

Tango Noticias

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Carlos Gardel Was, or Was not Argentinean?

Special report from France By Orlando Budini

The location of Carlos Gardel's birthplace has always been a controversy. Uruguay claims he was born in Tacuarembó in 1893. Argentineans demand that Carlos Gardel was not only Argentinean but he is also the symbol of the Argentine Tango and his figure has reached popular mystic proportions. France meanwhile claims that Charles Romuald Gardes was born in Toulouse in 1890. While on tour in France, although I have several workshops ahead of me and Toulouse was not in my itinerary, I promised tango and myself to visit the place where, according to the experts, Carlos Gardel was born and find out once and for all what was really the truth!

Toulouse, "La Ville Rose" is south of Paris, almost at the border with Spain and between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. I visited Toulouse a couple of years ago during a teaching tour with "El Indio Benavente" and Mariana Fresno (both excellent tango dancers) and in my few walks around the city I was very impressed by its red brick houses and magnificent Renaissance mansions. I was also fascinated by its dual personality: on the one hand industrialized, while on the other one of the most intellectual and artistic centers of France.

The historic Rue de Cannon D' Arcole,

located close to downtown, is now a modern street and it has a lot of traffic. House number 4 belongs to an old, impressive and very well preserved house with a beautiful green wood frame and stained-glass doors. The brickwork of its walls glowed under the sun and a big bronze plaque was on the left side of the front door. I had to take my train back to Paris at 12 noon, so I knocked at the door several times anxiously and exited, so exited my pulse started racing. After all, I was knocking on the door of the house that was supposed to be Carlos Gardel's house! Nobody answered and nobody showed up.

Fortunately in my previous investigations my good friend and local Tango organizer Pierre Thon told me there were more clues at the Hospital "La Grave" on the other side of La Garonne. It was already 12 noon when finally, with my limited French, I was able to explain what I was looking for. "La Grave" hospital's documents clearly state that Charles Romuald Gardes was born there in December 2, 1890 at 2 o'clock in the morning and he was the son of an unknown father and Berthe Gardes. I had already lost my train until tomorrow, so I went back to # 4 Rue Cannon D' Arcole and yes, Tangueros and Milongueros, that was the house of Berthe Gardes and her little son was the number 1, the beginner, the founder, the greatest among the greatest. He was Carlos Gardel!

Pierre, Pascal, Dominique and Sandrine (Toulouse's true milongueros) helped me to put everything together that night at "Tango en el Barrio" (a nice milonga as good as any one in Buenos Aires). Inspired by "the beautiful music", discussing and sharing the very same tango feelings about this, I was able to

accept it. Yes, Carlos Gardel was born here, in Toulouse in 1890. He supposedly was registered in Uruguay in 1893 and later on, after some years living in Buenos Aires, he became an Argentinean Citizen. So, whether France and Uruguay likes it or not, Carlos Gardel (our Carlitos Gardel) was, as well as many other immigrants in those times, an Argentinean by choice. In time he became the true symbol of Argentinean tango music. His magnificent figure has been, for many years and still is in Argentina today, a popular cult in itself reaching religious proportions. This is why, to all Argentineans everywhere in the world (including myself) Carlos Gardel nuestro "Zorzal Criollo", even after death. CADA DIA CANTA MEJOR! (He sings every day better and better)



The plaque text on the front of the House at # 4 Rue de Canon D'Arcole, Toulouse in French, reads in English: "It is in this building that CHARLES ROMUALD GARDES is born on December 2, 1890 who would become a celebrity all over the world under the name of CARLOS GARDEL".

