realized a vocal similarity to "La Rena." After several years of performing the hits of Celia in various venues, Ms. Gathers is honored and grateful to be reprising her role and allowing the spirit, life and music of Celia to "take over" on this continued journey of remembrance in Miami.

**MODESTO LACÉN** (Pedro Knight), a multifaceted artist, hails from Puerto Rico. Off-Broadway: ...Gardel (also choreographer). Regional: Medea, Blue Serge, Art, Godspell, Othello, Salsa Gorda (Best Actor 2004). Film: Animal, Dirty Dancing 2, Kidnapped in Paradise, Second Honeymoon, Las doce caras de Jano.

**PEDRO CAPÓ** (Nurse) is the grandson of legendary Bobby Capó. Pedro is a Latin Singer/songwriter, an accomplished film and theatre actor and now a Sony BMG recording artist with his album Fuego y Amor. Acting credits include The Sweet Spot and the films Shut up and Do It and Paraiso Travel.

**SELENIS LEYVA** (Celia). Recent theatre credits include Anna in the Tropics, Chronicle of a Death Foretold (Repertorio Español), A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (The Shakespeare Theatre of NJ). King Without a Castle (Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre). TV: guest star on "Dirty Sexy Money," "New Amsterdam," "Sopranos," "100 Centre Street," "The Street," "The Third Degree," recurring role on "Law & Order" and series regular on "Taina" (Nickelodeon). Recent film: *Illegal Tender* and *Maria Full Of Grace*.