

Tango

N O T I C I A S

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Tango Noticias Web Site
www.tangonoticias.com

Volume 2, Issue 8

August, 2001

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Review Issue



CHICAGO EVENTS CALENDAR

Events

August

9th - Ravinia Concert of "Los Tangueros," Picnic Buffet, and Dancing

Martin Theatre at Ravinia Festival, Highland Park

It takes two to tango -- two pianos, that is. Bring your picnic dinner and dancing shoes.

This concert will take place in the Martin Theatre and will be broadcast to the lawn via the large speakers that are also used for pavilion concerts. The Ravinia staff says we are welcome to come and dance outside to this concert. There is a large area between the theatre and the pavilion, which has a soft rubber surface and an area in front of the theatre, which is paved and both of these can be used as dance spaces.

Relatively few people come to picnic during Martin concerts, so there will be lots of room for us to set up a big picnic buffet and enjoy the beauty of Ravinia, the music, dancing and socializing over good food and liquids (wine etc. is permitted in the park).

If you have never been to Ravinia you are missing one of the reasons to live in the Chicago area; there is no more beautiful place to be on a summer night. Admission to the park is \$10. Tickets for anyone who might want to sit inside for the concert are available through the Ravinia box office.

The park opens at 5pm, the concert begins at 8pm. Let's plan to meet there, set up a lovely picnic near the dance space and enjoy tango under the stars.

Contact Beth Braun at bethdanceb@aol.com or tango-paratodos.com for more information.

10th Milonga Madness at Tango...nada mas

6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago

Back by popular demand! Come for a one hour milonga lesson and stay for a practica. Bob and Kathleen will start a half hour early at 7:30 pm and teach milonga style and sequences. There will be milonga music emphasized at the practica. All for one great price of \$15. Don't miss out! Contact Bob Dronski 773.792.2099 or tango-nadamas.com for details.

11th & 12th, 18th & 19th Sean and Yanira Beginning and Advanced Workshops

Latin Street Dancing, 540 North La Salle, Chicago

Sean and Yanira will offer workshops over two weekends teaching both fundamentals and advanced topics to students of all levels at Latin Street Dancing. See the ad on page 12 of this month's issue for more details.

17th & 18th Tango Danza performs "Cuatro" First Time in Chicago

North Shore Center for Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tango Danza, under the direction of Leandro Palou and Andrea Misse, present "Cuatro," the choreographic exploration of tango, ranging from lightning speed leg movements to sophisticated sensual embraces, from dark and supernatural presence to warrior-like choreographies. Fire, Water, Air and Earth will be the elements that will take you through this magical night!

Making their US home locally, Tango Danza is making their first full production performance in the Chicagoland area. Come see Leandro, Andrea, Gabriel, Sol, Diego, Vanesa, and latest member, Olga. Tickets are now on sale: \$22.50 - \$40.50 and available through the *Center For Performing Arts* box office at 847.673.6300. The Center is located across from the Old Orchard Shopping Center and next to DoubleTree Hotel. Free parking.

August 19th - 26th Leandro and Andrea Workshops and Privates

This will be your last opportunity this year to take a workshop from the TangoDanza performers. Mark your calendar for these workshops:

19th: Intermediate/Advanced	12:30 - 2:30 pm
19th: Beginners	3:00-4:30 pm
24th: Intermediate/Advanced	8:00-10:00 pm
25th: Intermediate/Advanced	2:00-4:00 pm
26th: Intermediate/Advanced	6:00-8:00 pm

Beginners Workshops - \$20; Intermediate/Advanced Workshops - \$30 each

Contact Bob Dronski at Tango...nada mas 773.792.2099 or TangoDanza at info@tangodanza.com 917.929.5377

20th & 21st: Available for privates and small group private classes. Contact TangoDanza for bookings.

26th - Hyde Park Art Center exhibits "Cold Comfort"

Del Prado Building, 53rd & Hyde Park Blvd, Chicago

4:00 - 6:00 pm Free

Artists have re-created the ambiance of the 1930s and 40s. Six dancers from the Chicago Tango Club Argentine will venture forth from time to time with demos of salon Argentine Tango.

