

Tango Noticias

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Interview with Adrian Veredice & Alejandra Hobert

By Sarah R. Graff

Adrian Veredice and Alejandra Hobert are dancers and choreographers known for their innovative and electric style of tango. They are the principle dancers and group choreographers for the tango show called "OTANGO" (www.otango.com), the principle dancers for the Tanguisimo Orchestra (www.tanguisimo.org), and they have taught and performed in numerous venues and festivals across Europe and in Buenos Aires. Adrian and Alejandra will be coming to Chicago to perform and teach workshops at the end of this month. They will also be performing with Tanguisimo Orquesta in Indianapolis on April 8th & 9th. I luckily had the chance to interview them while they were still at home in Buenos Aires.



SG: When did you first begin to dance tango? How did you begin? Did you begin dancing tango first or did you study other forms of dance/movement?

Alejandra: I started dancing in 1996, when a friend invited me to take a tango group lesson. I remember that we went to learn and tested the feeling of the tango. The biggest impression was the contact with the other body and the need of communication while dancing. I'm a gymnastics teacher and I always loved to dance but from that moment I could really feel the difference between dancing alone and with another person.

Adrian: I started dancing in 1998, when I went to the Independiente Club to take my regular tennis lessons. I could hear tango music upstairs and I went to see what was happening. I met Chiche and Marta, who afterwards were my first teachers. When I was a child I learned Argentine folk dancing and I feel that it helped me to understand the meaning of the tango. In the beginning my experience with folk dancing was a tool to start working with tango.

SG: Where are you from originally? Do you think that your heritage influences your dance?

Alejandra: I was born in Cordoba, Argentina, in 1975, during the years of the dictatorship. All my family lived in Buenos Aires but my parents had to move

to Cordoba. We lived there until I was nine months old. After that I've always lived in BA. Part of the heritage is alive in our genes and that came from our history. I didn't know my parents and grandparents with the exception of my mother's mother who brought me up and who was a pianist. By the way, I know through her that my father's mother was a classical dancer and her husband, my father's father was an orchestra conductor at the Colon Opera House. My brother is also a guitarist.

Adrian: I'm a "Porteño". My heritage is Argentine and that is my identity. I enjoyed tango music ever since I was a little child through my father's father who brought me up. My family loves to listen to and to see tango music and performances. Sometimes I danced with my family basic tango in family gatherings, but it was informal because they don't usually enjoy going to milongas.

SG: Who were the teachers that influenced you the most? What musicians inspire your dancing the most? Why?

Alejandra: I started learning with Alejandra Arrue and Sergio Nataro. They taught me the basics.

Adrian: My beginning was with a milonguero style.

Alejandra and Adrian: Later on we were greatly influenced by Gustavo Naveira and Giselle Anne. We took a lot of lessons with them. We went to practicas to rehearse and that helped us in the search of our own way of dancing.

Alejandra: I used to prefer different kinds of music and musicians. In fact I could tell that the first musician who amazed me was Piazzolla. Those preferences may change in the course of time. Definitely I like to dance to the music that permeates me.

Adrian: I prefer traditional orchestras like the ones of Anibal Troilo, Ricardo Tanturi and Miguel Calo. But, we are used to interpreting different styles of music, especially for our shows.

SG: How would you describe your

tango style? Have you always danced in this style or do you think your dancing has evolved over time?

Alejandra: I feel my answer probably will be so subjective. I don't know what people actually see when we dance, but I try to create something with the other person, not only movements to follow or to lead, but something in common. Movements in which we depend on each other and the other person will be the reason why things are a certain way. We usually do improvisations and also choreographies. Of course, we work all the time to improve our art.



Adrian: If I had to describe it I could only say that we blend the traditional (that includes the close embrace, musicality and dance on the ground) with the contemporary dynamics which correspond to our generation with a deep feeling of intimacy. Our style is "Adrian and Alejandra".

SG: When and how did you meet each other? When did you form a tango partnership?

Alejandra and Adrian: We met almost seven years ago in the Milonga of Torquato Tasso. We became tango partners in 1998.

This is the sixth year we've been traveling abroad. We built up our professional career together.

SG: Have you ever been to Chicago before? What do you remember about the city and what do you remember about the tango scene?

Alejandra and Adrian: Yes, we went to Chicago four years ago. The company "Tango Danza" hired us to do shows in some theaters.

Alejandra: While in Chicago we didn't have a lot of time to visit the city but what I could see was really impressive. I know that Chicago is a big and beautiful city. It really makes me happy to have an opportunity to visit Chicago again.

