

# LA TROBA KUNG-FÚ

Inside the ox's belly

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CLAVELL MORENET  
RUMBIA AT ERNESTO'S (live)  
A LA PANXA DEL BOU

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# LA TROBA KUNG-FÚ

## Inside the ox's belly



photos: David Ruano & Paco Amate

Once upon a time, or maybe twice, there was a little troubadour who lived in the village where the Saligarda wind blew. When the sun was up and shining the weather was really nice; but by sunset Saligarda started to blow and it got cooler and cooler: so cool you had to wear a hat, a hood or a barretina. The wind was so annoying that by midnight you couldn't find an open tavern.

The little troubadour used to walk around searching and finding melodies, and on his quest he made up songs that said: "Tss, tss! Hey, I am here but you can't see me." However, our little troubadour just couldn't stay put for too long, and got bored easily. And the village just seemed to get smaller and smaller.



"Goodbye red carnation, goodbye day star". And so he went singing along to the Barcelona airport to explore New York, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Mexico and other continents unknown and far, far away. Throughout his journey, he met other travellers just as cheerful as he was: Matxo Mutxatxo, who was always so hot he travelled with a fanning guitar; the Canovelles Marques, a real expert in machinery, soccer and gastronomy; Marià Roch, a simple man who had overcome a strong addiction to cane syrup; Flor, who possessed a serpent ointment with the power to cure all pains of the body and soul; Pep Terricabras, wise on rhythms and drums; and Luis, the six strings genius, capable of dancing with only one eyebrow. They all run around the world and helped the little troubadour find new songs. In New York he dreamt of "Subway walk" and "María Hernández", in Mexico he



joined the words of "Y se ríe la muerte" and "Yo soy", in Madrid he found the "Petit rumbero" and "Les mil i una rumbes"; and in Barcelona, "Barcelona". Back in the land of the Saligarda, they had suffered of a long winter full of people wrapped up in clothes; followed by an exuberant springtime. By then, the troubadour came back home and "Flor de primavera" fell on his hands, as he watched the ginesta bloom at Puiggraciós. Once he had travelled all around the world and all songs were found, he needed to record them before they flew away from his memory, as they were very volatile. Our little troubadour decided then to go down into the subway, wander about its alleys and walk around where movement and light of day don't get you distracted. He wrote songs endlessly, on small black notebooks with a thick worn out pencil. He wrote so many songs that Destiny, curious as no other, wanted to steal one away from him on a flight between Girona and Brussels; one that nobody had found before. They say it is still travelling. Once he had written them all, he called all his travelling partners to play and sing them, together with six gypsies and six bonfires. When the party was over, crisis rain was pouring down, so the seven troubadours took shelter under the big Fournier cabbage.

And a quiet beast swallowed the big Fournier cabbage. Inside the ox's belly there is no rain or snow, and it all moves around. In there, they saw their whole trip pass in front of their eyes. As if life was about to end: every corner's smell, balconies were buttons and big cities' streets were hidden behind imagined landscapes. A jasmine's explosion, turning rumba into symphony; and New York scents of subway allies, starting where LED sound mixers' skyscrapers end.

Inside the ox's belly, it doesn't matter how many awards you received, how many concerts you have performed. This is a ludicrous certainty: happiness is an illusion. And there has been many ox's bellies: Troutman street's basement at Bushwick, Brooklin (NY); hotel rooms at Tepoztlan, Guanajuato and Leon's hotels (Mexico); Figueres' MusicLan; casa Founier in La Garriga; Cesar Cisneros' recording studio, at Poble Nou, Barcelona; and at the "what a mess" attic, in Calabria.

When everything seemed to come to an end: patim, patam, patum! With a huge fart of the beast they all went flying, together with their friends the Hunter and the Gravedigger.