Contact the Center 773.324.5520 or Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

September

9th - Dancing at Chicago Dance Resumes

3660 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago

7:00-10:00 pm \$8

Introductory lesson in Studio 1 at 7:00; Open dancing in the ballroom

Chicago Tango Club Argentine and Chicago Dance Ballroom will resume a shared monthly milonga on the second Sunday of the month beginning in September. Future dates are October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th.

Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

21st - Learn the Chacarera!!!

942 W. Lake Street, Chicago

By popular demand Leroy Hearon and Phoebe J. Grant will teach the Argentinean folk dance at the Lake Street Milonga. The class will be conducted from 8:00 to 8:30 pm. In addition to a review of the basic single chacarera, and time permitting, Leroy and Phoebe will teach the double and truncated (*trunca*) versions and variations on the 8-count crossing and the *sabateos*. \$7 for entrance to milonga.

Contact Phoebe Grant pjg@mindspring.com for details.

???? - CITA and Tango Fantasy Recap

Leroy and Phoebe attended both the CITA workshop in Buenos Aires in March and the Tango Fantasy in Miami in May. Between them they attended 69 classes from world class instructors. Now they are ready to share what they learned. Stand by next month for details.

October

7th "Fandango to Tango" Dance Production

Hold the date for this production sponsored by the University of Chicago and performed at the International House Theatre.

Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

8th - 14th El Pulpo ("The Octopus") and Luiza Paes Workshops

El Pulpo ("The Octopus") - Noberto Esbrez and his partner Luiza Paes - will be in Chicago for workshops and private lessons. El Pulpo is renowned for his leading of repeated ganchos in a seductive rhythm. Although this aspect of nuevo tango style may not be for everyone, studying with Noberto and Luiza will provide another dimension to your dancing. Leroy Hearon, Phoebe Grant, and Erica Sutton are the sponsors for this workshop. The schedule will be available in August.

Contact Phoebe at pjg@mindspring.com or (312).342.4335 for details.

November

November 17th- 25th Tango Immersion Tour in Buenos Aires

Natalie Pepa is again organizing a tour of Buenos Aires during Thanksgiving. It's not too soon to make plans. Contact Natalie by email at tangonata@aol.com for a full flier of information

Other News

Tango Art Website

Misha Goro who did the cover last month for Tango Noticias is setting up a Tango Art web site. He is looking for artists and photographers who create tango-related images and would be interested in displaying and selling their art. If you are interested contact Misha at mgoro.com

Las Vegas Tango Workshop:

You missed the big events in Miami, Los Angeles, Toronto, and San Francisco. Here is your opportunity this year. Head to Las Vegas October 5-7 and sign up for classes with 24 Argentine master teachers, milongas all night on a 9,000 square foot ballroom, and live music. Check out the www.lasvegastango.com for details.

Tango sans frontières: Men and Women in the Modern Tango World

By *Natalie Pepa*

I arrive in Paris in the middle of the month-long Tango Festival. Dancers, singers and orchestras from Buenos Aires perform almost every night at Challot theater, a grand palace on a hill. On my first Saturday night I attend a dance at Challot; it's held in the spacious lobby on the second floor. Along the outer wall, floor-to-ceiling windows face the Eiffel Tower, only a few blocks from the palace; after dark the tower flickers with light.

French women, and Americans who have been to France, tell me that Frenchmen—particularly Parisians—are not at ease in asking women to dance. They tend to dance with a single partner or friends; an outsider has a slim chance of being asked. My Parisian friends are anxious to see if my *'come-hither-I'd-like-to-dance-look'*, so

Travel with Natalie...

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effective in Buenos Aires, will get results here. They warn me that all I will get from them is a blank stare reminiscent of a placid cow.

So I try; and I do get asked but — the man is Argentinean! Then I look toward another, this time a Frenchman but — he has lived and danced the tango in Buenos Aires! I am enjoying this game. My friends point out an 'authentic Parisian' and I stare unabashedly at him. He is about 20 feet from me. When he meets my eyes he shifts in place, looks to one side, then another; I continue staring. He looks at me as if wanting to dance, approaches in small circles, then moves away.

