

# jaleolé

: ATLANTA'S VOICE OF FLAMENCO :

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## Happy Birthday jaleolé!

### Atlanta's Voice of Flamenco Turns 1

Light the candles and let's start singing, "Happy Birthday to you!"

jaleolé.com celebrated one year online on January 27. It's a big moment for everyone who has taken part in publishing the e-magazine during the past year.

jaleolé was first published by local flamenco dancers Rina Menosky and Julie Baggenstoss. The women wanted to help their students and fellow aficionados a way to connect with the art and each other through articles, a calendar of events and the photo-rich "ayayay" section.



**Rina Menosky and Julie Baggenstoss, jaleolé editors, express their gratitude to the Atlanta flamenco community for everyone's support and articles/photos contributions.**

Menosky likened the site to "a warm cup of coffee" back on January 27, 2004. She said, "It's friendly and open, and reflects our rich flamenco community."

"If jaleolé is like a cup of coffee, then the flavor is now more 'full-bodied.'" Members of the flamenco community contributed to more than half of our first 12 editions. Contributions ranged from creative writing to reviews of shows in other cities to photos, and even an ongoing fitness column by dancer and instructor Gloriela Rosas," says Baggenstoss. "It's a wonderful testament of how active our community is and the connections that are happening."

**To celebrate a successful year online and to continue connecting**

**flamenco aficionados in Atlanta, jaleolé is hosting a student expo in the spring of 2005. Dance and music teachers are inviting their students, young and old, to perform in the city-wide event. Meantime, jaleolé invites friends and families of the performers to come see a spectacular showcase of flamenco talent, slated for sometime in May or June. Visit jaleole again in coming weeks for more details as they are released.**

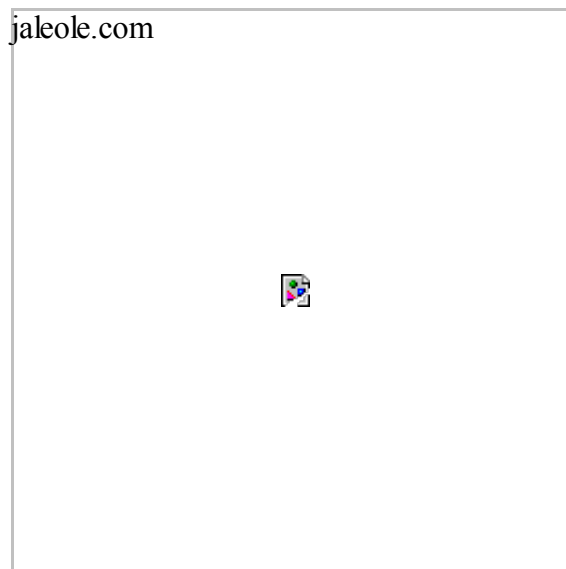
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## 2004 In Pictures

**Select your favorite flamenco moment of 2004.**

jaleolé was THE place to find reviews and photos of flamenco performances in Atlanta in 2004. Staff and contributors captured the excitement and power of flamenco, as well as heart-felt moments between close flamenco friends. jaleolé selected nine of those images to tell the story of Atlanta flamenco people in 2004 -- in pictures.

Now, you can complete that story by voting for your favorite flamenco moment of 2004. **Click on the below thumbnails to browse the 2004 images, then select your favorite in the poll below.** See who the winner is in February's issue of jaleolé!



*Sorry, Web poll no longer active.*

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## Atlanta's Past

**Flamenco is a young art in the city of Atlanta.**

In celebrating its birthday, jaleolé takes a look back at the history of flamenco in Atlanta, with the help of flamenco veterans Martha SidAhmed and Farzan "Fernando" Kendrick. Much like the art in the rest of the world, flamenco is relatively young in our southern city.

It wasn't until the 1980s that major artists started performing in Atlanta, and even then, the shows were sporadic and obscure. "Paco de Lucia appeared in a nightclub in Decatur one night," remembers SidAhmed of that period in Atlanta. She recalls in the years that followed that show, artists including La Conja, Pedro Cortes and Vicente Amigo popped up in unlikely venues through the new millennium.

