

## A Samba for Pierre Fatumbi Verger

*Antonella Rita Roscilli*

### **Abstract**

In 1998 the carioca School of Samba “União da Ilha”, In occasion of the great Carnival parades in Rio de Janeiro, dedicated to Pierre Fatumbi Verger a whole *bloco* (group of costumes/masks) with the title “Fatumbi, a Ilha de Todos os Santos”.

The *bloco* began with this presentation:

*“It's the deserved homage*

*that the União da Ilha*

*offers to the Bahian-African-French Pierre Fatumbi Verger Oju Obà”*

The presentation was signed in Bahia by a group of distinguished personalities: Jorge Amado, Carybé, Dorival Caymmi, Estela de Oxossi, Ilê do Axé Opô Afonjã, Balbino do Ilê Agaujù.

During the parade, the participants sang and danced a samba enredo entitled “*Fatumbi, a Ilha de Todos os Santos*”, composed for the occasion by Almir da Ilha, Mauricio 100 e Marcio André:

**Key-words:** dance, group of masks, Pierre Fatumbi Verger

Vem brilhar  
un Dom divino  
na regência de Ifá  
Nasce o filho do destino  
E com a Ilha atravessa o mar  
O navio é negreiro  
E na vinda vêm os orixás  
Pra surgir nossos terreiros  
Da cultura Iorubá Nagô  
Se entrega por inteiro  
E se tornou  
Babalaô, homem branco feiticeiro  
Negro chora e negro ri, amor, amor  
Negro é raça, negro é grito  
Negro é tão bonito  
Fatumbi fotografou  
E com Jubiabá na memória  
Muda sua trajetória  
Vem-se embora

E da Bahia faz o seu canto  
Se torna filho de santo  
De Mãe Senhora  
E sua obra no candomblé  
Mostra a força do nosso axé  
E a grandeza dessa nação  
Iluminado  
Pela paz de Oxalá  
É luz que brilha, com seu encanto  
É Ilha de Todos os Santos  
Vem ver, vem ver  
A bateria arrepiar  
Xirê, Sapucaí vai tremer  
Pra Fatumbi Ojuobá

Comes to illuminate  
A divine gift  
In the kingdom of Ifà  
Is born the son of destiny  
And with the Ilha he crosses the sea  
The boat is a slave ship  
And also the Orixas are travelling  
To make our terreiros rise  
Of the iorubà nagô  
he totally devotes  
And becomes  
Babalão, white witch-doctor man

Negro cries, Negro laughs, love, love,  
Negro is race, Negro is scream  
Negro is so beautiful  
Fatumbi photographed it

And with Jubiabá in memory  
Changes his journey  
He comes away  
And makes of Bahia his corner  
He becomes filho de santo  
Of Mãe Senhora  
And his work in the candomblé  
Shows the strength of our axé

And the greatness of this country  
Illuminated  
By the peace of Oxalá  
Is light that shines, with his enchantment  
Is Ilha de Todos os Santos

Come and see, come and see  
The bateria gives the shivers to  
Xiré, Sapucaí will tremble  
For Fatumbi Oju Obá

**Antonella Rita Roscilli** is a journalist and Brazilianist, she has collaborated with various journals, amongst which 'Latinoamerica e tutti i Sud del mondo' directed by Gianni Minà, and with Italian institutions such as the *Fondazione Basso* and l'ANPI that deals with cultural themes of Latin America (in particular Brazil) and portuguese speaking Africa. She has published various articles in Italian newspapers. Her degree from Rome University 'La Sapienza' in Brazilian literature, her thesis was on the writer Zélia Gattai Amado.

She works as a documentarist for RAI Italian television.

E-Mail : a.roscelli@tin.it