

OTELO DA MANGUEIRA

CULTURAL GLOSSARY

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Ala das Baianas - a section of the carnival parade which pay tribute to the older ladies of samba schools who had harbored samba school components when samba was marginalized. The women wear the traditional dress from the state of Bahia.

Alfalo - Tarmac/Asphalt - where the well-to-do people from Rio de Janeiro live.

Avenida - (avenue) refers to Sapucaí Avenue (or Sambadrome), where Rio's carnival parade takes place.

Barracão - samba school industrial workshop where all costumes, props and floats for the parade are made.

Bateria - a percussion instrument ensemble in a bloco or samba school.

Batucada - a spontaneous drum playing gathering. Usually found on many corners around Rio during carnival or other festivities.

Cidadão do samba (Citizen Samba)- A title awarded to a samba professional who stands out.

Comissão de frente - the front of a samba school. It is normally formed by fifteen to twenty people who introduce the plot and salute the public.

Compadre - an informal way to refer to a friend; buddy

Crioulo - a person of African ancestry.

Diretor da Harmonia - Director of Harmony at a Samba School.

Enredo – the plot, where a story is told, or the theme of a samba school parade.

Favela – shantytown, especially in Rio de Janeiro.

Gafieira – from the French *gaffe* (blunder). It alludes to the ballrooms and bars where the urban working class of Rio de Janeiro has partied since the early 1900s.

Harmonia - is the interplay between rhythm and singing while a samba school parades

Mangueira – a traditional samba school from Rio de Janeiro.

Mestre- Salas – a master of ceremonies

Morro – hillside where the poorer people from the *favelas* live.

Malandro – a rogue from Rio; street smart; an urban street hustler.

Mãe de Santo – a female priestess and guardian of the knowledge of Candomblé, Umbanda and Quimbanda, Afro Brazilian religions. They can also function as healers and work with magic.

Pai de Santo – a male priest of Afro-Brazilian religions such as Umbanda, Candomblé and Quimbanda.

Porta- Estandarte/ Porta-bandeira – a flag bearer or carrier, dressed in a court attire.

Puxador – (puller) the lead-singer who sings the theme song in the parade, leading all the other samba school components.

Surdo – Brazilian bass drum, the heart of a *bateria*.

Terreiro – samba court; also a Candomblé or Umbanda temple.