



JAZZ GUMBO

Contemporary, Fusion and
World Beat Happenings
By Chris J. Walker

WORLD

The Fountain Theatre's acclaimed *Forever Flamenco!* series presented the **Arte y Pureza Flamenco Company** in "*Quien Yo Soy*" ("This Is Me"). Deborah Lawlor, who created it more than 20 years ago, produced the production. She has established the theatre, with only 80 seats in four rows as a foremost venue for Flamenco in Los Angeles. "*Quien Yo Soy*" features the dance of Cihlti Ocampo in an exhilarating evening of Gypsy flamenco fused with elements of blues, jazz and Latin from vocal legend Maxayn Lewis (Diana Ross, Michael Jackson), jazz flutet/sax player Katisse Buckingham (Herbie Hancock, Prince), bassist

Hussain Jiffry (Sergio Mendes, Herb Alpert), percussionist Joey Heredia (Dianne Reeves, Billy Childs), and flamenco vocalist Oscar Valero (Antonio Canales). Under the artistic direction of Arte y Pureza master guitarist Ethan Margolis.

Ocampo, the lead dancer and choreographer, who studied in New York and Spain was beyond belief. Opening number "Fandangos" featured Valero, with the dancer tapping intensely. Ocampo debuted her newest choreography to Stephen Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns" that was arranged for flamenco guitar and sung by Lewis. Notably, "John The Revelator" melded blues and flamenco, featuring the bassist and dancer. While "Soniquete" was a tour de force, bringing all the musicians and singers together with highly stimulating dancing/tapping.

Equally astonishing was the production's version of James Brown's "It's a Man's World" that was full blown and exhibited dramatic dancing/tapping, with stalwart support. In closing all the musicians were briefly featured and Ocampo danced without taps. For reservations and information, call 323 663-1525 or go to www.FountainTheatre.com.