Adrian: I hope to get in contact with the tango atmosphere in Chicago. I wish to get to know the milongas there and the people who share the same passion.

SG: You currently have your own tango show called "Otango" where you are the group choreographers and principle dancers. Can you tell us how this show came to fruition?

Alejandra: "Otango" is a show created by the Belgo-American Artemis Productions. The casting is composed by the Tanguisimo Orchestra of Paris: five couples of tango dancers and the technical crew. The principal idea was created by the producers with the musicians and our participation. We designed the group choreographies and the soloist themes were done by each couple. Each couple imprinted their own style in their dancing. We became involved because we have been the soloist couple for Tanguisimo for the past three years. In fact, we will perform with Tanguisimo Orchestra in Indianapolis this April in conjunction with the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis concert series.

SG: Where has "Otango" been performed and will you bring the show to the US?

Alejandra: We hope to visit the US in a short time and we will be working again in

Europe by the end of this year in France and Belgium.

SG: You have regularly been teaching and performing at festivals in Europe and you have also participated in CITA. Which festival has been the most rewarding for you and why?

Alejandra: We try to work in festivals that mean an additional value for us. Many times we like the atmosphere, or the paradisiacal places where they are realized. Obviously, it is important that people get to know us so festivals with big crowds were ideal when we first started.

Adrian: Naturally, each organizer aims at obtaining a unique charm for their festival. We feel that it is a rewarding experience to work in CITA because this festival is carried out in Buenos Aires.

SG: When we met you in Buenos Aires, you described yourself as a “milonguero” Adrian. How do you define milonguero? A milonguero is not just someone who dances tango so what exactly is a milonguero for you?

Adrian: The word “milonguero” is very special for me, because it represents a way of life and feeling of tango. The milonguero is not only the person that goes to the milongas every night. I think it is more related to the passion.

SG: How do you decide which milongas to attend when you are at home in Buenos Aires?

Alejandra: When I'm home I try to do everything. After six years of traveling, I can't resist the impulse of doing a bit of everything when I arrive in BA. I'd really like to go to the milongas on many occasions but sometimes I get up early in the morning and it is not possible to do both things. But if I go to dance I'll surely go to Salon Canning because I meet my friends there, there is live music, and there are also exhibitions. I feel comfortable there. I also like the practica in Villa Malcom.

Adrian: I like to go to Salon Canning where I have friends and acquaintances on

Mondays and Fridays. I also like to go to La Nacional and Niño Bien.

SG: What does tango represent for you?

Adrian: The tango gave me a lot of tools to express myself. The most attractive was to find a way of life where I feel comfortable living together with passion and work.

Alejandra: The biggest parts of my life are connected to tango. I've been traveling six months to a year, that is to say that all of my habits are changing through tango. The meaning of the tango is the search for whatever I want to do.

SG: What do you think about before you perform? How do you get ready for a performance?

Adrian: I always try to feel neutral and with my energy in equilibrium with the music.

Alejandra: It depends. It is never the same. But I know that when I was so sure and confident it wasn't my best performance. The previous state of nervousness, if you want to define that feeling, helps me concentrate.

SG: You have danced for many orchestras including Color Tango and now for Tanguisimo Orchestra. What is it like to work with live orchestras? How do you approach the dance differently when the music is live as opposed to recorded?

Alejandra: The technology is amazing and little by little it is changing our life. Music is being influenced by this everyday. I enjoy it a lot when I can listen to and see live music. The best are Sexteto Mayor and Los Reyes del Tango.

Adrian: The sound is different. When I dance with an orchestra I have to think; sometimes the compass has a subtle tendency to haste or “realentarse”. I like to improvise inside the music.

SG: What is your method of teaching? What do you hope to impart to your students during your classes?

When we teach we try to do it in the same way we would like to learn: step by step, starting with an exercise so that it will be possible to build the completion of a sequence.

To learn more about Adrian and Alejandra, and see a video of one of their CITA performances, you can visit their website: www.adrianyalejandra.com

If you would like to see Adrian and Alejandra with Tanguisimo Orchestra here is the information:

Saturday, April 8, 2006, 8:00 PM
Clowes Memorial Hall - 4602 Sunset
Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana. \$10-45

Tanguisimo, an Argentine Tango Orchestra, performs a spectacular evening of music and dance. Tanguisimo features 1998 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis's competition laureate Svetlin Roussev. Roussev and several long-time friends, all of them musical virtuosos, embark on their first world tour in 2006.

