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Paulo Araujo – Brazilian Tango Star & Instructor

Returns to Chicago, March-April 2002

By Phoebe J. Grant

Paulo Araujo, a native of Rio de Janeiro, began his formal study of tango in 1989 in Buenos Aires with Gustavo Naveira, Graciela Gonzales, Pepito Avellaneda, Lampazo, Rodolfo and Maria Ciere. In Rio de Janeiro, he also studied the dance with Eric and Jeusa, salon dancing with Maria Antonieta and flamenco dancing with Vera Alexandra. Both students and peers include Paulo among the very first-rank of tango instructors:

"A friend is coming to Chicago soon; he is a very good tango teacher. He's Brazilian, from Rio. So, just because he's not Argentine, don't have a prejudice that he doesn't know tango - he knows a lot and has some very particular ideas and a distinct style. It's already proved that Paulo knows much more about tango than many Argentines that teach. It's not from where you are, but what you are that matters in tango. Paulo is something of a mystic, in my opinion. His style is different than mine —that's OK. I would encourage you to take part in his workshops because you will be able to learn a lot from Paulo Araujo."

Norberto ("El Pulpo") Esbrez

Paulo has not just been an 'influential' figure in the Rio tango scene; he has been that very person crucial to its formation and development. Paulo established the Brazilian tango school, *Instituto Brasileiro do Tango*, in Rio de Janeiro, and he conducts there a weekly milonga. In the book, <u>Tango, Uma Paixão</u> <u>Porteña no Brasil</u> – by Ney Homero da Silva Rocha – Rocha notes:

Paulo and Ângela (his partner) have been the most important collaborators in the growth and development of tango in Rio de Janeiro.

Rocha then goes on to explain how Paulo's efforts in developing the Rio tango community have been not only organizational but have had a nearly *spiritual* importance for those who have come to form their community:

Paulo taught us about feeling in relation to tango -afeeling that he demonstrates like few people who dance and interpret tango. Paulo sees tango as emanating out of the very essence of his life - and he teaches us from that perspective."

Not surprisingly Paulo has been the recipient of numerous awards, including but not limited to: The Moção de Honra da Camara Municipal do Estado do RJ (1999-2000), Encontro das Naçoes (1995-1998), Poder Judiciaro, Destaque 97, Botafogo F.C., Homenaageado pelo Cons. Deliberante de Buenos Aires (1995-1996) and Mestre da dança (1996).

His international exposure has also been extensive; it includes performances in shows such as "Show Fonotango-Café Tortoni" and the "VOSSAJAZZ Festival" in



Norway; the Cordoba Tango Show in Germany and the Festival Tango in Valencia, Spain. But Paulo has also been one of those few tango performers to break through the media barrier to escape the spotlight of the stage for the spotlight of the television camera. His numerous television appearances include, but are not limited to, George Martin's Rhythms of Life for the BBC (1998); appearances on TV Norway and TV Finland (2000); Solo Tango, Buenos Aires; the dance documentary, Rede Globo; and in Brazil he has been featured in the video, "Febre de Tango."

For those of us with a love, bordering on obsession, with tango and an equally strong proficiency in Portuguese, you might be interested in checking out any one of a string of articles for which Paulo has been the subject. Articles written on him include: "Tango no Brasil," Jornal do Comercio (Aug. 1999); "Mania do Tango," O Globo (Dec. 1998); "Tango," Dança, Arte e Ação (1997); "Reis do Tango," Jornal do Brasil (1996); "Destaque Tango," Dance News (1995); and, "Lo Mejor Professor de Tango del Brasil," La Prensa de Buenos Aires (1995).

For additional information on Paulo and the upcoming workshops, pleace contact Phoebe Grant at 312.342.4335 or pjg@mindspring.com.

