

Throwback: Wyclef Jean - Guantanamera featuring Celia Cruz, Lauryn Hill & Jeni Fujita



Wyclef Jean's version of "Guantanamera" featuring Queen of Salsa Celia Cruz, Lauryn Hill and Jeni Fujita appears on his first solo album, *Wyclef Jean Presents The Carnival*. Cruz had recorded the song about Cuban patriotism several times before working with Jean on his version. He changed the lyrics to a tale about a beautiful woman, and Hill rapped about her power over men. Culturally, "Guantanamera" had Cuban, Haitian, and African-American references, making Jean's tribute unlike any other. The video was played heavily on MTV, and the single

received a Grammy nomination. *The Carnival* was critically acclaimed and it performed by music industry metrics. But most importantly, the album connected with people worldwide and Jean created a legendary collaboration with Cruz. Jean's solo debut does not sound like any other rap album and "Guanatanamera" is still a favorite from his catalog because of its warmth and originality. Jean released *Wyclef Goes Back To School Volume 1* in 2019, and it is his 9th solo album. The Fugees reunited at The Roots' 2023 picnic for the first time since their 2021 Global Citizen Festival performance.