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(907) 563-6820

visit us at www.two-to-tango.com

I decide to try my luck on someone else. At first he doesn't realize I am looking at him and when he does a look of surprise comes over his face—as if this has never happened before. Then he lowers his eyes; and so it goes again and again. During the entire evening not one *pure* Parisian asks me to dance. *Guys*, I want to tell them, *just because I want to dance with you doesn't mean I want to take you home!*

Maybe my Parisian female friends are correct about their countrymen. "Let's face it," one of them says, "99% of French men in tango have deep psychological problems with women—they are scared to death!" In Buenos Aires women are told not to be afraid of the close embrace in tango. "Don't worry," the teachers say, "you will not get pregnant." Perhaps someone ought to explain to French men that a three-minute dance does not mean marriage.... And how do you say *commitment-phobia* in French?

I know it's too early to draw conclusions, I will need to sample many more dances to give an assessment. And is it only Frenchmen who have such great fears?

Continued in September

CHICAGO TANGO

Chicago Milongas

Tuesdays

Club 720, 720 North Wells 3rd Floor, Chicago
Sponsor: Chicago Tango Club Argentine
7:30 pm – midnight; \$5 cover
Lesson from 7:30 to 8:15
Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

Wednesdays

Grant Park Outdoor Dance Floor, 600 S. Michigan
8:00 - 11:00 pm; free
Introductory Lesson 7:15-8:00 pm
Enjoy dancing under the stars. The City of Chicago is allowing the tango community to use the outdoor floor thanks to the efforts of Beth Braun. Bring your own refreshments. We'll dance rain or shine.

First & Third Fridays – August 3rd & 17th

Lake Street Milonga, 942 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago
8:30 pm – 1:00 am \$7
Introductory Lesson 8:00 – 8:30 pm
3rd - MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Calling all wood nymphs and satyrs . . . In the twilight sparkle of Chicago, the lords and ladies of the summer arrive in their finest . . . LINGERIE! That's right, men in silk pajamas - women in whatever you care to bare. Think sheer, chiffon and glittery! This theme brought to you by popular request on the Lake Street Milonga survey. Wow! Fairies with wings get \$1 off admission.
17th - HAWAIIAN TROPIC THONG PARTY Flip-flops everywhere! Grass skirts, flowered shirts, thongs! Learn authentic hula dancing, drink loads of that famous red punch, and bring your beach towel for lounging in between tandas.

Call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137 or Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 erica@tangoparatodos.com for details

Last Friday of the Month - August 31th

Tres Tangueras Milonga; Latvian Community Center
4146 N. Elston (at Hamlin)
7:30 pm – Midnight \$10
Contact Valentina Cisar 773-763-8729 for details.

Saturdays

Tango...nada mas; 6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago
9:00 pm – 2:00 am (Free Introductory Class at 8:30)
\$15 includes light buffet
Contact Bob Dronski 773.792.2099 for details.

Chicago Practicas

Tango...nada mas

6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago
Fridays beginning at 8:00 pm Cost \$5
Contact Bob Dronski 773.792.2099 for details.

North Shore Dance Studio

6163 N. Broadway, Chicago
Fridays beginning at 7:30 PM Cost \$10
Contact Al Gates at 773.994.7929 for details.

Chicago Classes

On-Going Classes: call instructors for details or check the teachers' pages on our website www.tangonoticias.com:

- ▶ Al Gates
- ▶ Bob Dronski and Kathleen Kreher
- ▶ Erica Sutton
- ▶ Fred Romero

Chicago Teachers

Tom Barnard*	tbbarnard@hotmail.com
Jose & Gerri Caravantes*	773.286.6424
Federico Costantino**	773.505.1577
Bob Dronski & Kathleen Kreher**	773.792.2099
Emilia Boykov**	773.743.2962
Sean Erwin*	773.274.9564
Carlos Favre *	773.481.1551/773.852.6555
Leroy Hearon *	773.276.1518
Louis Gallo **	773.878.8089
Mark Johnson *	312.446.0468
Gadi Lissak **	773.472.8776
Tina Mangos **	773.282.5108
Jorge Nidas**	888.826.4621
Elena Robles*	773.327.1667
Fred & Yermen Romero**	773.725.0518
Pamela Strateman**	312.902.2803
Erica Sutton**	773.505.1577
Charlotte Vikstrom**	Argentango@usa.net

*Privates only

**Classes and Privates

The Most Electrifying Dance Performance
You Will Ever Witness!

