



KAYPACHA DANCE LLC · DANCE YOUR ANCESTORS

Dance the path *back to your ancestors*

Afro-Peruvian and Andean dance for stages, classrooms, companies and the diaspora finding its way home.

Cynthia Paniagua (she/her) — Founder & Artistic Director.
Professional dancer, dance educator, coach and folkloric dance scholar. Available for keynotes, workshops, media interviews, lecture demonstrations, seminars and spokesperson opportunities.

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ABOUT

I went looking for the *real Peru* — my ancestral truth through movement

Helping Peruvians in the diaspora connect to their ancestors through dance.

I'm Cynthia Paniagua — a Queens-raised dancer, choreographer and educator of Peruvian and Nuyoric heritage, born to a Peruvian mother and a Puerto Rican father. For over twenty years I've danced, lived and researched in Peru, learning from the living masters of our traditions.

My work and performances have been featured on PBS, NBC, Lincoln Center, The Times Center, Universidad de Folklore J.M. Arguedas, a U.S. Embassy tour in Peru and Colombia, universities across the U.S. and the award-winning documentary *Soy Andina*.

Through dance workshops and presentations, I've guided and inspired thousands of participants and audience members internationally for over fifteen years, offering a perspective on ancestral memory

and reconnection to roots through the joy of dance. I founded *Dance Your Ancestors*, an immersive program that leads students on a research, travel and dance journey to Peru and the dance communities of origin.

I'm passionate about celebrating multicultural identities within Latine communities in the U.S. and creating cross-cultural connections through dance — navigating cultural identities, reviving a sense of belonging for immigrant descendants, and bridging cultural gaps across generations.

When I'm not coaching clients through dance, I'm cooking, researching Andean history and learning Quechua.

20+

YEARS DANCING,
LIVING & RESEARCHING
IN PERU

15+

YEARS TEACHING
INTERNATIONALLY

1ST

COMMISSIONED
CHOREOGRAPHER,
UN SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

1000S

PARTICIPANTS &
AUDIENCES
GUIDED WORLDWIDE



Three keynotes

*I speak to what it means to belong to two worlds —
and how dance carries us home.*

01

De Aquí y Allá — *“From Here and There”*

DANCING MY ANCESTORS THROUGH BORDERS

Cynthia shares her personal search for ancestors, cultural reconnection and a sense of belonging through her dance journey from Queens, NY to the coast, Andes and Amazon of Peru. Audiences navigate the double and triple consciousness of the diasporic experience, where the dancing body becomes the ultimate agency to reconnect to roots. As a proud daughter of immigrants and as a Peruvian, Puerto Rican and Nuyorican woman, Cynthia faces the common pain point of feeling *“ni de aquí ni de allá”* — not from here nor there. She inspires confidence in audiences to reclaim their multiple heritages and revitalize a sense of belonging through ancestral dance.

02

Love Lessons from Tondero

THE ANCESTRAL COURTSHIP DANCE

Did you know a powerful matriarchal AfroIndigenous society existed in Peru, and that it preserved empowering love lessons within a dance? Audiences get an in-depth perspective on love through the lens of the courtship dance of Tondero. As a longtime Tondero dancer and practitioner, Cynthia shares the life-changing love lessons learned from this powerful dance and how its wisdom and philosophy apply to daily life — including Tondero philosophies as a healing mechanism to revitalize the heart, the senses, and forge deep ancestral connections.

03

Kachkaniraqmi! — *“We Are Still Here”*

RECLAIMING INDIGENEITY ONE DANCE AT A TIME

Cynthia invites audiences to explore the layers of reclaiming indigenous heritage within the Latine experience, illuminating decolonization as a continuous act through dance. Audiences learn to move beyond the confines of the singular label of ‘Latina/o/x’ or ‘Mestizo’ and to reconnect, highlight and celebrate the diversity of our indigenous heritages. Topics include land connection, ancestral memory through dance, dance as resistance, the body as a site for re-learning our histories, dance as a birthright, and honoring of the elders — empowering ‘AYNI’, the Andean principle of reciprocity and interconnectedness within culture-bearing communities.

FORMATS

Keynote presentations · Lecture demonstrations · Workshops · Seminars · Media interviews · Panel and spokesperson opportunities. Each talk adapts to conference, campus, museum, corporate and community audiences.

OFFERINGS

One practice, many doorways

*Every offering is rooted in the same ancestral practice
— only the room changes.*

Dance Your Ancestors

FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

Dance your ancestors, get your birthright. A 4-month online journey of Afro-Peruvian dance, ritual and research — culminating in a dance intensive in Lima and El Carmen, Peru, in community with the artists who keep these traditions alive.

Cultural Speaking

KEYNOTES & LECTURES

Keynotes, lecture demonstrations and cultural presentations on identity, belonging and reclaiming heritage through ancestral movement.

Classes in New York

PUBLIC · PRIVATE · VIRTUAL

Festejo, Afro-Peruvian and Boricua dance classes in New York — public, private, group and virtual. All levels, all bodies welcome.

Schools & Universities

K-12 AND HIGHER ED

Cultural presentations, workshops and residencies bringing Afro-Peruvian and Andean dance into K-12 classrooms and university programs — led by an NYC public-school-credentialed teaching artist.

Dance & Choreography

STAGE · SCREEN · COMMISSION

Commission original choreography or bring Afro-Peruvian and Andean dance to your stage, screen or production — from the UN Symphony Orchestra's first commissioned choreographer, featured in *In the Heights* and *Soy Andina*.