Tango Noticias Photo Page



Milonga San Telmo: Olga + Javier + cast members, Forever Tango



Milonga San Telmo: Paulo + Carlos + Michele



Milonga San Telmo: Phoebe + Rizza + Dany + Steve



Nuestro Tango: Bob + Kathy



Recuerdo Club: Margo + Romulo



Nuestro Tango: Eva + Joseph



Purdu University: Yermin + Idler + Meianie + Jin



Nuestro Tango: Adrianne + Miguel



Recuerdo Club: Cacho + Raymond



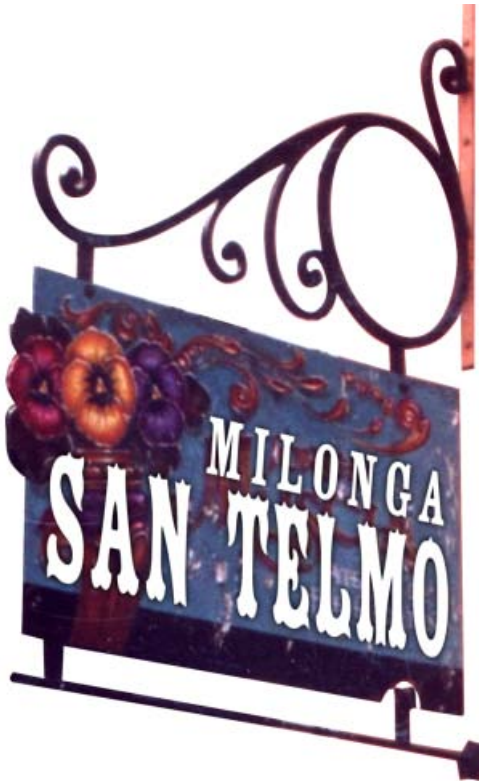
Recuerdo Club: Michaeli + Lilliana



Milonga San Telmo: Olga + cast member, Forever Tango



Nuestro Tango: Jerry + Jose



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& Olga**





The Eyes Have It: A Study of the Endangered Cabeceo

By Natalie Pepa



A serious malady is threatening a segment of the Argentine populace. It is so pervasive we can no longer turn our eyes away, we must accept it as we accept global warming or the problem of non-recyclable trash. Evidence presented at the last Macro International Education Research (M.I.E.R.) and Development Association (D.A.) conference held at an undisclosed location, left no doubt as to the disturbing nature of the problem. Though it affects a specific population group in Argentina, its repercussions will be felt worldwide.

Dr. A. Tongin, M.D., PhD, RBI, examined the historical data available and his partner, Prof. Emeritus G. Cheeque, RhD, LMP, STD, evaluated current data. Their research showed that the traditional cabeceo was developed for important sociological reasons—the protection and preservation of male ego and female vulnerability. How else can one guarantee a man's protection from public ridicule if he is to walk across a crowded dance floor to ask a woman to dance risking potential refusal? How else does one protect the tender nature of a woman who may not have the strength of character to refuse a dance with a man she does not want? The answer is the cabeceo—the mantle of protection that allows both genders a choice! The problem is that while the aging milonguero hopes to continue with old customs, thus keeping history alive, he is severely curtailed by the simple fact that he is losing his eyesight. According to the latest statistics, taken by both partial and impartial censors, five out of seven milongueros are affected. In addition to scientific evidence, the phenomenon can be observed first hand. In an informal study, done undercover in Buenos Aires,

it was found that 88 percent of milongueros don eye glasses immediately upon leaving a milonga, a shocking 41 percent unabashedly put them on at the dance, and another 23 percent are undecided. With alarming frequency, one finds the same scene at milongas—the music starts and dozens of men put on their eye glasses, while across the dance floor many women do the same. Others, respectful of maintaining the proper image, resign themselves to squinting! How can the sleek, seductive and salacious image of tango be maintained under such circumstances?

It truly is a sad sight to find these poor souls struggling with reflecting glare and misunderstandings due to inability to make eye (vs. glass) contact. Witnesses have seen up to three women get up as a man walks by when he did not intend to dance with any of them, but was simply heading for the bathroom. The same happened when two men got up and walked toward a woman who had nodded to neither of them but in acknowledgement to a statement made by a companion! On more than one occasion, men have developed

debilitating neck rigidity as a result of extreme nuccal extension attempting to attract a visually impaired female who, because of vanity, would not don a pair of glasses.

