

# JUAN USERA

[juusera@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:juusera@jjay.cuny.edu)

## EDUCATION

**New York University**, New York, NY, Master of Fine Arts, Performance Studies, 1997

**City College**, New York, NY, Music Department, Course work in music technology, 2003 - 2004

**Universidad de Puerto Rico**, Rio Piedras, PR, Bachelor of Arts, Education/History and Dance, Magna Cum Laude, 1994

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct Professor**, 2018 - Present

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, Department of Art and Music

- Courses: Introduction to Afro-Caribbean Music and Dance; Popular Music of the Caribbean

**Lecturer/Teaching Artist**, 2018 – Present

Brooklyn Music School, Brooklyn, NY

- Lecture on Caribbean music and provide community and school-based performances

**Adjunct Professor**, 2013 - 2017

Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY, Department of Sociology-Anthropology

- Courses: Anthropology of Religion; Caribbean and Latin American Cultures, Cultural Anthropology, Race and Ethnicity

**Afro-Caribbean History and Music Instructor**, 1995 - Present

Sambuco Tribe Afro-Caribbean Arts in Education Company, NY, NY

- Artist in residence for Arts Connections, Caribbean Cultural Center, City Lore, Community Works, Early Stages, Young Audiences
  - Provide PK-12 school performances, in-school residencies, workshops, and professional development

**Music and Dance Instructor**, 1995 - 2010

Los Pleneros de la 21, Grammy Nominated Performance Group and Community Based Non-Profit Organization, NY, NY

- Saturday Program lead music and dance instructor

**Percussion Instructor**, 2006 - 2009

Third Street Music School Settlement, NY, NY

- Instrumental instruction on conga, bomba, bongo, and hand drums

### **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH**

- El Esquife: Bomba, the African Dynamic in Puerto Rican Music and Dance, an auto-ethnographic narrative.
- The Bata Orchestra: Observed and recorded Yoruba ceremonies and performed in ritual and secular ceremonies with Orlando "Puntilla" Rios, Kenneth Bernie, and Felix Sanabría.
- Created a tambor music archive of the late Orlando "Puntilla" Rios' Bata Orchestra, NYC.

### **RECORDINGS (selected)**

- Duotone Studios, Bacardi international advertisement, 2013
- Paul Hemmings, *Paul Hemmings Uketet*, Leading Tone Records, 2012
- Alma Moyo, *No Hay Sábado Sin Sol*, 2010
- Jacob Plasse, *Fuerza de la Maya*, 2004
- Sonido Isleño, *Vive Jazz*, Trezero Productions, 2004
- Various, *Raices*, Banco Popular, 2001
- William Cepeda, *Afro-Rican Jazz, My Roots and Beyond*, Blue Jackel, 1999
- Carlos Malave, *La Tercera Raiz: Homenaje a la Cultura Negra en Puerto Rico*, 1994

### **HONORS**

- NJSCA Grant, Master Folk Artist, 2006-2007
- Los Pleneros de la 21, Bomba Master, May 2004

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

- Music and audio recording (Ableton Live, Logic, Pro-Tools, Reason), digital camera, digital video, film editing

### **LANGUAGES**

- Spanish, native fluency
- French, intermediate reading proficiency