Conversing with Paulo Araujo



Interview by Rómulo Assis for *Tango Noticias*

[**Overview**: This is the second and final installment of an interview that took place in November 2001 during Paulo's first visit to Chicago. Please see the ad for Paulo's second visit to the Chicago area this month on page 11. *To review the first half of this interview please click here.*]

Paulo Araujo - I think it is necessary to take care not to mistake sensuality with sexuality in tango. Obviously, tango can be quite stimulating since the body contact is very intimate, and there is a very accentuated gesture of trust made at the moment of dancing. Now, I think that it should come from the dancer in the first place to respect the dance; and then, of course, there is further a sense of self-respect and respect for the other. If we yield only to the pursuit of the pleasures of sexuality the subject and aim of tango becomes much too small, especially when one considers the grandness of the pleasure one can have when leaving that aside. Of course there is always an attraction factor, but that should be a small factor used in the benefit of something much greater. I think little of an individual that avails himself or herself to practice an art – for tango is an Art to me – for the aim of such a small satisfaction because it is small. If I hardly know a woman, and she trusts herself to me for a dance, and I exploit the fact that she has entrusted herself to me. I would be a con and not worthy of tango. Regrettably, there are persons that exploit that, but, if I ever make contact with those people, I reprove them, because they are harming something larger and they might contaminate others. So every time I identify that behavior in people from my circle, friends or students, I condemn it, because it is too small and it makes too vulgar something that for me is extremely important.

Rómulo Assis – That brings us to a two-sided matter that I would like to discuss. One, which you have partially addressed, is the actual reason(s) many people have for dancing the tango. The second involves taking a look at the authentic reasons one should have for dancing the tango, if such reasons even exist. And then: how does one deal with those who aren't always motivated by the noblest reasons? Are there non-noble reasons for dancing tango?

PA – Yes, there are non-noble reasons for dancing tango.

RA – ...or, could we say more accurately: 'Regardless of your motives for being at the milonga everyone should still be welcome?'

PA – I think there are several different reasons for dancing tango. For instance: there are people that try to dance the

tango because they think that tango is in fashion, and so they see one friend and then another dancing and then they believe — "Well, tango is in fashion: I want to be in fashion, so I'll dance the tango." Those people will never really dance tango. They might get to have something of a surface contact with tango, but they won't have the patience to follow the demands that tango requires. There are others, like you said yourself, who are at the milongas for basically sexual reasons. These are the opportunists that try to exploit the dance. And there are others that think about making money, who are even beginning to think about being professionals; these I condemn. I think that being a professional is a consequence of a certain number of things. The professional is usually *elected* as a professional; he doesn't entitle himself to the title of professional. It is time that slowly shows whether one has that aptitude or not and whether a person has actually acquired a certain expertise to share with other people. There are others who are at the milonga also because of the ego. They see in tango an opportunity to show off their bodies, of showing they are more attractive than someone else, and they sometimes take tango from that angle.

RA – There are several people that search for a little magic in their lives from tango – the kind of magic they think they see when tango is portrayed in movies and/or that they claim they experience when dancing in Argentina – whether they are Argentines or not. Not surprisingly, they feel frustrated because they cannot find anywhere else 'tango like there is in Argentina' or in the movies for that matter. Also there are those who search in tango for a way to fight the kind of solitude that so much exists nowadays in our society. Thus, I find often in milongas, and not only those in the U.S., a general ambiance of nostalgia, depression and sadness. Now, earlier in our discussion you referred to tango as a 'dance of public utility.' How do you think tango might or might not be 'useful' with these kinds of people and conditions.

PA – We cannot hope to transfer to a dance, and especially tango, the goal of resolving our problematic depressiveness or to hope to find in the activity the resolution of our loneliness - or the solution of any other personal problematic for that matter. Tango won't solve a thing; it is all a big illusion that tango, and dancing, will make a person's life meaningful. If a person's life is mediocre before tango. with tango it will still be mediocre. At the same time, it is true that things now are hard. I think there is no other place in which tango has the same weight as in Buenos Aires, because in Buenos Aires tango has been danced from noon to 7 a.m. for the past fifty years - sixty years even more, because there exist there the ingredients that generated that movement and with the intensity needed to keep it going. Now, for myself, I believe that whether it is a milonga I might have

Chicago Classes

On-Going Classes: call instructors for details. Check the teachers' pages on our website <u>www.tangonoticias.com</u>:

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

Chicago Milongas

Tuesdays

Club 720, 720 North Wells 3rd Floor, Chicago Sponsor: Chicago Tango Club Argentine 8:00 pm – midnight; \$5 cover Complimentary lessons available at 8 until the floor gets crowded

Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

First & Third Fridays – April 5th and 19th

Lake Street Milonga, 942 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago 8:30 pm – 1:00 am \$10

A Month of Floral and Fauna

5th - *Floral Time*. April showers bring... flowers – why wait for May? Spring has sprung (almost) - Wear your prettiest floral design.