Tickets are on sale at the Clowes box office at (317) 940-6444. Reserved seating prices range from \$25-\$45 for general admission, \$10 for students. Senior citizens may receive a 15% discount. All concerts are open to the public. <http://www.violin.org/concert.html>

“Made up of five musicians coming from different backgrounds and united by passion for tango, Tanguisimo is an orchestra of musical virtuosity.”
el farolito, Paris Tango Magazine

“This first-rate ensemble creates a charismatic, passionate and elegant spectacle ... More than 800 people drank in the sight of the sublime legwork of the dancers; they opened their ears and also their hearts, and the final standing ovation turned into a long queue for autographs ...”
Nice-Matin



CHICAGO TANGO PROJECT IS PROUD TO
PRESENT WORLD-RENOWNED DANCERS
AND THE STARS OF THE SHOW OTANGO
**ADRIAN VEREDICE &
ALEJANDRA HOBERT**

IN CHICAGO FROM MARCH 30 THROUGH
APRIL 5 2006

WORKSHOPS APRIL 1ST AND 2ND, 2006

WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

TIME: 12:00-1:30pm
THEME: Tango "Introductions and New
Technique: Volcadas"
LEVEL: Pre-intermediate & Intermediate

TIME: 1:45-3:15pm
THEME: Milonga "Musicalidad -
Movimientos Rítmicos"
LEVEL: Intermediate and Advanced

TIME: 3:30-5:00pm
THEME: Tango "Links and Combinations-
New Tango" Part 1*
LEVEL: Advanced

WORKSHOPS SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

TIME: 12-1:30pm
THEME: Tango "Introductions and New
Technique: Colgadas"
LEVEL: Pre-intermediate & Intermediate

TIME: 1:45-3:15pm
THEME: Vals "Movimientos Circulares
- Uso del giro en la Pareja "
LEVEL: Intermediate and Advanced

TIME: 3:30-5:00pm
THEME: Tango "Links and Combinations-
New Tango" Part 2*
LEVEL: Advanced

*For these workshops we'll work with elements
like: Volcadas / Colgadas / Mov. Centrifugos/ Boleos
en Colgadas / Bloqueos / Tomadas / Piernazos /
Usos de los ejes.

WORKSHOPS PRICES:

1 workshop – \$25
3 or more workshops – \$20 per class
All 6 workshops – \$110

WORKSHOPS LOCATION:

Dance Connection Studio, 3117 North
Clybourn Ave. Chicago, Illinois.
Ample street parking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE WORKSHOPS:

email info@tangoproject.com or call
773-575-6906.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADRIAN AND ALEJANDRA PLEASE VISIT THEIR WEBSITE:

www.adrianyalejandra.com where
you can watch a video of a CITA
performance.



Anchors of Identity

RECENT WORK BY MICHAEL [MISHA] GORO

EXHIBITION DATES:

March 3rd – March 25th, 2006

OPENING RECEPTION:

Friday, March 10th, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

VESPINE STUDIOS & GALLERY 1907 South Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois. Telephone: 312.962.5850. www.vespine.org

GALLERY HOURS Friday 4 – 9 pm, Saturday 10 am – 4 pm
Monday – Thursday by appointment only

This fine art exhibition features recent etchings by Michael Goro. For more information on the artwork visit: www.mgoro.com

© 2006 michael goro, material culture [etching, 24 x 36 in]

03
april
start of upcoming
class sessions



CHICAGOTANGOPROJECT

CLASSES WITH MISHA AND SARAH

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.

Time: Mondays 8:30 – 9:30 pm
Cost: \$80 for a session of six classes.

Intermediate Class

This class is a continuation of the Foundations Class. It focuses on technique, musicality and connection with your partner. Prior tango experience or completion of Foundation Class is required. Registration is recommended.

Time: Mondays 7:15 – 8:15 pm
Cost: \$80 for a session of six classes.

Advanced Class

This class provides students with the techniques for complex movements in tango applying technical skills from the Foundation and Intermediate classes. Registration is recommended.

Time: Thursdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm
Cost: \$80 for a session of six classes.

Chicago Tango Project Practica

The practica is where you can practice what you have learned in class and ask questions. This practica is open to tango dancers of any level and any style.

Time: Thursdays
8:30 – 10:00 pm
Cost: \$10 includes practica & refreshments. \$5 for students registered for classes.

Our classes are conveniently located at Dance Connection Studio in Chicago 3117 North Clybourn, just south of the intersection of Clybourn, Belmont and Western. Ample Parking.

