WHY SOME PEOPLE THINK

CELIA CRUZ
IS TOM’S MOTHER.

KIDS DON’T GET ENOUGH ART THESE DAYS. Which is why some of them think that a certain international Cuban star is the mother of an international movie star – simply because their last names sound the same. But the similarities stop there.

Celia Cruz didn’t start off as the Queen of Salsa. In her homeland of Cuba, Celia honed her unique vocal style with La Sonora Matancera, the Latin equivalent of the Duke Ellington Orchestra. She proved that women could sell as many records as men. And when she immigrated to the United States, she joined forces with the Latin headliner Tito Puente. But it was in 1973 at Carnegie Hall when Celia burst onto the concert stage wearing flamboyant costumes, jewelry and wigs with a voice that brought down the house. Salsa music had arrived.

Musicians as varied as the Fania All-Stars, David Byrne and Willie Colon all wanted to work with her. She brought salsa music to the world. Every hot and spicy bit of it.

Art in any language has the ability to open minds. In fact, the more art kids get, the more knowledgeable they become in subjects like math and science. The result is that your kids will grow up to be well-rounded adults. Which is music to any parent’s ears. For the Ten Simple Ways to get more art in kids’ lives, visit AmericansForTheArts.org.

In order to become larger-than-life Latin superstar, you must take some risks.

The undisputed Queen of Salsa. Funny, she doesn’t look like a hot sauce.