But tradition is vital to old milongueros and they adamantly refuse to adapt the crude ways of the young. These men have given their lives to the dance and all its rituals, often repudiating education, work, and family life. They would never walk to the table to ask a woman to dance but will remain faithful to the old ways.

There is a ray of hope, however. Researchers in Buenos Aires have recently observed a milonguero using a red laser beam. He scanned the room with the light, focused it on a lady's face and immediately gained her attention. She looked toward him, smiled and nodded, and he successfully had a partner for the next dance. This may be the perfect solution that will preserve a time honored practice, while allowing the introduction of modern technology. The proper tool is being developed by the team of Tongin-Cheeque who will need all the support of the tango community. All donations—cash, check or credit card (Visa and Master Card, no AmEx or Diners please)—can be sent to them through a local chapter in your city, or you may simply supply them with your bank account number. You can be assured they would never misuse your trust or your funds. They rely on time honored Argentine traditions both of social behavior and finance by having the backing of the International Money Fund (IMF) and the banking community.



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08

November 08 New Class Sessions Begin

First Classes in 2005 begin
January 03



TANGO

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Foundation Class

This class is designed to give students the foundations of tango technique. Absolute beginners are encouraged to start their tango experience here but seasoned dancers may find this class useful and are welcome as well. Registration is required. The upcoming session starts on November 08.

Time: Mondays 8:30 – 9:30 pm
Cost: \$70 for a session of six classes

Intermediate Class

Registration is recommended. Prior tango experience or completion of foundation class is recommended. Our classes focus on technique, musicality and connection with your partner.

Time: Mondays 7:15 – 8:15 pm
Cost: \$ 11 per class or \$60 for a session of six classes.

Practica at Dance Connection

Come and practice your steps in the best dance studio in Chicago!

Practicing can be fun and rewarding when you work on your tango technique in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We open the practica with warm-up exercises and a workshop designed to fine-tune your techniques. Then we open the spacious dance floor for the guided practica where you can practice anything you have in mind without the pressure of the milonga and in front of the mirrors. Dancers who come to the practica always switch partners, exchange ideas, and socialize until we close at 10pm. Come and see how much fun you can have while also making yourself a better dancer.

Time: Thursdays 7:30 – 10:00 pm
Cost: \$10 includes practica, opening workshop & refreshments



**For private lessons, performance or
information on class registration go to:
www.mgoro.com/tango.html or call:
773.575.6906**

Chicago Tango

Chicago Milongas

MONDAYS

Milonga Rubia

2nd Monday of the month.

Located at Mariposa, 346 N. Justine Street, #300, Chicago, 8:00 – midnight, \$10. Contact Phoebe at (312) 342-4335 or WindyCityTango@yahoo.com.

Milonga Morocho

4th Monday of the month

Located at Mariposa, 346 N. Justine Street, #300, Chicago, \$10
Contact Phoebe at (312) 342-4335 or WindyCityTango@yahoo.com.

Cousin's Restaurant

3038 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago.
Milonga 9:00pm to midnight - \$5. Contact Tom Aksoy at 773.968.0101 or www.chicagotangoloop.com

TUESDAYS

Tango Chicago Dance Centre

Located at 1043 W. Madison, Chicago, 8:30 pm – 12 midnight, \$10 cover. Contact Al Gates at (312) 850-1078 or www.tangochicago.com

Milonga at Kabak

Kabak Supper Club and Vodka Room
1090 South Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling
9:30 pm - ? Contact: Vadim Muchnik (847) My-Kabak or Netza Roldan (312) 287-8406 MyTangonet@yahoo.com www.mykabak.com

Barba Yianni

Located at 4761 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, 8pm – 12 Midnight, \$5 cover for dancers. Contact Bethdance11@aol.com; 847-846-5611