Company Workshops

TEAMS & ORGANIZATIONS

Experiential cultural workshops for teams and organizations — Afro-Peruvian movement, story and history that go far beyond surface-level DEI programming. Tailored to your group.

Private events, weddings and celebrations available on request — featured performance, first-dance choreography, or a lively lesson that gets everyone moving.



BOOKING

Bring this conversation to your stage.

Cynthia Paniagua (she/her) is a professional dancer, dance educator, coach and folkloric dance scholar available for keynote presentations, workshops, media interviews, lecture demonstrations, seminars and spokesperson opportunities. Her energy is palpable in her engaging, upbeat yet down-to-earth delivery.

Schedule an interview or meeting, or book her on your stage today.

FOR PRESS

High-resolution photography, logo files, short and long-form biographies and programme copy are available on request. Interviews in English and Spanish.

NOTABLE PRESS

Soy Andina

DOCUMENTARY · 2007

UN Symphony Orchestra

FIRST COMMISSIONED CHOREOGRAPHER

Peruvians in the USA

PODCAST

LH Radio

RADIO

Reflecting Archives: Artists in Conversation

PEPATIAN

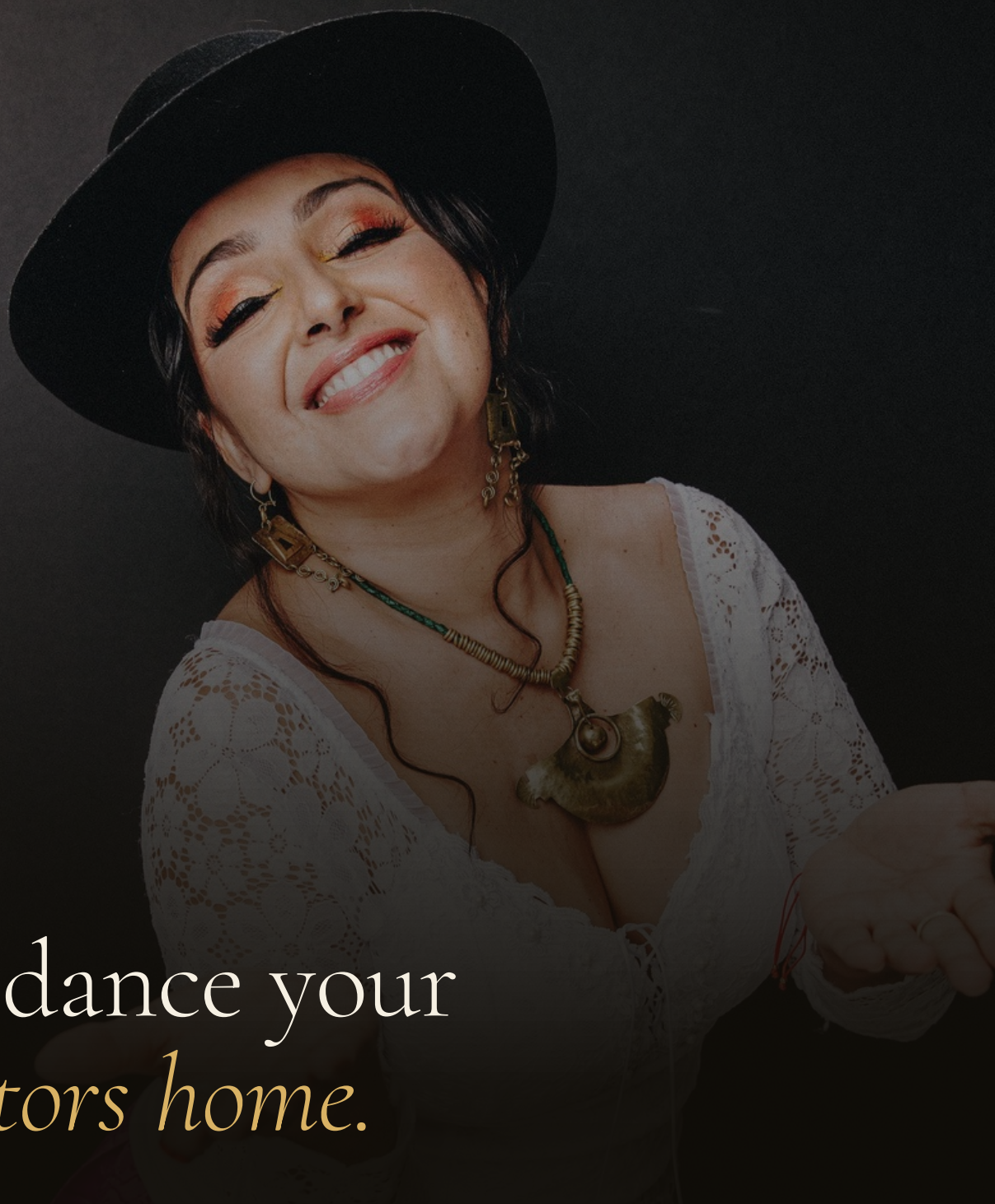
Geographies of Relation: Diasporas and Borderlands in the Americas

SYMPOSIUM

Dancing Earth Summer Institute

INSTITUTE

Featured on PBS · NBC · Lincoln Center · The Times Center · Universidad de Folklore J.M. Arguedas · U.S. Embassy tours in Peru & Colombia



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ancestors home.

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