TangoDanza "Cuatro"

THE ULTIMATE
TANGO
EXPERIENCE!



Tickets On Sale Now:
\$22⁵⁰, \$27⁵⁰ & \$35⁵⁰
Box Seats: \$40⁵⁰



August
17th &
18th, 2001
Friday &
Saturday
8:00PM



Call Box Office: 847.673.6300

North Shore Center For The Performing Arts In Skokie
9501 Skokie Blvd. - Skokie, Illinois
Near Old Orchard Shopping Center. Next to DoubleTree Hotel.
FREE PARKING. 20 Minutes From Loop.



Tango "Fireworks Week" 2001

A Review by Michael Golde

Forget barbeques, fireworks and the usual Fourth of July fanfare, the center of my universe during the holiday week was the Crown Plaza Hotel in Redondo Beach, California. The event: *Tango Fireworks Week 2001* — the first and, perhaps, annual tango “congress” in southern California hosted by Linda Valentino. Linda, a resident LA milonguera and host of a weekly milonga, organized this extravaganza featuring none other than Pablo Veron, Milena Plebs and a supporting cast of lesser-known Argentine Tango professionals. The truth is: the draw was Señor Veron and he did not disappoint.

This weeklong event, with participants from all over the United States to as far away as London, Paris, Hong Kong and Japan, consisted of choices from up to sixteen classes a day in four time slots divided into Basic, Intermediate and Advanced with a ‘catchall’ category titled ‘Milonga/Vals.’ Classes in one and a half hour segments started daily at 11 a.m. and ended around 7 p.m. Rest breaks were provided with complimentary beverages and fresh fruit between the classes; there was an hour break for lunch. Every evening a milonga started at 9 pm and lasted to approximately 1 am for those who needed no rest from the day’s events — or with just no respect for their feet.

Having danced Argentine Tango myself for nearly two years, I pre-registered for mostly Intermediate classes with



a smattering of the other levels/categories for good measure. The classes, not surprisingly, were somewhat overpopulated by women —not that I’m complaining — but gender-balance was fairly well maintained at least early in the week. This parity broke down as the week pro-

gressed and attendees flocked to certain teachers, key among whom were Pablo and Milena, without regard to prior schedule commitments. Although I had originally planned to pace myself a bit and only take a maximum of three classes a day, I ended up taking a class in every time slot available. Most people were similarly undisciplined.

The variety of classes was a testament to the diversity of the faculty and the organizational skills of Linda and her staff. A sampling of the classes included: **Dancing the Pauses, Front and Back Boleos, Adornments and Embellishments, Improvisation, Musicality, Enrosques and Sacadas** and various levels of milonga and vals instruction for a total of 83 classes during the week. As I alluded to above, each participant was encouraged to pre-register for the classes of his or her choosing to lock in one’s top choices and to maintain a reasonable gender balance.

As it eventually turned out, I took the vast bulk of my classes from Pablo and Milena and their respective partners. My first impression of Veron was a strange mixture of familiarity and surprise. I seemed to ‘know’ this man intimately from my repeated viewing of *The Tango Lesson*; yet I had never met him before, let alone been in his presence. My surprise: now I was — a student in his tango lesson. He looked exactly as he did in the movie, particularly the recognizable hair and goatee-style beard though now fashionably bespectacled in wire frames with a light bluish tint on the lenses. He was a star, and his confidence and appearance exuded it. As for his new partner, Noel Stazza — a childhood friend of our own Federico Costantino — she possessed a delicate and serene-like quality that contrasted sharply with his glitz. Of medium-height in tango heels with a ballerina-type body, her facial features were soft and both her skin and hair had a light bronze glow to them. A perfect follower to showcase Pablo’s creative and intuitive dancing style, Noel is an elegant dancer in her own right but clearly a supporting player for Pablo’s leading role.

I did take a few classes from other instructors, Nestor & Patricia and Julio & Corina, but was not able to attend any classes taught by the so-called milonga master, Omar, and his partner, Valeria. I would give a thumbs down to Nestor & Patricia as instructors largely due to language difficulties and an overall lack of preparation; Nestor also seemed to have more of a desire to perform than to teach. It seemed like they were creating the agenda for the particular class in real time and apparently others agreed. By the end of the workshop, their classes were not widely attended.