19th – *Fauna Evening*. Dance on the wild side...fur, feathers, animal prints...express your animal nature in our second milonga of Spring!

Call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137, Beth Braun 847.846.5611 or Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 (<u>erica@tangoparatodos.com</u>) 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, or <u>www.tango-nadamas.com</u> for details.

Chicago Practicas

Tango...nada mas

6137 N. Northwest Hwy., ChicagoFridays beginning at 8:00 pmCost \$5Contact 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 or www.tangochicago.com for details.

Gallery on Lake

942 W. Lake, Chicago Sundays 8:00 - 10:00 pm Cost \$5 (Drop-in class 7:00-8:00 pm; \$10; includes the practica) Contact Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 or <u>www.tangoparatodos.com</u> for details.



Gloria & Eduardo will return in July, 2002 New Practica:

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FANTASY BALL

An enchanting evening of dancing—-tango, mambo, salsa, swing, ballroom. Share the magic—-fabulous food, decadent desserts, delightful doorprizes.

Friday, May 10, 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.,

\$30 prepaid & \$35 at the door. Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston (at Hamlin), semi-formal attire.

This fundraiser is sponsored by Women's Intl. Literacy Support (WIL), a non-profit charity. WIL's goal is to promote literacy for destitute women and children of Afghanistan. Your donation is guaranteed to enable the direct purchase and delivery of school supplies. Collectively, we can make a change.

Make your check payable to: WIL, Margaret Greenberg, Treasurer, 4453 N. Winchester Ave. Chicago, IL 60640-5808 or WIL, Jane Jackson, Founder/Chairperson, 3900 Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL, 60613. Tango members Sandra Classon and Carmen Pinto will have tickets available at the milongas (checks only please).

April

16th - 29th Paulo Araujo Returns!

We loved his classes last year, so by popular demand Paulo Araujo is back with workshops and privates for two weeks. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Paulo is an excellent teacher and performer. His joy for the dance is always evident. Contact Phoebe Grant <u>pjg@mind-</u> <u>spring.com</u> or 312.342.4335 for details.

28th Brango Champagne Brunch

Chicago Yacht Club, Belmont Harbor, Chicago Noon – 4:00 PM \$40 general admission/\$36 to CTCA members

For the 6th year the *Chicago Tango Club Argentine* welcomes Spring with the "Brango" – a champagne brunch tango. Enjoy fabulous food, wonderful lake

views, a large wood floor, and parking close by (don't forget quarters). Dress is "elegantly casual." Purchase tickets by sending your check payable to CTCA and mail to Carmen Pinto, Treasurer, 5320 N. Lowell, Apt #208, Chicago, IL 60630. Contact Charlotte Vikstrom, 773.493.0666, for details.

May

3rd – 5th Tango...nada mas 5th Anniversary Weekend

6137 N. Northwest Highway

Facundo and Kely Posadas are making a special trip to Chicago to offer workshops and performances to help Bob and Kathleen celebrate their 5th year in business. For more details see ad on page 2.

10th WIL "Spring Fantasy Ball"

Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston (at Hamlin), Chicago 8:00 PM – 12:30 AM; \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

WIL (Women's International Literacy Support) is pleased to announce its first fundraiser. Support our dream and goal of improving the literacy for the women and children of Afghanistan. Come join us for an enchanting evening of decadent desserts, fabulous food, delightful door prizes and dancing, dancing, dancing – tango, mambo, salsa, swing with a few surprises as well! Share the magic and invite your friends and families. Make your check for \$30 payable to: WIL, c/o Margaret Greenberg, Treasurer, 4453 N. Winchester Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640-5858; or Jane Jackson, Chair Person, 3900 Lake Shore Dr., #21G, Chicago, IL 60613.

