



Boxing and Latin beats meet at Bronx forum

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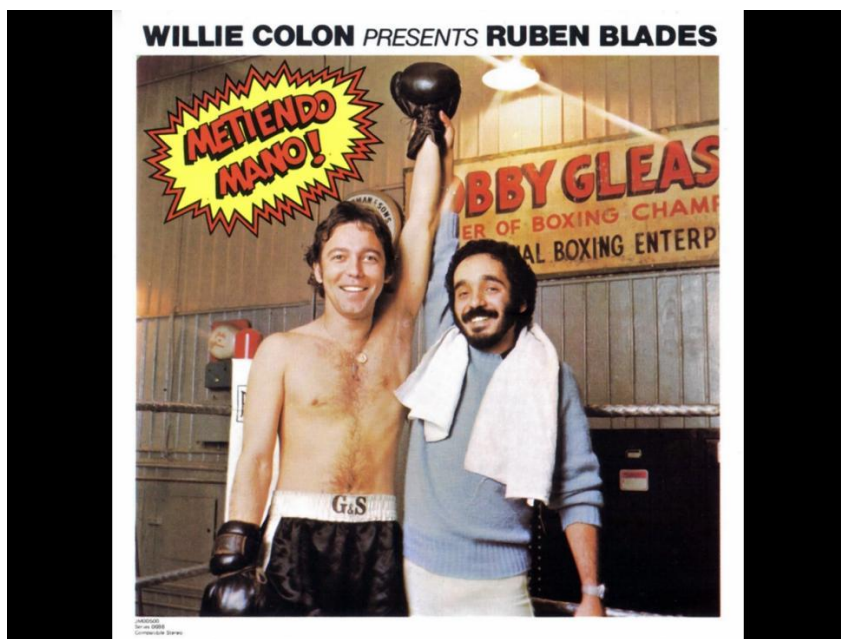
BY DENIS SLATTERY

Thursday, September 18, 2014, 6:41 PM

The overlapping histories of boxing and Latin music in the Bronx will be on display at the Bronx Music Heritage Center Saturday.

The links between the sweet science and salsa will be explored at a free event, dubbed “TKOs and Timbales,” which will feature live boxing, movie screenings and a performance by Bronx Latin music legend Orlando Marin.

Carlos Ortiz, 78, a two-time former lightweight world champion, will participate in a panel discussion about the glory days of the music scene, in the 1950s and 1960s.



1 Cover of the 1977 Willie Colon and Ruben Blades album *Metiendo Mano* shot at Bobby Gleason's boxing gym

Ortiz owned the massive, mirrored dance hall known as the Tropicoro Club on Longwood Ave.



2 An undated photo of boxer Carlos Ortiz dancing with a female fan.

The South Bronx staple was a favorite performance venue for Latin music stars such as Tito Puente and Willie Colon.

“That was the first club I ever went to,” recalled Julio Pabon, a South Bronx activist and founder of latinosports.com. “There’s so much musical history in the Bronx, especially for Latinos.”

Filmmaker Leon Gast will also be on hand for a screening of “When We Were Kings,” his award-winning documentary about the legendary 1974 “Rumble in the Jungle” between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman.

TKOs and Timbales: The Intersection of Boxing and Music, Bronx Music Heritage Center, Saturday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., 1303 Louis Nine Blvd. For more information, visit: www.whedco.org