For private lessons, performances or information on class registration call: 773.575.6906 or visit us online.

tangoproject.com



Daniel Byrnes



digital + film > photography

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Central Tango

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ATLANTA, GA

Contacts: www.atlantatangofestival.com

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL

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

AMES / DES MOINES, IA

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

FAIRFIELD / IOWA CITY, IA

Contacts: Greg Kovaciny, Iowa City Tango Club kovaciny@inav.net. New website: <http://soli.inav.net/~dance/tango.html>. It is the official home of Iowa City Tango Club, and includes extensive information on things going on in the Iowa area, including our events in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Fairfield, Des Moines, Ames.

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: <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~tango>
Michelle Murphy: mcmurphy@psych.purdue.edu

ANN ARBOR, MI

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

DETROIT, MI

Contacts: Amy & Ray: MotorCityMilongueros.com, 313-655-4680, AmyandRay@wowway.com
Metro-Detroit area: Argentine Tango Detroit
Lori Burton: Lori@argentinatangodetroit.com; <http://www.argentinatangodetroit.com>
586.254.0560

TWIN CITIES, MN

Contacts: www.mntango.org www.geocities.com/twincitiestango Steve Lee: 612.729.5306,
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 <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: St. Louis Argentine Tango Yahoo Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/St_Louis_Tango/ and <http://cec.wustl.edu/~hs3/Tango> St. Louis: <http://www.tangostlouis.com/> Roxanne McKenny: www.tangoteacher.com, 314.324.0887.
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Rick Barbarash: 314-993-3698, rbarbarash@yahoo.com, Milonga Sin Nombre- Monthly Alternative Milonga: <http://home.earthlink.net/~rbarbarash/analternativemilonga>
Shaun Sellers: sellers@me.wustl.edu
Gateway Tango: <http://www.gatewaytango.org>

ALBUQUERQUE/SANTA FE, NM

Contacts: The Tango Club of Albuquerque at www.geocities.com/tango_abq/special.html Paul Akmajian tango_abq@yahoo.com AasVe

LAS VEGAS, NV

Cont: Allison, Gabriel; www.tangosilhouette.com

TULSA, OK

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www.CincinnatiTangoZone.com

CLEVELAND, OH

Contacts: www.neotango.net for more current Northern Ohio info Greg Messina, neotango2000@yahoo.com, 330-554-8900

PITTSBURG, PA

Contacts: PATangoS – Pittsburgh Argentine Tango Society at www.pitt.edu/~mchp/PATangoWeb.htm, Trini or Sean patangos@yahoo.com or 412.521.1478

MADISON, WI

Madison Tango Society, info@madisontango.org
<http://www.madisontango.org/> 608-236-0198
Nicole Stevens: 608-213-8301, milongamadison@yahoo.com

MILWAUKEE, WI

Contacts: www.wisconsintango.com or www.milwaukeetango.com
Marek Szotkowski: tangomarek@yahoo.com

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

Contacts: www.festivaldetangodemontreal.qc.ca

TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA

Contacts: www.tangoacademy.org; Musharraf Farooqi at info@tangoacademy.org or 416.536.8446.

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.

Chicago Tango

CHICAGO MILONGAS

MONDAY

Milonga Malena

2nd Monday at Mariposa, 1803 W. Byron Chicago IL. \$10; (\$8 with student ID) 8:30pm - 12:00am. Host & DJ: George Drivakos/Beth Braun Tel. 847-845-2669/847-846-5611 E-Mail: BethDance1@aol.com

Milonga Rubia y Morocho

every 4th Monday at Mariposa 1803 W. Byron, Chicago, Illinois \$10; 8:30 - 1:00am; Free class prior to milonga Host & DJ: Leroy Hearon/ Phoebe Grant Tel.773-260-2595 E-mail: WindyCityTango@Yahoo.com

DanTango Milonga

1st and 3rd Mondays (and 5th when there are 5 in a month) Host & DJ: Daniel Angel Noce At Mariposa 1803 W. Byron Street Chicago, IL. 9pm - 12:00am. Class prior to milonga. \$10; \$8 for students. Further information: 847-846-5611 Bethdance1@aol.com www.mariposachicago.com

TUESDAY

Milonga Entre Amigos

Images Restaurant, 3908 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago, Illinois. \$10; 9pm-12:00+ Free class prior to milonga. Contact tel. 312-437-2122, E-mail: Jorge@2ltango.com

Tango Chicago Tuesday Night Milonga

Tango Chicago Dance Centre. 1043 W. Madison, Chicago. 8:30 pm - 12 midnight, \$12. Contact: Al Gates at 312.850.1078 or www.tangochicago.com

