

TEATRO89 - the multi-genre theatre under the artistic direction of co-founders Frank Valdes and Galina Kiryan presents ***Once in Havana*** - a musical theater production full of dance.

The opening night took place in Almaty on **September 28, 2024** in Russian and was followed by three more shows.

The **English** version of the show premieres in Almaty on **February 22, 2025** at **7:00 PM** in the Orken studio at **38 Abdullinykh St.**

Duration: 80 minutes with no intermission

Rating: PG (Suggested for ages 16 and up)

***Language: English

Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://ticketon.kz/almaty/event/once-in-havana-teatro89>

Once in Havana is a production full of music and dance, a kaleidoscope of memories based on an original script by Kazakhstani-Cuban director and choreographer Frank Valdes.

This story is about **Cuba**, a place that—though draped in passions, brightness, and color—offers more than meets the eye.

The plot revolves around **gifted musicians** who became founders of Cuban and Latin American music and shared their sounds all over the world.

This is a story about **love**: multifaceted, sincere and pure. Such love is not tied to a place and does not end.

This is a story about **dreams**. Are they destined to come true?

This is a story of **each one of us**, regardless of country, culture or time in which we live. Though oceans may divide us, the similarities we share far outweigh our differences.

This is a story about **hope** and the ever-present opportunity to change something in yourself, your environment and your society. Before it's too late and without delay, be the change.

Only by pushing through fears, obstacles, and constraints to achieve our dreams can we confidently say, "**My world will never be the same.**"

Poster: Alina Murzagaliyeva

The official opening of **TEATRO89** took place on **August 5, 2023**.

Once in Havana is a play co-created by Frank and Galina, who also act as main characters alongside other talented artists.

Leads:

Galina Kiryan
Frank Valdes

Dancers:

Alina Murzagaliyeva
Alisher Bazarov
Alexey Semenov
Artem Geidt
Valeria Shavela
Olga Semenova

To learn more about the theater, our events, contacts and social networks:
<https://taplink.cc/teatro89>

About Frank Valdes (scriptwriter, director & actor)

Frank Valdes is a Kazakhstani dance director/choreographer and performer from Almaty of Cuban origin.

He graduated from the Cuban People's School of Arts in 2005, specializing in Professional Dance and Choreography.

In 2007, he began teaching dance at the National Dance Academy in Cuba.

Since 2009, Frank has been living and working in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

About Galina Kiryan (script editor, producer & lead actress)

Galina Kiryan is an actress, singer and creative producer originally from Almaty.

Galina received her Bachelor of Social Sciences and Master of International Relations degrees from KIMEP University.

She has more than 24 years of experience in performing arts, public speaking and on stage work, including KELT, an Almaty-based Kazakhstan English Language Theater.

She is a vocalist in the Ruby Jasper Trio.

In 2019, she was cast in the Broadway group of Yes Academy/American Voices, a project supported by the US Consulate of Kazakhstan.