24th - June 1st Tango Fantasy

Miami Beach, Florida

Juan Carlos Copes - Osvaldo Zotto - Fernanda Ghi – Facundo: These are just a few of the dance professors teaching at this event. Come for the Memorial Day weekend or stay for a week. Packages and discounts available using *WindyCityTango* group registration. Full details at www.TangoFantasy.com or by contacting Phoebe Grant at 312.342.4335 pjg@mindspring.com or Leroy Hearon leroytango@aol.com.



Lake Street Milonga 942 W. Lake, Chicago \$10 - light refreshments; BYOB Dancing 8:30 pm - 1:00 am

Contact your hosts for more information Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137 tangojan@hotmail.com Erica Sutton773.505.1577 erica@tangoparatodos.com Beth Braun 847.846.5611 bethdanceb@aol.com April 5th – Floral Evening
April showers bring... well, flowers.
Don't wait for May. Wear your prettiest florals to the first milonga of April.

April 19th – "Fauna" Dance on the wild side...fur, feathers, animal prints...express your animal nature in our second milonga of Spring!

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Chicago Tango Club Argentine April Update Charlotte Vikstrom, President

If You've Asked Yourself Recently What is My Club Doing For Me? Then Read On! Sixth Annual Champagne Tango Brunch will be held at the Chicago Yacht Club,

Sunday April 28th from noon to 4:00 PM. Cost \$40 with a 10% discount to members.

Come and enjoy Free Champagne and other wonderful dishes—a small sampling of the items will include:

Appetizers Smoked Fish and Cheese Table Eggs Benedict Entrees Grilled Salmon Chef Carver Roast Prime Rib of Beef Fresh Pasta Chicken Breasts with Seasonal Sauce Desserts Pastries, Cakes and Tarts, Croissants and Danishes Beverages Champagne, Juices, Coffee and Tea For reservations please mail your check to Carmen Pinto 5320 N. Lowell, Apt #208, Chicago 60630

For a Brief History of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine, please click here

SEE WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT

The Tango Talk Forum of tangonoticias.com

THIS MONTH'S BURNING TOPICS:

Invitation to the Dance: *El Cabeceo* A Game: Your Favorite Chicago Milonga and Why! Tango Challenge

Other Topics:

Why is it that Important? Should Newcomers Dance at Milongas? Shoes What is Tango to You?

And others...What tango-related issue is BURNING YOU?!? Post your *own* line of discussion!

Just go to tangonoticias.com/tangotalk

An Excerpt from this month's Tango Talk by *Chicho*, a milonguero from Pompeya, Argentina:

"Dear people from Chicago,

The thing that you call "eye contact" we call in Argentina, Cabeceo or, in English, 'Pitching.' The action is one of moving your head in the direction of the dance floor keeping the eye contact with your potential partner at the same time. That practice is as old as tango itself. It is more than a shy person technique; it is a matter of culture in Argentina, and if you really want to have an Argentine tango experience you may go by that too. For the man, it is a quiet way to invite the ladies to dance without anyone else taking account of it. Option 1= If she said 'yes' you are a successful milonguero and everybody will see you dance. Option 2= She said 'no,' so no one will know that you failed. Perhaps it is the male pride that we Argentineans have. As simple as that. I hope that my commentary serves to clarify a little."

Do you have an opinion on the subject of the 'Cabeceo'? Go to *Tango Talk* and choose the topic: *Invitation to the Dance*

Regional Supplement to Tango Noticias

To add, change or update information appearing in this section please send your notices to central tango@hotmail.com

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts:

Rita Marvelli: marvelli@uiuc.edu; 217-344-2123 Leonardo: Tangoleon@aol.com; 217-328-1311 Joe Grohens: grohens@uiuc.edu; 217-328-1008 Manuel Choi: mcho2@uiuc.edu

Milongas: Tango Society of Central Illinois — Monthly milongas held at Phillips Recreation Center: Springfield and McCullough, Urbana. Saturdays 9-12PM: Apr 6, & Apr 27. Admission \$3 for dance; \$5 with pre-milonga lesson. Workshops before milongas by Fred and Yermen Romero. For more information contact Leonardo.

Practicas: Sundays 8-10PM at Erwin's.

Classes and Other Events:

For schedules visit www.prairienet.org/whitesteet/tango.html.