WEDNESDAYS

Milonga San Telmo

Located at Club Mambo, 3336 North, Milwaukee Ave., Chicago,
9:00 pm -12:30 pm.
Contact Daniel Byrnes, 312.953.0494 or byrnesdaniel@hotmail.com

Cousin's Restaurant

Located at 2833 N. Broadway, Chicago.
Dancing 9:00 p.m.– midnight, \$5 cover.
Contact Somer at 773.807.5704, or Agape 708.945.4140
findagapepappas@yahoo.com or visit www.tangoardiente.com

THURSDAYS

Tango "Entre Amigos"

Located at Pasha Restaurant & Club, 642 N. Clark, Chicago (312.397.0100), 9:00 pm to midnight, \$5 cover. Contact Jorge Nidas 312.437.2122 or visit www.21tango.com

FRIDAYS

Milonga Vida

1st and 3rd Fridays of the month

Milonga Vida-Blue Moon

4th Friday, when there are 5 Fridays in a month

Located at 346 N. Justine Street, #300 Chicago, 9pm-2am;\$12. Contact Bethdance11@aol.com; 847-846-5611, MariLiz7@aol.com; 630-254-5628.

Los Besos Milongita

2nd Friday of the month

Located at 346 N. Justine Street, #300 Chicago, 9pm - 2am; \$12; Ellen's sweets & savories; BYOB. Contact Ellen & Oleg Mashkovich at una_emocion@yahoo.com

Nuestro Tango

Last Friday of the month

Located at Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston Ave, Chicago, 8:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m., \$10. Contact: Valentina Cisar (262) 942-4587; Carmen Pinto (773) 279-9414; or, Phoebe J. Grant (312) 342-4335, WindyCityTango@yahoo.com.

SATURDAYS

Recuerdo Tango Club

Located at 6137 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL, 9:00 pm. Contact tango@recuerdoclub.com or call 312.593.3553 or visit www.recuerdoclub.com

SUNDAYS

Cousin's Restaurant

2833 N. Broadway, Chicago, 8:00 p.m.- 11:30p.m., \$5 cover. Contact Somer at 773.807.5704 or Agape 708.945.4140 or visit www.tangoardiente.com

Chicago Practicas

WEDNESDAYS

Recuerdo Tango Club

Located at 6137 N. Northwest Highway Chicago, IL. 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Practice Party fee \$5, no charge for students in the Wednesday night class prior to the practica. Contact www.recuerdoclub.com tango@recuerdoclub.com or call 312.593.3553

THURSDAYS

Practica at Dance Connection

Located at 3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago, 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Hosted by Sarah Graff and Misha Goro. Drop-in workshop from 7:30- 8:30 p.m. followed by practica until 10 p.m. Cost \$10. Contact Sarah & Misha at 773.575.6906 or visit www.mgoro.com/tango.html

FRIDAYS

Tango Chicago Dance Centre

Located at 1043 W. Madison, Chicago. Practica 7:30p.m.-11:00 p.m, open to all levels, \$12. Contact Al Gates at 312-850-1078 or www.tangochicago.com

SUNDAYS

Tango Para Todos Practica

Schopf Gallery on Lake
942 West Lake Street
9:00pm - 10:00pm; free
Contact: Erica Sutton
erica@tangoparatodos.com
or 773 505 1577

Chicago Classes

ON-GOING CLASSES

Check the teachers' pages on our website
www.tangonoticias.com

Central Tango

Fayetteville, AR

Contacts: Elayne Hency at Elayne's Dance-The Art of Social Dance; www.elaynesdance.com or info@elaynesdance.com; 479.521.6683 or 479.263.6683

Denver and Boulder, CO

Contacts: Web Sites: www.ragtime.org/dance/; www.danceoftheheart.com
Boulder - Deb Sclar: deb@danceoftheheart.com
Denver - - www.mercurycfe.com;
Chas Gale at (303) 320-4020, hotchango@msn.com, www.thetangothouse.com
Colorado Springs - www.tangospings.com

