

For Immediate Release
Argolo

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Katia Moraes & Brazilian Heart Music Presents

ELIS, A CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 at 7pm

@ Brasil Brasil Cultural Center

www.katiamoraes.com

"It's a shame Elis Regina never appeared in the USA. She was the greatest, my favorite singer ever. All that power and emotion and incredibly expressive phrasing. Had she toured here even once they'd still be talking about her." Brick Wahl, LA Weekly

"ELIS, A CELEBRATION" is a tribute to one of Brazil's greatest and most influential singers. "Elis & Tom," recorded in Los Angeles in 1974 with the master of modern Brazilian popular music, **Antonio Carlos (Tom) Jobim** is considered one of the top ten Brazilian records of all time. Her extraordinary expressive voice and incredible sense of rhythm mixed with a controversial personality was cut short when she died tragically in January 1982 of a combination of cocaine and alcohol.

Elis began her career in the 1960's during the dictatorship and helped launch the career of composers Milton Nascimento, Ivan Lins, João Bosco, Aldir Blanc, Tim Maia, Gilberto Gil, Chico Buarque, and many more. Singers Marisa Monte, Leila Pinheiro and Daniela Mercury cite Elis as a strong influence in their music. Among her 31 recordings between 1961 and 1982 are the extremely popular three live records (Dois na Bossa) with singer Jair Rodrigues.

"Elis, a Celebration" hopes to enrich the knowledge of an audience who wants to discover what Brazil is all about. The night will mix live music with a slide show, video screening and a photo exhibition by photographer Jorge Vismara.

The event will feature music by Katia Moraes featuring musicians Antonio Sant'Anna, Leo Costa, Mitchell Long and Bill Brendle. Brad Austin is in charge of the set design and Brazilian photographer Caesar Lima signed the official poster. This is the first time Brasil Brasil Cultural Center will present a tribute to a great Brazilian singer.

Calendar Listing

DATE: Saturday, January 21, 2011

TIME: 7:00pm

VENUE: Brasil Brasil Cultural Center

11928 Washington Blvd. (c/s Inglewood), Los Angeles, CA 90066

(310) 397-3667 brasilbrasil.org

TICKETS: \$15 General, \$10 Students/Seniors/BBCC members

For more information, call: visit: [www. www.katiamoraes.com](http://www.katiamoraes.com)

About Katia Moraes

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Katia Moraes began her career as a singer in 1979 influenced by Elis Regina. After playing “The Singer” in the play “The Chalk Circle” by Bertold Brecht, Katia was invited to join the band "O Espirito da Coisa" with whom she recorded and toured Brazil.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1990, she started lending her voice to films and television found The Rio Thing band with Mario Costa. She sang from Bossa Nova to Axé, to Forró, MPB and Jazz. Midnight Drums, 22-piece Orchestra Feijoada Completa, Sol & Mar, Viver Brasil Dance Company, Folk Ballet of Brasil, Badaue, Man and Machine, are some of the bands she was part of.

In 1994 she found “Brazil Nuts” band with her musician friends and started composing and writing lyrics. In 1996 she released her first CD entitled “Ten Feet and the Sun”. Writing lyrics ignited the creation of “Brazilian Heart” newsletter and her contributions to Soul Brasil magazine and Brazil Today. Brazilian Heart explores issues of culture, art and music following her personal whims and passions. Blog: www.katiabrazil.blogspot.com
“Brazilian Heart” also became the name of her class “Introduction to Brazilian Culture Through Movement.”

While performing with Sambaguru, Katia created “Pure Samba,” a special project where she sang old sambas from her childhood years. Pure Samba won the L.A. Treasure Award, granted in part, by the California Traditional Music Society, a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, and The California Traditional Music Society.

In 1999 she released "Ginga" with Sambaguru, followed by "Live" by Kufala Records in 2003. Her 4th CD with Sambaguru by Moondo Records is called "Navegar ao Sol". In 2009 Sambaguru released "Tribo" that was on the Preliminary Nominating Ballot for the Grammy 2009.