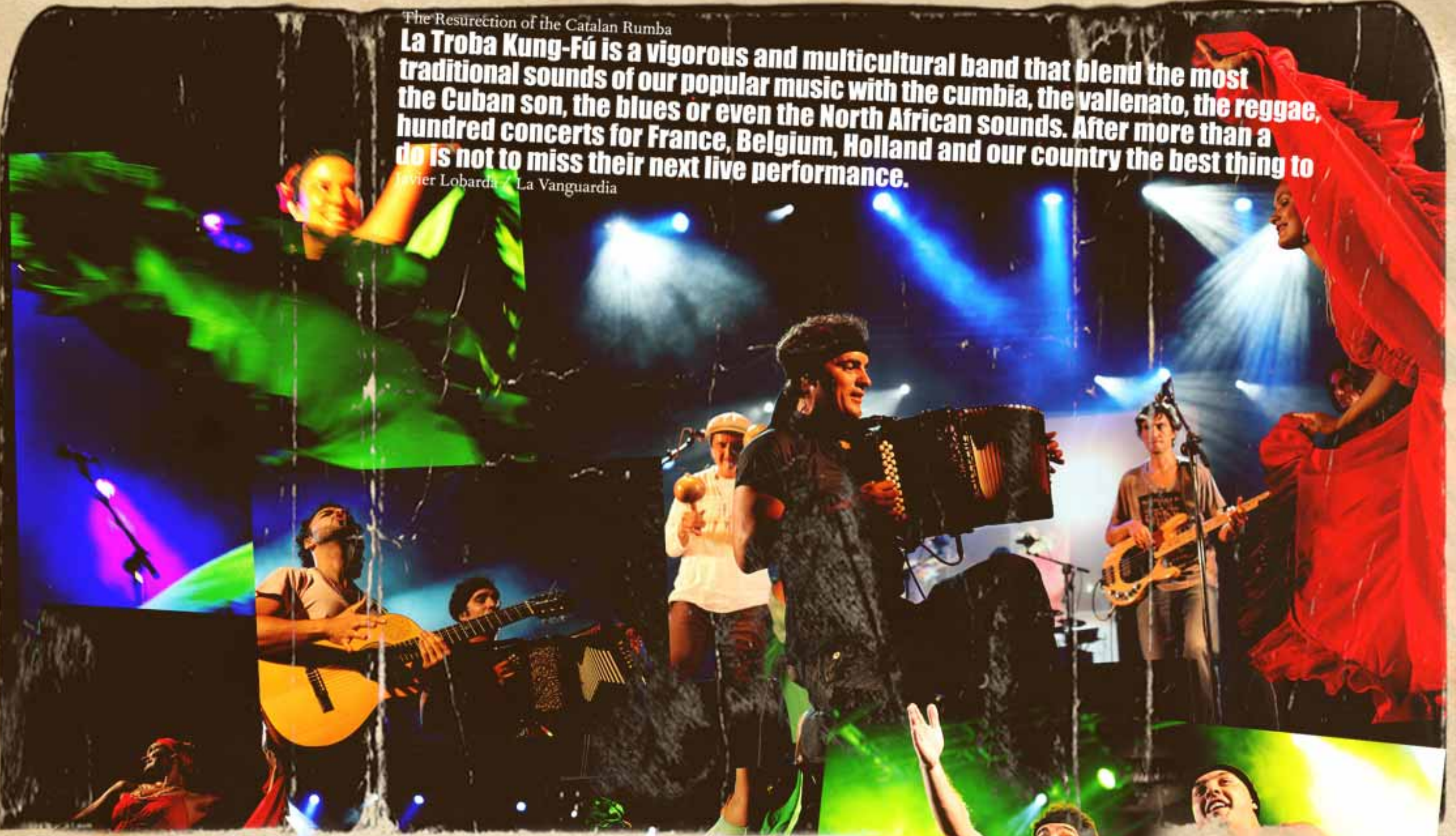
Now, the little troubadour has fulfilled his eagerness to travel. But not too much. So he'll have to go out there again, singing with his six partners, and teaching all songs searched and found here and there.



The Resurrection of the Catalan Rumba

**La Troba Kung-Fú is a vigorous and multicultural band that blend the most traditional sounds of our popular music with the cumbia, the vallenato, the reggae, the Cuban son, the blues or even the North African sounds. After more than a hundred concerts for France, Belgium, Holland and our country the best thing to do is not to miss their next live performance.**