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Lake Street Milonga

1st & 3rd Fridays

942 W. Lake, Chicago

\$7 - light refreshments; BYOB

8:00 pm – 1:00 am (mini-lesson 8:00 – 8:30)

SUMMERTIME HEAT Month!

August 3rd - *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Calling all wood nymphs and satyrs . . . In the twilight sparkle of Chicago, the lords and ladies of the summer arrive in their finest . . . LINGERIE! That's right, men in silk pajamas - women in whatever you care to bare. Think sheer, chiffon and glittery! This theme brought to you by popular request on the Lake Street Milonga survey. Wow!

Fairies with wings get \$1 off.

August 17th - *Hawaiian Tropic Thong Party*

Flip-flops everywhere! Grass skirts, flowered shirts, thongs! Learn authentic hula dancing, drink loads of that famous red punch, and bring your beach towel for lounging.

Contact your hosts for more information

Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137

tangojan@hotmail.com

Erica Sutton 773.505.1577

erica@tangoparatodos.com

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As for Julio & Corina, I appreciated their energy and enthusiasm but just didn't click with their style. Their improvisation classes turned out to be little more than formalized practicas; I was expecting to learn some different ways of using common tango elements to "improvise," obtaining a better feel of when and where to veer from normal dancing patterns and utilizing "phrasing" creatively. I was underwhelmed particularly in comparison to the "star" couples discussed below. To be fair, many of my fellow students gave them high marks and their classes seemed to draw a loyal following. For my money and time, the other available alternatives seemed better options.

As for Pablo Veron, one must experience his mastery of the tango in person to fully appreciate it. In a seemingly

effortless manner, he has the ability to dazzle and mesmerize his audience with his tango fluency and creativity utilizing the simplest of movements to the most complex. He creates so intuitively and with such ease that it appears to be nothing more than child's play for him. Yet, through his explanations it became clear to me that nothing is mere rote for him and each movement, no matter how complex and intricate, has a purpose. A *boleo*, or any movement or combination, is not an end in itself but a means to link his unique phrasing together to form a whole – a self-contained fluent language within each dance. This intangible quality, in my estimation, is what separates him from his "peers" and catapults him to a higher level like Michael Jordan in basketball or, perhaps more apt, Mikhail Barishnikov in ballet.

As he essentially expressed himself, his goal was not to teach steps but to teach us the building blocks to create our own steps and style — to understand how each movement relates to the next movement and so on. And if one could absorb only a small portion of his precise physical movements, that was largely unimportant. The point was to start using what one knows to create and to begin to dance the language not of arbitrary movements but of movements flowing from one another to form an innately complete whole.

Veron's teaching style, though not overly warm, was professional and accessible. He provided personalized attention to those requesting it and to others having difficulty with various aspects of a class. As I later learned, his reputation was one of aloofness combined with boredom; I must dissent from this viewpoint based on my personal experience and the enthusiastic response of my fellow classmates.

He did, however, carefully control the right to use his physical image. Though the rest of the instructors allowed a final summary of their classes to be taped for inclusion in the workshop highlights video, Pablo did not allow any portion of his classes to be photographed or videotaped. I also heard, but was unable to confirm, that his private lessons were going for the rate of \$300 for 45 minutes. While I was disappointed that none of his classes were taped, I can also understand a creative artist's right not to give away his "asset," i.e., his economic right to derive income

continued on page 12

Visit our...

Tango Noticias Web Site

CENTRAL TANGO

Regional Supplement to *Tango Noticias*

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts:

Rita Marvelli: marvelli@uiuc.edu; 217.344.2123

Leonardo: Tangoleon@aol.com; 217.328.1311

Joe Grohens: joe@wolfram.com; 217.328.1008

Milongas: *Tango Society of Central Illinois* — Monthly milongas held at *Phillips Recreation Center*: Sat Aug 25, Sat Sep 22, Sat Oct 27 & Sat Dec 1 from 9-12pm with lesson at 7:30; Admission \$3. For more information contact Leonardo.

Classes: For schedules visit www.prairienet.org/white-steeet/tango.html.