Even though major acts were uncommon through the 1980s, SidAhmed and Kendrick, along with other local flamencos, were sought after artists for Atlanta area festivals and special events. In the following decade, they appeared regularly at local restaurant Don Juan's, which closed in the late 1990s. "It was difficult to get reservations on flamenco show nights. You couldn't even drop a penny and have it hit the ground," Kendrick remembers of the shows.

Their weekly appearances may have paved the way for major artists to visit the city on a more regular basis.

Atlanta now enjoys shows by major flamenco artists at least once a year, in addition to frequent workshops by major artists and performances by locals several times a month. The vibrant flamenco scene took a long time to build, and now those involved - from aficionados to professionals - are striving to take the community to its next level. What is that level? We'll have to wait and see, since the passionate people of flamenco are also driven dreamers.

## 25 Years of Flamenco in Atlanta

### SPANISH HISTORY FOR PERSPECTIVE

- 1400s** **First** record of flamenco in Spain, but no one is certain of exactly when it was born
- Late 1800s** **Cafe** Cantantes open in Spain, featuring public performances by 'professional' flamenco artists & pushing flamenco into the commercial arena for the first time
- 1950s** **Further** commercialization of flamenco, with curious tourists entering post-war Spain and flamenco artists venturing to more and more countries
- 1960s-80s** **Flamenco** festivals established across Spain

### ATLANTA HISTORY FOR THE RECORD

- 1979** **Dancer/teacher** Martha SidAhmed moves to Atlanta, a city with little evidence of Spanish culture
  - 1980s** **SidAhmed** begins teaching classes to adults at a Buckhead studio & performs with local artists, including symphony musician Juan Ramirez, at festivals and other events
  - 1983** **SidAhmed** hosts Atlanta's first flamenco theater show, featuring guitarist Paco Pena, who also gave a workshop to some 30 guitarists while in town
- SidAhmed** connects with Seville natives Charo Monje and Marisol Fuentes, then living in Athens: the group commutes for iueraas until

...entire, the group continues for jaleole.com.  
Charo and Marisol move away

- Mid 1990s** **Guitarist** Farzan "Fernando" Kendrick moves to Atlanta, begins working with a variety of dancers and performs at festivals, school demonstrations and other events.
- Kendrick** connects with local artists SidAhmed, Spanish brother-sister duo Paqui, Rueda a singer, and Pepe, a dancer, to form group Raices Flamenco
- Weekly** shows at Spanish restaurant, Don Juan's, featuring Kendrick, SidAhmed and other local artists
- Guitarist** Witold Tulodziecki moves to Atlanta and establishes Atlanta Flamenco Productions, a business dedicated to flamenco performance, education and promotion
- 1997** **SidAhmed** begins teaching children and adults at the Atlanta Ballet, marking a milestone for flamenco dance awareness in Atlanta
- 2000** **Dancer/teacher** Ulrika Frank moves to Atlanta
- 2000** **Pasión** Flamenca is created and performs weekly at Midtown tapas restaurant Andalúz; Group members are Frank, Tulodziecki, Seville-born singer Carmen Deal, percussionist Jerry Fields and bassist Mike Cady
- Caló** Gitano forms with members Kendrick and dancer Malita Belloso
- 2001** **Dance** company Perla Flamenca forms with 12 members under the direction of Frank
- Pasión** Flamenca produces iVIVIR!, which is showcased in theaters through the following year
- 2003** **Caló** Gitano works monthly at Balance Restaurant in Midtown
- Perla** Flamenca stages first company theater show, Olas Flamencas
- Perla** Flamenca company members begin teaching classes across Atlanta
- 2004** **Perla** Flamenca works monthly at Gilbert's Mediterranean Café; Atlanta Flamenco Productions appears weekly at Compound nightclub and Barcelona Restaurant
- jaleolé.com launches
- 2005** jaleolé.com celebrates 1 year anniversary

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