American Tango Institute's Tuesday Night Milonga

Palwaukee Inn (formerly Kabak) 1090 South Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, Illinois 8:30-12:00am, lesson prior to milonga. \$10. Contact: Netza Roldan 312.287.8406, MyTangonet@yahoo.com or www.americantangoinstitute.com

Nina's Sweet Elixir

At ATI 325 N. Hoyne; C-404 Chicago, Illinois 9pm-12am;\$10; \$5 for students with ID Free class prior to milonga. Contact: Nina Tatarowicz Tel. 312-730-8873 E-mail: ninatanguera@gmail.com; www.tangoelixir.com

WEDNESDAY

Somer & Agape's Tango Motivo

Barba Yianni Grecian Taverna 4761 N. Lincoln Ave.,Chicago. 9:30pm-12:30am, lesson prior to milonga. \$10. Contacts: Somer 773-807-5704, somersurgit@yahoo.com; Agape 773-936-1619, findagapepappas@yahoo.com

THURSDAY

Milonga Entre Amigos

Every other Thurs -Feb. 2 & 16, March 2, 16 & 30. Ciao Cafe (formerly Chitalia) tel. 312-850-2426, 939 W. Madison Chicago, Illinois \$10; 9pm-12:00+, Contact tel. 312-437-2122 E-mail: Jorge@2ltango.com

ATI Thursday milonga

American Tango Institute. 325 N. Hoyne; C-404 Chicago, Illinois. \$12; 8:30pm-12:00am Contact: Netza Roldan; Tel. 312-287-8406 E-mail: MyTangoNet@Yahoo.com www.americantangoinstitute.com

FRIDAY

Milonga Vida

1st, 3rd, 4th Fridays (when there's 5 in a month) at Mariposa1803 W. Byron Chicago, Illinois. Contact: Beth Braun; DJ: George Drivakos 847-846-5611 E-mail: BethDance1@aol.com

Los Besos Milonguita

2nd Friday of the month at Mariposa 1803 W. Byron. Chicago, Illinois. Hosts: Ellen & Oleg Mashkovich tel. 847-409-4513 E-mail: una_emocion@yahoo.com or call Beth 847-846-5611; 630-254-8628

Nuestro Tango

Last Friday of the month. Latvian Community Center 4146 N. Elston Ave., Chicago 8:30pm - 12:30 am; \$10, Contact: 262.942.4587 Valentina, 773.279.9414 Carmen, 312.342.4335 Phoebe or WindyCityTango@Yahoo.com

SATURDAY

Recuerdo Tango Club

6137 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago. 9pm.-?, \$15. Hosted by Carlos & Melisa Favre Contact: tango@recuerdoclub.com

De Corazón a Corazón

American Tango Institute, 325 N. Hoyne; C-404, Chicago, Illinois. \$12; 9pm - 2am Contact: Netza Roldan; Tel. 312-287-8406 E-mail: MyTangoNet@Yahoo.com www.americantangoinstitute.com

SUNDAY

Somer & Agape's Tango Motivo

Flatfile Galleries 217 N. Carpenter St., Chicago Milonga 8-11pm, lesson prior to milonga. \$15. Contact: Somer 773-807-5704, somersurgit@yahoo.com; Agape 773-936-1619, findagapepappas@yahoo.com

CHICAGO PRACTICAS

TUESDAY

U of C Practica at the Library

University of Chicago, Ida Noyes Theatre-3rd floor. 1212 E. 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois \$5 (\$3 with UofC ID); Lesson before practica Contact: Marco Mambelli; email: marco@hep.uchicago.edu

THURSDAY

Chicago Tango Project Practica

Dance Connection Studio 3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago 8:30 to 10:00 pm; \$10, registered students \$5. Lesson prior to practica. Refreshments provided. Contact: Sarah & Misha at 773.575.6906 or www.tangoproject.com

U of C Practica

University of Chicago, Ida Noyes Hall 1212 E. 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois \$5 (\$3 with UofC ID); Lesson before practica Contact: Marco Mambelli; email: marco@hep.uchicago.edu

FRIDAYS

Tango Chicago Dance Centre

1043 W. Madison, Chicago. Practica 7:30p.m.-11:00 p.m, open to all levels, \$12. Contact: Al Gates at 312.850.1078, www.tangochicago.com

ON-GOING CLASSES

Check the Chicago Teachers link on our website www.tangoenoticias.com