Detroit, MI

Contacts:

MotorCity Milongueros.com

Amy & Ray: MotorCityMilongueros.com; 313.561.3236

Lori Burton: Argentinetangodetroit.com; 810.726.2370

Amy & Ray: MotorCityMilongueros.com

Classes:

—Tuesdays at DanceSport Academy of Michigan, Dearborn. All levels 8:00 to 9:00pm.

—Thursdays 7-9 pm followed by a Practica 9-10 pm; Pitsfield Grange, Ann Arbor; all levels. \$10 (\$5 with student id) for all evening.

—Fridays at Farmington YMCA, Farmington Hills. Class 7:30 to 9:00pm, Practica 9:00 to 10:00pm.

Peña: Every 4th Saturday at the Pitsfield Grange, September through May ; classes from 7-9 PM and general dancing from 9-1am. Light refreshments, \$10/students with ID \$5.

Lori Burton: Argentinetangodetroit.com or LnBrtn@compuserv.net; 810.254.0560

Classes:

— *Argentine Tango Detroit*: every day of the week, 7758 Auburn, Utica, MI; see website for details.

Milongas:

— *Argentine Tango Detroit/Tango Suave*; three times weekly see website for details

Brickhouse. Auburn Road, Utica, MI. 8 pm; \$7.

Visiting Teachers:

The following teachers are being hosted by the studios of Lori Burton:

Luis Bruni – Aug 17-27

8th Anniversary Celebration

Presented by

The Latin & Argentine Tango Club of Detroit

Saturday, October 13th

A Formal Gala Dinner Show

At Lovett Hall in Greenfield Village

Featuring

Compañía TangoDanza

Leandro Palou & Andrea Missé

Special Guests

Armando & Silvia

Tango & Folklore

Michigan's Greatest Dancers and our own

Motor City Milongueros

		Dinner & Show:	
Cocktails & General Dancing	7:00pm	Members	\$70
Dinner	9:00pm	NonMembers	\$80
Show	10:00pm	Show Only	\$40

For further information and reservations contact: Amy & Ray

(313) 561-3236 or AmmyRay@mediaone.net

Visit our web site - <http://MotorCityMilongueros.com>

Graciela Gonzales – October 6

Nito & Elba – November 7-14

Kely & Facundo – First two weeks of January

Ames, Iowa

Contacts:

Valerie Williams: 515.232.7374; vjw@cnde.iastate.edu

Classes: 7-8 pm; Beginning Class and Technique

Tango Salon: Dance held following class on alternate Thursdays; call for information or check website.

Location: *Café Diem*, 323 Main Street, Ames, IA 50014

Kansas City, MO

Contacts:

Korey Ireland; korey@kodair.com or 816.665.4916 also <http://www.kodair.com>

Classes: Saturdays at St Mark's, 38th & Troost — free class from 1-3pm

Practicass: McCoy's Public House in Westport from 6:00-7:30pm on Sunday nights.

Milongas: Wednesdays at *Fedora on the Plaza*; lessons from 7-8 pm. Live tango music 8-11:00 pm.

Central Tango continued

—*Beaumont Club* in Westport. Free tango lesson at 7PM and Live Music with *Tango Lorca*. Upcoming Dates: August 10.

—*Piripos* in Parkville on Thursdays. Contact Korey for more details

Madison, WI

Contacts:

Steven Fosdal: fosdal@mail.com; 608.288.8339

Anna Snider: atango@mail.com; 608.848.6109

Practicas: *Pasión del Tango*: Every Tuesday at Union South, Univ. of Wis. campus at the corner of Randall and Johnson streets; 7-8:30, no charge.

Milongas: Contact Steven & Anna.

Mt. Vernon, MO

Contacts:

Karen Whitesell: 417.471.1001; Fax 417.471.1002

www.thelearningdepot.com/murrays-1/

Milonga Venue:

Murray's Vintage Venue: 202 S Hickory, Mt Vernon MO 65712

St. Louis, MO

Contacts:

Roxanne McKenny: stltango@aol.com

Carter Maier: tngomn@hotmail.com

Estella & Randy: tangoartists@tangorosa.com

Lourdes Ylagan: Lylagan@path.wustl.edu

Practicas: First two Mondays at *Focal Point* – Maplewood, MO from 8-10pm. No practicas in July – next dates: August 6th and 13th cost \$5; call 314.849.3007 for details.

