



Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
2014-2015: Celebrating 25 years of Innovative Latino Arts & Culture

MACLA Presents: RANA SANTACRUZ IN CONCERT
Exclusive Bay Area Premiere
with opening performance by Cado



February 19, 2015, San José, CA—MACLA proudly presents the first and only Bay Area performance of world music phenomenon **Rana Santacruz**, in conjunction with the release of his much-anticipated new album, *Por Ahí*. All performances, from April 10-12, 2015, will be at MACLA. **Tickets and information at ranaconcert.eventbrite.com and below.**

From curator Joey Reyes, who is organizing the concert: “We are so excited to be the only venue to host Rana Santacruz. His music is local and global, personal and universal, and a great example of what happens when different musical styles and traditions come together. He represents what MACLA is all about - artistic daring, community, and honest storytelling.”

As the ethnic make-up of America changes, so does its music. And with diverse influences under his belt, Rana Santacruz makes music for that new America. Rana’s music has been called “**Mexican Bluegrass**” or “**Irish Mariachi**.” His music starts in Ireland, runs through Appalachia, swings through New Orleans, and ends with a long, quiet walk on Mexico’s dusty back roads. The acoustic instrumentation is built around Rana’s accordion, and includes cajón, upright bass, guitar, banjo, jarana, violin and trumpet.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Santacruz had considerable success with his *rock en español* band La Catrina before moving to Brooklyn in 2002. Drawing on myriad influences including the golden age of Mexican cinema, the novels of Gabriel García Márquez, musicians like Tom Waits and the Pogues, American bluegrass and folk music and son jarocho traditions from the gulf region of Veracruz, Santacruz recorded a collection of songs assimilating those disparate influences.

The resulting solo debut, *Chicavasco* (2010)—named for a small town in the state of Hidalgo—is beautifully conceived and artfully produced; not surprising as Alex Venguer, who joined Santacruz in producing the disk, just took home a GRAMMY© for Best Traditional Folk Album for his part in Loudon Wainwright’s *High Wide & Handsome: The Charlie Poole Project*. Often singing in a lilting falsetto, the melodies soar, imbued with the kind of passion found in Cuban son and Portuguese



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fado. The music takes you north and south of the border, and across the Atlantic and back. Chicavasco tells tales of broken hearts, sailors, dogs, cactuses, cantinas, funerals and farewells.

Rana regularly performs in New York's top venues, including Barbes, Rockville Music Hall, and Subrosa. **His long-awaited follow-up album *Por Ahi* is set for release in March 2015.**

LINKS

NPR Tiny Desk Concert: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq1T0P7zotA>

Website: www.ranasantacruz.com

Press Images: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/120981565@N06/sets/72157648300391844/>

MACLA: <http://maclaarte.org/programs/performing-arts/>

CONTACT (for interviews and information)

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SELECTED REVIEWS

"A handful of [Rana's] acoustic creations have an old-country shuffle to them, similar to Beirut's stately songs. There are death-centric shanties that recall Tom Waits. And some material feels like the soundtrack to a western set in a border town, sharing a vibe with the collaborations between Iron and Wine and Calexico." - The Washington Post, February 2012

"Backed by a boisterous band, Mexican songwriter Rana Santacruz delivered a wry, quirky set that brought a brick Celtic edge to traditional Mexican folkloric styles. A characteristically tongue-in-cheek number, "Noche de Perro" reminisced about an affair gone sour, the howling of dogs in the night, a reminder that 'they are more faithful than you were.' The wrapped up a very-well received show with a punked out cover of a Vicente Fernandez ranchera number and a drinking song." - Lucidculture, January 2010

"Rana Santacruz kicked things off with an inspired set that fused Mexican rancheras with traditional Irish sounds – not unlike the Pogues in their "Pistol for Paddy Garcia" mode." – National Geographic Music, March 2008

CALENDAR LISTING

Rana Santacruz in Concert: Bay Area Premiere

with opening performance by Cado

MACLA, 510 South 1st Street, San José, CA 95113

Friday April 10 and Saturday April 11 2015, 8:00 pm and Sunday, April 12, 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$20 at the door / \$15 advance online / \$10 students with ID

ranaconcert.eventbrite.com

Image credit: Adam Cohen