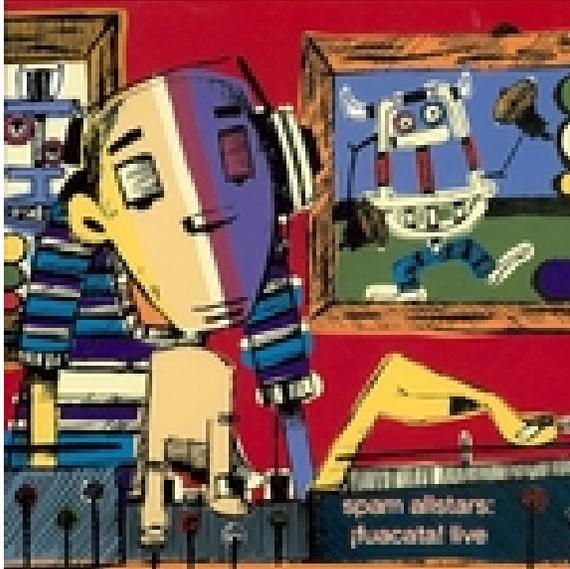


SPAM ALLSTARS: ¡FUACATA!



David Orth
2009
Florida Focus
72 Min.
USA
English, Spanish with English subtitles

“¡Fuacata!” an interjection of Cuban Spanish origin loosely translated as “POW!” or “WHAM!” is the name of notorious weekly club night in Miami’s Little Havana. The Spam Allstars, a unique band that blends Latin, hip-hop, and dubs with improvisational electronic elements and turntables, perform there. Their sound exemplifies the spirit of Miami, gathering the energy that shimmers on the street like heat haze. The band has come a long way since Montreal transplant named Andrew Yeomanson (better known as DJ Le Spam) formed the first scaled-down incarnation 16 years ago. This film is their story.

BASIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think the film is trying to show or say?
- What other messages did you find in the film beyond music?
- Is there such a thing as “pure” or “authentic” culture?



- Do you think the band members' varied cultural backgrounds have played a role in their music? If so, how?
- What is cultural diversity? Is cultural diversity something to celebrate and support? Why or why not?
- How does language influence art and art influence language?
- Can you give some examples of how cultural diversity has played a role in your life?
- Do you think the band was seeking fame and fortune when they decided to embark on this journey?
- Does music impact politics?
- What kind of impact can music with Cuban roots have on Cubans in and outside of Cuba?

DEEPER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What can we do to encourage more cultural exchanges?
- Do you think that art and music can play a positive role in bridging cultural gaps?
- How many different types of music do you like?
- Do you think people should experience a variety of music styles?
- What rhythms and musical styles from other countries/world regions have influenced music in the US?

FUTHER RESEARCH FOR DISCUSSION

- What do you know about the music industry in Miami?
- How does the Miami music industry directly connect us to Latin America and the Caribbean?
- Does Miami have a unique ability to educate others outside of Florida about Latin America and the Caribbean? Why or why not? How?



For more information about the music industry or how to become a musician, visit these websites:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Become-a-musician>

<http://www.musicians-professional-resources.com/>

<http://lpmusic.com/>

STANDARDS

Main standards covered include Florida State K9-12: **Language Arts, Geography, Science, World Issues, Current Events**

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