Kátia is currently creating a new show to premier in 2012 entitled Heart to Heart – An Open Letter to Brazil. She keeps singing with Sambaguru, Pure Samba, Brazilian Hearts, Samba Society, Oscar Castro-Neves, and Viver Brasil Dance Company.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Sydney Festival, Playboy Jazz Festival, Hollywood Bowl, House of Blues, Ford Amphitheater, Getty Center, California Plaza, Playboy Jazz Summer Fest, Verizon Music Festival, Cerritos Center, Schoenberg Hall, UCLA, Jazz Bakery, Queen Mary, Hollywood Palladium, JVC Jazz Fest, Luna Park, Sweet Pea Festival in Montana, The World Famous Baked Potato, Santa Monica Festival, The French Quarter Festival in New Orleans, Riverside Jazz Festival, African Market Place, Grass Valley World Music Festival, IAJE – Jazz Educators Convention, among other events and venues in the U.S. and abroad.

Sambaguru featuring Kátia Moraes is featured on the musical score for the film "Woman on Top", a Fox Searchlight Picture released in September 2000. Her voice also appears on the musical score of the full length movie "Everyday" (2011), "The Last Word", "Arrested Development", and the Cult Japanese animation "Cowboy Bebop".

AWARDS/NOMINATIONS

2008, 2009 and 2010 Kátia was nominated for Destaque Singer in the U.S. by International Brazilian Press Award.

2007 Kátia Moraes and Bill Brendle won 3rd place in the World Music category at the International Songwriting Competition with their composition "Tribo Gandhista."

2006 With Pure Samba won the L.A. Treasure Award, granted in part, by the California Traditional Music Society, a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, and The California Traditional Music Society.

2005 Kátia was nominated in the Best Latin Artist category by the New Times Newspaper Music Awards.

2002–2003 Sambaguru featuring Kátia Moraes was selected to be on The California Arts Council Touring Roster.

2001 and 2002 Sambaguru was nominated in the best World Music category for the New Times Newspaper Music Awards

1998 Katia Moraes and Bill Brendle had their song "Não Vá" chosen as a finalist in the World Music category of the John Lennon's Songwriting Contest.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

"Remarkable throughout was the robust singing of Katia Moraes, providing a narrative that rose above even the thundering drums of five tireless drummers. Ms. Moraes is a vocal powerhouse who seems ready to sing at full throttle all night long."

Glen Creason, director of the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

"What a great way to start our season. Katia engaged our audiences like few other performers have. A truly passionate professional performer, Katia was a joy to work with and the audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation...both nights!"

Christian Wolf, Executive Director for Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation

"Blessed with a songbird's voice, a poet's heart, an educator's enthusiasm and an entertainer's vision, Moraes is the complete package."

ENTERTAINMENT TODAY

"Moraes strutted on stage with the grace and attitude of an Amazon princess...Moraes danced, sang and communicated with her fans for over an hour, delivering an impressive performance."

LATIN STYLE

"Katia Moraes is a sweet-voiced pixie who radiates a sunny energy, with traces of Brazilian great Elis Regina in Moraes's singing."

THE VALLEY BEAT

"Brazilian singer Katia Moraes -- a born afternoon sunshine performer..."

VARIETY

"Katia is an absolute dynamo on stage."

L.A. JAZZ SCENE

"Kátia's voice can be powerful and heartfelt, coy and compelling, expansive or intimate."

THE BRAZILIAN MUSIC REVIEW

"Moraes, always an irrepressibly effervescent performer..."

LOS ANGELES TIME

"Leapfrogging from straight pagode to funk-ed-out samba to rock, Kátia's hearty vocal cords dominate..."

THE BEAT

"(...) But there ain't a Brazilian singer in town who is as irresistible as Katia Moraes.

Crowds go nuts when she performs. The energy, the charisma, the sheer joy of Brazilian music just fills a space."

LA WEEKLY