Atlanta, GA

Contacts: Web Site: www.atlantatangofestival.com

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts: Web Site: <http://tango.joegrohens.com>
www.centragtango.com;
Joe Grohens: joe@joegrohens.com;
217.378.4751, Ron Weigel:
TangoSociety@aol.com; 217.328.1311

Ames, IA

Contacts: Valerie Williams:
www.vjw.biz/docs/amessocdnc.htm;
v@vjw.biz; 515.232.7374;

Des Moines, IA

Contacts: Valerie Williams:
www.vjw.biz/docs/amessocdnc.htm;
v@vjw.biz; 515.232.7374.

Fairfield / Iowa City, IA

Contacts: Fairfield Tango Community - Sheryll Ryan: sryan@humanfactors.com, 641.233.1011, Kelly Custer: 641.472.1001

Indianapolis, IN

Contacts: www.tangoindy.org;
info@tangoindy.org, David Crosley:
dcrosley@challenge-inc.com; 317.407.8181
Barb Bill: 513-321-3546;
bbillcinci@yahoo.com

West Lafayette, IN

Contacts: Contacts: Web site – <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~tango>;
Ricardo Fanciulli: 765.404.5367, riccardo@purdue.edu; Michelle Murphy: mcmurphy@psych.purdue.edu

Detroit, MI

Contacts: Amy & Ray:
MotorCityMilongueros.com, 313.561.3236;
Amy & Ray: MotorCityMilongueros.com;
AmyandRay@comcast.net;
Lori Burton: Argentinatangodetroit.com;
586.726.2370

Ann Arbor, MI

Contacts: www.umich.edu/~umtango;
umtango@umich.edu; 734.327.0642 or
734.564.0811

Twin Cities, MN

Contacts: Web sites: www.mntango.org
www.geocities.com/twincitiestango
Steve Lee: 612.729.5306
tango@winter.net; Lois Donnay:
donnay@donnay.net, 612.822.8436;
Frank Williams: Frankw@tc.umn.edu,
612.379.4565. For a weekly update of Twin
Cities tango activities, go to
<http://mntango.org/mailmn/listinfo/> and
subscribe to 'TSOM- announce.'

Kansas City, MO

Contacts: Korey Ireland; at
<http://www.ko-arts.com/tango.html>;
korey@ko-arts.com; or 816.931.9545

Mt. Vernon, MO

Contacts: Karen Whitesell:
www.thelearningdepot.com/murrays-1/;
417.471.1001; Fax 417.471.1002

St. Louis, MO

Contacts: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/St_Louis_Tango/ and <http://cec.wustl.edu/~hs3/> Roxanne McKenny:
www.tangoteacher.com; 314.324.0887.
Carter Maier: tngomn@hotmail.com. Estella
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www.tangorosa.com; 314.849.3007, Rick
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sellers@me.wustl.edu Berette Salazar:
314.961.1686

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vmalton@yahoo.com

Cleveland, OH

Contacts: Web Site:
www.tangocleveland.com
Timmy Tango: TimmyTango@aol.com;
440.327.8211

Madison, WI

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www.madisontango.org
Steven Fosdal: steve@fosdal.net,
608.347.0014; Krista Bultmann:
608.236.0198, kabultmann@yahoo.com;
Nicole Stevens: 608-213-8301,
milongamadison@yahoo.com

Milwaukee, WI

Contacts: Web Site:
www.milwaukeeetango.com
Marek Sztokowski: argtango@hotmail.com

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Contacts: Web Site:
www.festivaldetangodemontreal.qc.ca

NOTE: Please send any information regarding contact information for Argentine tango events in the Midwest to central_tango@yahoo.com and we will be sure to update each community's contact listing. Also, let us know if you'd like your community featured in an upcoming issue.