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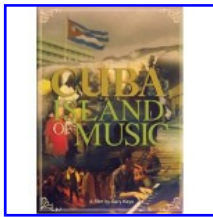
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[Cuba: Island of Music \(MVD Visual\)](#)

By

[Upchuck Undergrind](#)

– September 26, 2011 **Posted in:** [Reviews](#)



There is a deep tie between New York City and Havana: It is the connection of Cuban culture. “Cuba: Island of Music” is more than just the music doc the title suggests. I mean, yes, this is a music documentary, but culture is such a thing of intertwining, that it’s impossible to talk about music of a nation – Cuba, for example – without talking about Cuban culture. Geographically, the Cuban focus is on Havana, and there is a particular musical focus on Afro-Cuban musical culture. Without saying anything else, I could tout this DVD simply for the wealth of lively music, but there’s also the chance to hear jazz greats talk about Havana and its music. Of particular importance is the element of dancing. As one interviewee says, in Cuba, there is no distinction, really, between music and dancing, a cultural arts view that sets itself apart from European and American viewpoints, which regard dancing as related but not the same as, music. For Cubans, the two are too inextricably entwined to try to separate. And since I did mention that culture at large gets a peek here, I should note that even Havana car culture warrants mention in “Cuba: Island of Music.” Gary Keys again shows his incredible passion for Afrocentric music in this, one of his most interesting films.

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