

Brazil on your doorstep



THE THIRD BRAZILIAN CULTURAL MONTH GETS UNDERWAY THIS WEEK WITH A RANGE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM THE COLOURFUL SOUTH AMERICAN NATION

The vibrant culture of faraway Brazil will be arriving at our doorstep this month as the Pharos Trust presents a Brazilian Cultural Month in Nicosia. With exciting events taking place throughout October at venues around town, the entire month will be dedicated to showcasing the very best of Brazilian art, music, dance, films and books.

Brazilian culture has been shaped not only by the Portuguese, who gave the country its most common religion and language, but also by the country's native Indians, the considerable African population and other settlers from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The result involves fascinating music, earthy writers and a wonderfully tasty cuisine.

Those who have travelled to the country will be well aware that there is no party quite like a Brazilian party. From the mad passion of carnival celebrations and dancing in the streets until sunrise, to wild parties filled with the beat of samba and the rhythms of Bossa Nova, Brazil-

ians certainly know the meaning of living life to the full.

In one celebratory night you too can be whisked away with the sounds, images and fantastic flavours of Brazil. On October 6 the University of Cyprus Cultural Centre in Old Nicosia will come to life with live Brazilian music and a Samba and Capoeira Show with the group Batucada Amazonas. The show will be accompanied by Brazilian food and caipirinhas, followed by a party with DJ Brasilocca playing music to get you moving until the wee hours of the morning.

If this all sets the mood for more partying and hip swinging then just take a wander down to the charismatic club Red, tucked away in Old Nicosia, for two music evenings on October 18 and 19 with the Brazilian group Liquidificador. With Matheus Nova on the bass, Eduardo Marques on drums, and Menino Josue on vocals, prepare to hear a great jamming session that brings you the new and alternative sound of modern day Brazil.

Of course you can't really talk about

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Brazil today without a mention of the thriving art world. For a taste of some of this contemporary art, you can go along to the Pharos Centre where Brazilian artists Angela Detanico and Rafael Lain will present their new work 'After Utopia'. Opening on October 13 and curated by Michael Asbury, Research Fellow at the University of the Arts in London, the exhibition will bring real food for thought as the boundaries of fine art and graphic design fuse together.

Through photos and texts they use a great amount of irony to deal with a complexity of issues relating to our contemporary world.

As Brazilian month draws to a close don't miss a vibrant dance performance by Brazilian dancer and choreographer Jean Abreu and his company on October 27 at the Strovolos Municipal Theatre in Nicosia. Brazilian-born Jean Abreu is one of Britain's rising dance talents and brings his personal skills in contemporary, Latin American and martial art forms to bear on his own unique choreographic style.

The performance by this Jerwood

Award winner is inspired by ideas of migration as he takes us on a personal journey of identity and sense of belonging in a world that is constantly on the move. Through the fluidity and overwhelming energy of Abreu's vivid movement and choreographic style, you can trace roots in Latin dance combined with elements of Capoeira and contemporary dance. Expect a performance full of charisma, immediately appealing and captivating, dealing sensitively and eloquently with modern day human concerns and experiences.

Still in the mood for learning even more about Brazil? Keep in mind that a Brazilian Film Festival will also be taking place this month at ARTos Cultural Foundation featuring six films of current Brazilian cinema dealing with women's issues. There is also an interesting book exhibition taking place at the Moufflon bookshop with a selection of books showcasing the richness and diversity of Brazilian culture. Let's just hope we don't all get the travel bug too badly with all this talk of things wild and exotic. ■

WHAT'S GOING ON

October 5

Challenges and Opportunities in National and International Affairs – A Brazilian case Study

Lecture by Sergio Moreira Lima, Ambassador of Brazil in Cyprus, organised in cooperation with the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Cyprus. Main Auditorium, University of Cyprus, 75 Kallipoleos Street, Nicosia. 7.30pm. Tel: 22-894000

October 6

Brazilian Night

Featuring Capoeira Show, live Brazilian music and dance with the Brazilian Batucada Amazonas composed of musicians, dancers, singers and a DJ, as well as dinner with Brazilian food and drinks. A prize draw will also take place with two return tickets to Rio de Janeiro courtesy of British Airways as the first prize. University of Cyprus Cultural Centre, 8 Axiothea Street, Old Nicosia. 8.30pm Tel: 22-434801

October 13

After Utopia

Art exhibition by contemporary Brazilian artists Angela Detenico and Rafael Lain. Opens October 13, 8pm, until November 15. Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art 24, Demosthenis Severis Avenue, Nicosia. Tel: 22-663871

October 18 and 19

Liquidificador

Brazilian band playing live. Club RED, 15 Dionysou Street, Plateia Palaiou Dimarheiou, Old Nicosia. 10.30pm. Tel: 22-767711

October 27

Jean Abreu

Contemporary Dance Performance by Brazilian dancer/choreographer and his company. Strovolos Municipal Theatre, Nicosia. 8.30pm. Tel: 22-313010

Women in Contemporary Brazilian Cinema

Third Brazilian Film Festival featuring six films of the current Brazilian cinema dealing with women's issues. October 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18. ARTos Cultural and Research Foundation 64, Ay. Omoloyiton Avenue, Nicosia. 8pm. Tel: 22-445455

Brazilian Book Month

Presenting a selection of books (in English) showcasing the richness and diversity of Brazilian culture. Moufflon Bookshop 1, Sofouli Street, Nicosia. Tel: 22-665155, www.moufflon.com.cy