Milongas:

—*Club Viva*, Second Tuesday of every month; call Roxanne for details.

—*Soulard Coffee Garden*; 910 Geyer Avenue; call for details: 314.241.1464.

—*Monthly Milonga*: Cost \$10 – Friday, August 31st from 8pm – midnight. \$10 at *Focal Point*; call Estella & Randy for details.

Classes:

- Estella & Randy: no classes in July — call for classes or see schedule at www.tangorosa.com

- Roxanne: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced

Tulsa, OK

Contact:

Bob & Gretchen Manhart; OKTANGO@prodigy.net

Milongas: Contact for more details.

Classes: Every other Saturday 6-8 pm. \$8 per person or \$15 per couple.

Twin Cities, MN

Contacts:

Tango Society of Minnesota: Mntango.org

Steve Lee: 612.729.5306 tango-1@juno.com

Lois Donnay: 612.930.9221 donnay@donnay.net

Frankw@tc.umn.edu: 952.285.9305

Practicas: *Ridgedale YMCA*, 12301Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, 8-10 PM: 952.544.7708. *Rebecca Trost's Tango Practicas*: Tuesdays 9-10:30 pm; \$2. *Four Season's Dance Studio*, 1637 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis 612.342.0902; *Tango Class/Practica*: *Yvette's Restaurant*, St. Louis Park; 7PM Live music after lesson.

Milongas:

- *Tango Society of Minnesota*: 2nd Saturday/monthly at *Dancesprt Dance Studio* in Hopkins, MN. Lesson at 8pm; dancing from 9pm – 1am. Cost \$5 for members or \$8 for others.

- *Steve Lee's Tango Plus*. Friday after 2nd Saturday of each month; 9 pm – 1 am; lesson 9-9:30 PM. \$5.

- *Michael Cordner's Mini-Milongas*: Sundays 7-9:30 pm \$2; *Four Season's Dance Studio*, 1637 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis 612.342.0902

- *Rendesvous Ballroom*; first Saturday of the month: cost \$5 TSOM or \$8 others; 2524 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis.

Classes:

Please see the following websites for details:

www.mntango.org/tsomcal

<http://i.am.tctango>

Visiting Teachers:

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Tango Fantasy 2001

6th Annual United States Tango Congress

by *Phoebe Grant*

May 25 through June 2, 2001 - Miami Beach, FL

Tango Fantasy 2001 was the fifth annual United States Tango Congress (USTC) in Miami. Under the successful organization of Lydia Henson and Randy Pittman, it has evolved into a 'must attend' event for many *tangueros* and *tangueras* from across the United States as well as other parts of the world. The entire *Tango Fantasy* package encompassed 9 evening milongas and 7 full days of tango classes running from the weekend preceding Memorial Day through the following weekend; for the last several years the Congress has been held at the *Fontainebleau Hilton Resort and Spa* right beside Miami Beach.

Not only were several features of *Tango Fantasy* improved this year but also Chicago sported a much better representation. A total of **20** participants from our local tango community attended: in addition to Leroy Hearon, Jr, his third time to Miami, and myself for the second time, a whole host of Chicago regulars could be found there: Steve Pressling and Marisella Guerra; Will Maricondia; Lita Amigleio; Antonio & Lydia Cosantino; Luis Gallo and Nicki Holcutt; Bob Dronski and Kathleen Kreher; Bob Brazil and Denise Gillespie; Jose and Jerry Caravantes; Evan Ellman; and, Joyce O'Connor participated in at least 1 event and several were there for the entire 7 days of classes and 9 nights of milongas!

These events obviously are fabulous opportunities to learn from the masters; this year's line-up added Miguel Angel Zotto & Soledad Rivero along with Carlos Gavito & Marcella Duran to an already impressive faculty that included: Juan Carlos Copes & Johana Copes; Fabian Salas & Carolina del Rivero; Osvaldo Zotto & Lorena Ermocida; Guillermo & Fernanda Merlo; Facundo & Kely Posadas; and, for the final weekend when Julio Iglesias called away Osvaldo and Lorena, Nito and Elba joined the staff. There are a total of 16 classes offered each day - in 4 different time slots - for seven full days. This year Lorena added 2 **women's technique** classes at the end of the day and Fabian & Carolina added a **saltos** (jumps) class late one afternoon as well. This meant that you could take 5 classes in each of 3 days, dancing from 10 am to 8 pm and then starting again at the milonga from 9pm til 2 am if you so desired! The week starts with a Friday night milonga before classes begin on Saturday and there is a milonga on the 2nd Saturday night with no classes during the day.

