

## 5.2 Argentine tango

What makes this dance recognizable? What is typical, distinctive or characteristic?

The partners seem to have particularly high levels of body contact: head to head. Mostly black, white and red in the clothing. Floating and some shuffling around and disorderly on the dance floor. Ocho 's: short rotation of the lady, who often indulges in the direction of the man with closed eyes and feels what he suggests. Is an outsider that is not really part of ballroom or Latin dance schools and is little practiced at (their) dance evenings, but has a very unique scene with groups, teachers and venues so that the connoisseurs of the circuit even several times a week know where to go for their hobby or often their passion.

Examples:

Max - Paole Conte

I've seen that face before (libertango) - Grace Jones

Adios Nonino - Astor Piazzolla

BPM:

There is no clear origin for the word. Tango is possible from the Latin verb *tangere*: I touch it? Or *Tambor*: drum?

Argentine Tango is a style both in music and in dance and poetry. The origin is unclear. It is believed that he was born on the banks of the Rio de la Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina and Montevideo in Uruguay in late 19th century. There mingled music and dance of descendants of black slaves with that of immigrants from Europe (about half of Italy, a third from Spain) and *caudillos* (: South American (group) leaders), who came to the city looking for a job .

Tango would so be developed around 1880 in the most lowborn district of Buenos Aires, Barrio de las Ranas. He was danced by the 'gauchos' (South American cowboys). The men practiced (for lack of women) between them. So in those early days it was the men who came together and shaped and tried out some dance steps. The style was called milonguero and canyengue. They were then only accompanied by two musicians with a guitar and a flute or harp. Several times a milonga led to arguments and fights... The tango was initially also considered an ordinary and vulgar dance.

Some movements are said to originate in the whore neighborhood. The (few) women were trying to hit with knee and foot, the wallet of the gay so to feel or to hear whether there was hard cash in it. The typical head to head posture was also designed to be able to peek into his vest pockets for cash. Or to turn their nose a bit away of the unwashed gauchos?

In 1920, the tango was for the first time to see in a movie, danced by Rudolph Valentino. Thus, the tango of the subculture of brothels was promoted to the dance of the European and American high society. The dance was a hit. In restaurants, hotels and other public places 'thé tango' or 'tango teas' were held in the late afternoon and early evening. A pianist, a small orchestra or a gramophone made music. They danced between the tea tables. The limited space would cause many short and small, swaying movements. The tango was not bound by any rules at that time. There were as many forms as there were dance teachers. This still is the case now, for a large part. Argentine Tango is alive and still changing.

Buenos Aires has grown tremendously in the beginning of the twentieth century. The number of people dancing tango grew accordingly. The musical and the number of dance clubs increased. There were real halls, where one could go for a milonga every night. The music was always played live at that time. Orchestras played night after night. The now typical bandoneon (concertina or accordion -like instrument with a long bellows) had already been introduced from Germany. The German Heinrich Band developed the instrument in 1854 for use in churches where there was no organ. Due to the large influx of public, orchestras also had to grow in order to be heard above the noise of talking and dancing people. Indeed, there was no electronic

amplification. This created Orquesta Tipica.

In the glory years (1930-1950) of tango it seemed as if each porteño (name for a resident of the city) did tango in Buenos Aires. Tango and joining had become an important part of their identity. They went to a milonga at least once a week.

Since the mid-eighties, the Argentine tango is danced more and more. In many cities there are dance schools, halls and salons. The number of Argentine tango dancers for example in the Netherlands and Belgium is in the thousands. The average age of the dancers is around 40 years. From teens to old man enjoys every tango his hobby.

Remarkably, the tango is also very popular in Finland. This country is, according to some, not exactly known for his temperamental population. Nevertheless, there are a lot tango competitions. And as music is used in everything from classical music pieces to muzak. Some Finns jokingly claim that the Argentineans have stolen tango of them. Accordion and bandoneon are popular in Finland. The music is predominantly melancholic.

Already before the tango was actually danced in Europe, he has had many opponents, including the French bishops and many doctors. But proponents made it eventually. In 1924, the tango was introduced throughout Europe. Today, two variants are danced. The ballroom tango and Argentine Tango.

The continental (ballroom) tango hardly seems like the old Argentine tango. He is absolutely not to mention vulgar, tends even more towards elitist. The tight, staccato movements, especially the main actions of the lady are typical for the tango.

They are now two different dances. They differ including music, style, temperament and character. On most dance schools the European tango is taught.

A classic tango orchestra, Orquesta Tipica usually consists of the bandoneon, piano, violin (often multiple), cello and double bass. In less traditional orchestras, one also hears drums, electric guitar, harmonica and flute.

Typically is the tight (bow stroked) bass. The melody instruments (bandoneon and piano) then play quite over it.

Also tango music is in motion. After Piazzolla's Tango Nuevo there is now Neotango. What that means no one really knows as it usual and in most music genres goes. Most people assume that it is new anyway. The music is more staccato and has an evident rhythm. The whole is more modern. Many acclaimed music comes from Gotan Project. This new once was also for Tango Nuevo. Now it is mainly seen as the music of Piazzolla from the late 20th and early 21th centuries.

Tango espectáculo also commonly referred to as a show tango and tango fantasía was developed by professional dancers to perform in theater shows. This is often displayed as cliché image of tango. The show is meant to impress the public with rapid leg movements and spectacular jumps. The show tango combines classic tango with modern dance and ballet. Under the influence of this tango shows different styles within the salon tango are originated.

The Argentine tango has for connoisseurs some famous masters:

#### Groups

Bajofondo Tango Club, Narcotango, Tanghetto, Tango Crash, Tango nomad and certainly Gotan Project.

#### Orchestra leaders

Miguel Calo, Francisco Canaro, Angel D' Agostino, Juan D' Arienzo, Gustavo Beytelmann, Julio De Caro, Carlos Di Sarli, Roberto Firpo, Juan 'Pacho' Maglio, Astor Piazzolla, Osvaldo Pugliese, Horacio Salgán, Ricardo Tanturi, Aníbal Troilo Alfredo de Angelis, Juan María Solare.

#### Dancers

Pepito Avellaneda, El Cachafaz, and Geraldine Javier, Juan Carlos Copes, Chicho Frumboli, Gustavo Naveira, Petróleo, Antonio Todaro, Pablo Veron, Carlos Gavito, Osvaldo Zotto and Lorena Ermocida.

Just about every school and direction has her heroes.

#### Poets

Carlos Bahr, Eladia Blázquez, Jorge Luis Borges, Enrique Cadícamo, Homero Expósito, Horacio Ferrer, Alfredo Le Pera, Homero Manzi, Enrique Santos Discepolo

#### Singers

Enrique Campos, Francisco Fiorentino, Carlos Gardel, Roberto Goyeneche, Raul Irriarte, Alberto Podestá, Roberto Rufino, Oscar Serpa, Angel Vargas.

Argentine Tango is a living dance. There are many small venues where you can attend classes and practice. Often the neighbors do not even know what it 's going on. But once you get to start, you learn to know the track soon, and you notice that you can go dancing almost every day of the week somewhere. And you see familiar faces everywhere. The in-crowd is not as big.

Unlike many dance schools is inviting and dancing with other partners established here. You should here not be surprised to see men dancing with men. The unwritten and completely free dress code is black and red.