Peter Lobarda / La Vanguardia



**Catalan Squeeze. Blowing in from Spain, La Troba Kung-Fú accordion-led mestizo-music set UK stages on fire recently.**

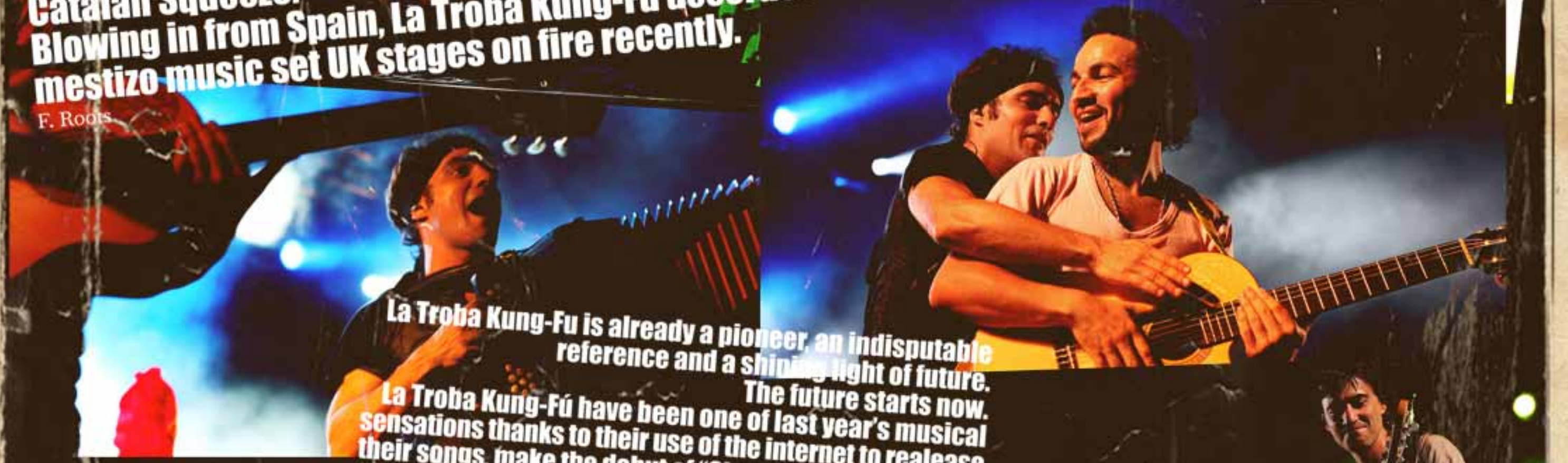
F. Roots



**La Troba Kung-Fu is already a pioneer, an indisputable reference and a shining light of future.**

**The future starts now. La Troba Kung-Fú have been one of last year's musical sensations thanks to their use of the internet to release their songs, make the debut of "Clavell Morenet" as their first long play. A splendid record in which the accumulated wisdom of Joan has transformed into intelligent, credible and not opportunist crossover.**

Jordi Turtós / Rockola



**A pair of Spanish acts bring their "outré" sounds to the dance floor. First up is Barcelona's La Troba Kung-Fú, which mixes rumba, cumbia, dub, and the kitchen sink. This is the first time the band is playing the United States.**

The New Yorker



The other Catalan rumba of La Troba Kung-Fú  
Rumba / World Music

**More than a year ago La Troba started on their website a series of bulletines, which every 15 days, allowed us to download a song and read loads of information they had prepared for their debut record "Clavell Morenet".**

Jordi Nopca / Mondosonoro



# EDITED MUSIC CD's



CLAVELL MORENET  
(P) & (C) LA TROBA KUNG-FÚ 2006



RUMBIA AT ERNESTO'S  
(P) & (C) MUSIC MACHINE RECORDS 2009



A LA PANXA DEL BOU  
(P) & (C) CHESAPIK & LA TROBA KUNG-FÚ 2010

## MUSIC AWARDS

ENDERROCK AWARD \* BEST RECORD COVER (CLAVELL MORENET) 2006  
PUIG PORRET AWARD \* BEST BAND 2007  
CIUTAT DE BARCELONA AWARD \* MUSIC & NEW TECHNOLOGIES 2007  
ALTAVEU AWARD \* ECHO AND INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS 2007  
ARC AWARDS \* BEST WORLD MUSIC BAND 2009

## SOME OUTSTANDING CONCERTS

LOWLANDS FESTIVAL (BIDDINGHUIZEN/HOLLAND) LA LINEA FESTIVAL (LONDON/UK) APAP - GLOBAL FEST. (NYC/US) DANCE FLOOR  
LINCOLN CENTER (NYC/US) KULTURAMA (LEUVEN/BELGIUM) AIRBAG FESTIVAL (BRUGES/BELGIUM) LE GRAND SOUFFLET  
(RENNES/FRANCE) WAZZEMMES ACCORDION FEST. (LILLE/FRANCE) BABEL MED FEST (MARSEILLE/FRANCE) POPKOMM FEST  
(BERLIN/GERMANY) ARIANO FOLK FESTIVAL (ARIANO/ITALY) FESTIVAL ESPERANZAH (NAMUR/BELGIUM) FOLKLORE FEST  
(KREFELD/GERMANY) ZOMERPARKFEEST (VENLO/HOLLAND) VALKHOF AFFAIRE (NIJMEGEN/HOLLAND)  
FESTICHAN (ARQUIÑA/SPAIN) VIÑROCK (VALENCIA/SPAIN) FESTIVAL AFROLATINO (OPITTER/BELGIUM) WOMAD CANARIAS  
(CANARY ISLANDS/SPAIN) FLAMENCO FESTIVAL AT CCCB (BARCELONA/CATALONIA) FESTIVAL F'ESTIVES RIBÈOUSSE  
(PONTACQ/FRANCE) CERVANTINO FESTIVAL (GUANAJUATO, LEÓN, CAMPECHE/MEXICO) LES MÉTERRANÉNNES (ARGELÈS SUR MER/FRANCE)  
SZIGET FESTIVAL (BUDAPEST/HUNGARY) ETNIVAL (GIRONA/CATALONIA) WERELDFEEST (LEUVEN/BELGIUM) FESTIVAL  
SUSTRAIEZ BLAI (ORDIZIA/EUSKAL HERRIA) ALTAVEU FESTIVAL (SANT BOI/CATALONIA) OPENNING CEREMONY EUROPEAN  
ATHLETICS (BARCELONA/CATALONIA) NOCHE BLANCA (MADRID/SPAIN) CRUÏLA DE CULTURES (BARCELONA/CATALONIA) POLÉ  
POLÉ (GENT/BELGIUM) MMVV (VIC/CATALONIA) GREC FESTIVAL (BARCELONA/CATALONIA) FESTIVAL ALEGRIA (CHEFCHAOUEN /MOROCCO)

\*You can visit: [www.latrobakungfu.net](http://www.latrobakungfu.net)

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