

wexner center
for the arts

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2001

Contact: Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or simonian.4@osu.edu

DEEP ROOTS CUBAN BAND LOS FAKIRES LIGHTS UP DANCE PARTY

Performing in a cabaret atmosphere with plenty of room for dancing, Cuba's **Los Fakires** bring their rootsy Cuban music to the Wexner Center Performance Space **Saturday, November 24 at 8 pm**. Los Fakires, who hail from Santa Clara in the heart of the Sierra Maestra mountains, have been playing their infectious rhythms together for more than 40 years and are now on their first U.S. tour. With guitar, percussion, a well-worn alto sax, and songs like "Guitarra, Tabaco y Ron," the band creates an intoxicating down-home blend steeped in history.

For the Wexner Center show, the main floor of the Performance Space will serve as a dance floor. There will be limited seating upstairs and a cash bar.

The concert is presented in partnership with the International Program of the Ohio Arts Council.

BEYOND BUENA VISTA

While the Buena Vista Social Club phenomenon has captured the world's attention, there is much more music happening in Cuba beyond a few celebrated bands from Havana. Los Fakires' classic *son* sound represents the soulful music that has endured in Cuba's smaller villages, where relative isolation and poverty make life hard but where strong traditions prevail. In the Santa Clara nightspot El Mejunje, domino players smoke cigars and drink rum while Los Fakires play time-honored favorites, bringing the patio dance floor to life with hip-swaying rhythms.

The quintet is named for firewalkers and bed-of-nails specialists (the fakirs), a reference to hard times when work is scarce. Led by saxophonist José Bringues, a musician for 54 years, the band is fronted by impish singer Cascarita (Martín Chávez) and features guitarist José Remié; the gutbucket-

news release

edged vocals of Rafael Valdés; and percussionist Gilberta Abreu—at 50, the youngest in the group.

The group is beginning its first U.S. tour, traveling to 15 cities. Its debut CD, *Mi Casa Su Casa*, is available through Casino Sounds.

EVENT SUPPORT

Presented in partnership with the **International Program of the Ohio Arts Council**.

Lead support for the 2001–02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

Promotional support is provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM** and **WBNS 10TV**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Los Fakires

Description: Cuba's Los Fakires performs for dance party in the Wexner Center Performance Space.

Date and time: Saturday, November 24 at 8 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 North High St. Dance floor, with cash bar. Limited seating.

Tickets: \$18 general public, \$16 Wexner Center members and OSU students.

Ticket outlet: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Images of Los Fakires available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

###30###