Detroit, **MI**

Contacts: *MotorCity Milongueros.com* Amy & Ray: MotorCity Milongueros.com; 313.561.3236 Lori Burton: Argentinetangodetroit.com; 810.726.2370 Amy & Ray: MotorCity Milongueros.com

Classes:

—Tuesdays at DanceSport Academy of Michigan, Dearborn. All levels 8:00 to 9:00pm. Milonga:—*Milonga picante*; twice monthly at the University Club at Michigan Union (530 S. State) Ann Arbor. From 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM; cost: free. Apr 12 & 19.



—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.

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 Thursday; call for information or check website. Lessons prior to milonga beginning at 7:00PM. 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/tango **Classes:** Tuesdays at St Mark's, 38th & Troost: 7-8:30 Beginning; cost \$5 8:30-10:00 Intermediate; cost \$5.

Practicas: *The Hurricane;* Sundays at Westport and Broadway from 5-7PM. **Milongas:** Wednesdays at *Fedora on the Plaza;* 210 W. 47th, lessons from 7-8 pm. Live tango music by *Tango Lorca* from 8-11 pm. Lesson with Mitch Weiner; cost: Free.

Visiting Teachers: Fernanda & Guillermo: April 25-28

continued on page 10

Madison, WI

Contacts:

Steven Fosdal: fosdal@mail.com; 608.288.8339 Anna Snider: atango@mail.com; 608.836.7716 tango@fosdal.net; tango.doit.wisc.edu

Practicas: Pasión del Tango: Every Tuesday at South Union, Univ. of Wis. campus at the corner of Randall and Johnson streets; 7-8:30, no charge. **Milongas:** Great Hall Memorial Union.; 7-11PM. Contact Steven & Anna for more details.

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 - 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 at Focal Point; call
Estella & Randy for details.

Classes:

Estella & Randy: 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@winternet.com, www.geocities.com/twincitiestango Lois Donnay: 612.822.8436 donnay@donnay.net Frank Williams: 612.379.4565 Frankw@tc.umn.edu



Practicas: Rebecca *Trost's Tango Practicas:* Tuesdays 9-10:30 pm; \$2. *Four Season's Dance Studio:* Mondays, 9-10:30 pm – cost \$4; 1637 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis 612.342.0902.

Lake Harriet Dance Studio, 6438 Lyndale Ave., Richfield. Structured *practica* with Steve Lee; 9:00-10:30 PM: \$4 unstructured, \$5 structured.

Milongas:

Tango Society of Minnesota: 2nd Saturday/monthly at *Dancesport 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 **Classes:** *please see the following websites for details*:

websites for details: www.mntango.org/tsomcal http://i.am.tctango

Visiting Teachers:

Florencia Taccetti – ongoing at Four Seasons Dance Studio; contact at 612.379.4565 or ftaccetti@yahoo.com

For a weekly update of Twin Cities tango activities, go to http://mntango.org/mailmn/l istinfo/ and subscribe to 'TSOM- announce.' To add, change or update information appearing in this section please send your notices to central_tango@hotmail.com

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Size of ad	Newsletter	+ Web	+ Website Total	
1/8 page	\$25	\$12	\$27	
1/4 page	\$35	\$17	\$52	
1/2 page	\$50	\$25	\$75	
whole page	\$85	\$42	\$127	



Paulo Araujo returns!!!

April 16 - 29, 2002

workshops private lessons performances dancing

A special thanks in advance to Javier, Romulo, Douglas, Fred, ... for their excellent interpretation.

hosted by Leroy Hearon, Jr. & Phoebe J. Grant A WindyCityTango, Unlimited 2002 Event

Contact Phoebe J. Grant at pjg@mindspring.com (312) 342-4335 or keep your eye on Erica Sutton's website www.tangoparatodos.com



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The Editors

We are striving to create the very best newsletter. Let us know if you like our recent improvements. E-mail us with your comments. Thank you!

Letters to the Editors

To the Editors:

I have to tell you what a delight it is to receive *Tango Noticias*. Many compliments to you and the entire editorial and production staff. It is well written and beautifully produced. You should be very proud.

Again, many thanks.

Linda Valentino

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