

Celia Cruz



Celia Cruz, (October 21 1925- July 16, 2003) born Úrsula Hilaria Celia de la Caridad Cruz Alfonso in Havana, Cuba, was a proud Afro-Cuban artist who became the “Queen of Salsa.” Educated at Havana’s National Conservatory of Music, she fled post-revolutionary Cuba and became a global icon. With her powerful voice, vibrant performances, and hits like "La Vida Es Un Carnaval," she brought Afro-Cuban rhythms to the world. Celia Cruz became a U.S. citizen in 1961. Though she loved Cuba deeply, she was openly critical of the Cuban government post-revolution and never returned. Her heart remained with the Cuban people. Celia was also known for her charitable work, supporting organizations like the United Way, the American Cancer Society, and music education programs. Her generosity matched the size of her voice. Celia passed away in Fort Lee, New Jersey, on July 16, 2003, leaving an enduring legacy of cultural pride and joy.