

# *Famous Cuban entertainers: Roberto Faz*

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Roberto Faz was born on September 18, 1914 in Regla, across the bay from Havana. He was a Cuban singer and musician who reached the height of his popularity during the 1950s and early 1960s. Like his contemporary Benny Moré, he specialized in many forms of Cuban music such as son, guaracha and bolero.

Bus driver, bartender, in his youth Roberto struggled to survive in the popular neighborhood of Regla. Eventually he tried his luck as a singer in bars and cabarets of Old Havana and ended up being hired when he was 13 in a *septeto juvenil*, where he even played the marimbula. Two other youth groups welcome him, the "TROPICAL" and sexteto Ricardo CABANA.

The young Roberto admired trumpeter Felix Chapottin and he met with him whenever the opportunity arose. The result was that he progressed musically under Chapottin's tutelage. He joined the famous Conjunto Casino in 1944 where he sang alongside Agustín Ribot and Roberto Espí, and he began to enjoy enormous popularity.

This is the beginning of a story that will last until 1956, with recordings, radio broadcasts, and tours.

The success of "Casino" with Roberto was widespread, and he was the author of popular songs such as "Te traigo mi son", "El pregón de la montaña", and especially "Píntate los labios María."

In 1956 he left the Casino to establish his own conjunto, where he sang with Orlando Reyes and Roeangel Rodríguez "Rolito". Roberto played the famous Ali Bar with some of the major players of popular music, Fernando Álvarez, Orlando VALLEJO, Lourdes Torres and Benny MORÉ with whom he sang in the duo bolero "Obsesion". Roberto also sang at the Tropicana in 1965 in the show Tu música. He continued to tour and record with his band until his death in 1966.



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