One of the best aspects of attending such events is the exceptionally high overall quality of dancing at the evening milongas. In fact, some people travel to Miami JUST for the milongas and do not take advantage of the superb, internationally renowned instructors. You always see people you've met last year or at other conferences and meet so many new people from around the country and world. Each night's milonga took place on a 3,800 sq. ft. ballroom floor and featured live music for a portion of the

evening as well as a live performance either by participating instructors or by local youth or adult dancers. A very positive change this year at the milongas was featuring DJ's from around the country to supplement the live music. This had several benefits: Randy Pittman, one of the two primary organizers along with his partner, Lydia Henson, wasn't so stressed out by being the DJ every night; we were able to hear a greater variety of music; the guest DJ's had their music computerized so that at the official end of the milonga they could leave the programmed music running as long as feet held out! In addition to our own Bob Dronski, who thoughtfully brought *chacarera* music for us one night, Keith Elshaw of Montreal, Victor Crichton of St. Pete/Tampa, Manuel Patino of Atlanta and Tito Restucha of Raleigh assisted Randy in providing wonderful evenings of dancing until 2 or 3 am.

The last 2 evenings featured special performances: Friday night was the showcase of all the instructors, and this year it was presented in the hotel's nightclub, so the viewing was superior to last year. Saturday is the competition for slots to represent the U.S. in the international *DanceSport* competition. This year 4 couples - respectively from Miami, Denver, St. Petersburg and Kansas City - out of 8 were selected to compete this September, again in Miami.

Although the *Tango Fantasy* is held at the outstanding Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami Beach, one of the drawbacks is that you have to decide whether to miss some classes in order to take advantage of the pools, beaches, water slide, and other amenities of South Beach. Perhaps Randy and Lydia will consider a mid-week 'free' day as is done with CITA in Buenos Aires. They did start classes an hour later this year which helped some - especially since the evening milongas ran much later.

Thanks go out to Charlotte Vickstrom and *The Chicago Tango Club* as well as to Bob and Kathy for helping spread the word about this great event. You can attend for a night, a day, a few classes, the weekend package, the week package or the entire 9 milongas with performances and 7 days of classes. We hope to see more of you there next year.

Please watch for forthcoming workshops in August and/or September by Leroy Hearon and Phoebe J. Grant recapping classes at CITA 2001 in Buenos Aires and Tango Fantasy 2001 in Miami.



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	6:45-8:15	Advanced Tango
Sunday August 12 & 19	3:00-4:30	Beginner Tango
	4:45-6:15	Advanced Tango

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from his physical image, and for people to pay his going rate for privates and the like.

Milena Plebs must also be given her due. Although billed as a replacement for Osvaldo Zotto and Lorena due to a scheduling conflict with the extended Julio Iglesias tour, she is no mere fill-in. Milena, a star of *Tango X 2* and a former dance partner and wife of Miguel Zotto, has been at the upper echelon of the Tango world for many years and is particularly well-known for her precise technique and incomparable ability to embellish her movements with style and sensuality. Her seemingly free-spirited nature and distinctive look – long hair, short skirts and legs sculpted by her years of tango ardor – only added to her appeal.

Her newest partner, Ezequiel, is a powerful and elegant leader and, in my view, an up-and-coming star in his own right, though presently overshadowed by Milena's reputation. Their classes were always filled to the max and their overall style and teaching method seemed to attract the widest audience throughout the week. Their classes, for which they did allow a summary to be taped while also posing for pictures, invariably received enthusiastic applause and accolades. From a purely instructional point of view and in terms of personal attention to students — which was given graciously and in abundance to all — *I would rank them the best teaching couple of the workshop.*

All things considered, **Tango Fireworks 2001** was a first-rate event. I learned a great deal and, especially due to Pablo Veron, it brought to me a new perspective on the way Tango should be danced. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would heartily recommend it should it be reprised on the same scale next year under Linda Valentino's leadership. ♦♦

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