

# Tango

N O T I C I A S

## C O N T E N T S

Volume 2, Issue 1

[www.ballroomchicago.com/tango\\_noticias.htm](http://www.ballroomchicago.com/tango_noticias.htm)

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H a p p y N e w Y e a r !



# CHICAGO EVENTS CALENDAR

## January

### **2ND ONE MORE NEW YEAR'S PARTY**

*Club 720, 720 North Wells 3rd Floor, Chicago*

Chicago Tango Club Argentine will celebrate a Post New Year's Day on the closest Tuesday to the 1st of the year.  
7:30 – 12:00 pm \$5 cover  
Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

### **2ND- 6TH: SÉAN ERWIN AND YANIRA COLLADO**

*Latin Street Dancing 540 North LaSalle, Chicago*

Sean and Yanira will be offering a week of workshops and private lessons. Tuesday & Wednesday, 6-9PM: *Tango Base I & II*. Thursday & Friday, 6-9PM: *Tango Core I & II*. Saturday, 3-6PM: *Advanced Movements/Molinetti*.

Cost \$30/Workshop or \$125 for the Week. Privates also available — call *Latin Street Dancing* at 312.527.9006 to register and for more details.

### **11TH NEW WEEKLY MILONGA ON THURSDAYS**

Are you ready for a new place to dance every Thursday? Bill Schopf's art gallery at 944 W. Lake was designed with tango in mind – large wooden floor, sound system, and ambience. Contact Jan Carpenter 312-664-4865 for details and see advertisement on page 5.

### **11TH – 14TH BROOKE BURDETT WORKSHOP**

Workshops and private lessons will be offered. Details next month. Sponsor – Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 or [tango@argentinamail.com](mailto:tango@argentinamail.com)

### **13TH – 21ST TANGO TOUR TO BUENOS AIRES**

Natalie Pepa will be your resident host for this second trip. Contact Elena Robles, [TangoSentido](mailto:TangoSentido), 773.327.1667 or [TandoSentido@teacher.com](mailto:TandoSentido@teacher.com)

### **25TH – 30TH FACUNDO AND KELY POSADAS**

*Tango...nada mas, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago*

Facundo and Kely are back for workshops January 26-28 and privates all week.

Contact Bob Dronski at 773.792.2099 for details

### **30TH – FEBRUARY 18TH MELINA BRUFMAN AND JULIO ALTEZ WORKSHOPS**

Workshops and private lessons will be offered. Details next month. Sponsor – Tiffany Asta 312.666.4854 or [tiffanytango@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffanytango@hotmail.com)

## February

### **9TH VALENTINE'S BALL**

Melina Brufman, Julio Altez, and Tiffany Asta are hosting this special evening. Details next month or check out the ad on page 3. Sponsor – Tiffany Asta 312.666.4854 or [tiffanytango@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffanytango@hotmail.com)

## March

### **11TH – 18TH CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE TANGO ARGENTINO (CITA)**

Attend this annual Tango Congress in Buenos Aires and study six hours a day, go to milongas every night and see shows of the best Argentine dancers. People from all over the world will attend. Get more information on the [www.cosmotango.com](http://www.cosmotango.com) or contact Elena Robles @ [Tangosentido](mailto:Tangosentido) 773-327-1667

Tango Noticias is a not-for-profit, independent, monthly newsletter whose objective is to provide timely information about happenings of interest to members of Chicago's Tango community. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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# ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ The Event of The Season ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

## THE *Melina Brufman & Julio Altez* VALENTINE BALL

Hosted by: TIFFANY ASTA  
tiffanytango@hotmail.com ♥ telephone:312-666-4854



Theme: **Red Red Red** (wear **Red** if you dare!)  
When: Friday, February 9th  
Where: Location to be announced  
Time: 7:30pm to ?  
Dress: Formal Attire please  
Food: Food and Drinks will be available  
Raffle: \$5 per ticket. The winner of the raffle will enjoy immensely a dinner and Argentinean Maté made for you **EXCLUSIVELY** by Melina Brufman and Julio Altez at the house of Tiffany Asta followed by a **FREE PRIVATE LESSON** if you desire. **INCREASE** your chances to win by purchasing more than one raffle ticket if you desire.

### ♥ A FEW DETAILS ABOUT THE VALENTINE BALL ♥

- ♥ Come to the **ONLY** event where Melina Brufman and Julio Altez will do a **FREE** performance.
- ♥ The **ONLY** event where there will be a **FREE** drawing for a **FREE** private lesson with Melina Brufman and Julio Altez.
- ♥ **PRIZE** for whoever wins the contest for wearing the most red, or the most outlandish, Valentine's outfit.
- ♥ The **EXCLUSIVE** event where there will be a few **SURPRISE PERFORMANCES** (**NEVER BEFORE SEEN SO YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS**).
- ♥ The **ONLY** event where you can enter a **RAFFLE** to **WIN** a **FREE** dinner and maté made **EXCLUSIVELY** for you by Melina Brufman and Julio Altez - followed by a **FREE** private lesson if you desire.

### SAVE THE DATE

Private lessons and workshops will be taught by Melina Brufman and Julio Altez from January 30 to February 18.

\*Call and send your payment **NOW** to reserve your space for private lessons. They were here in November and **SOLD OUT** within 5 days.

Private lessons pre-paid by January 25th are \$100.00 per hour...after January 25th they are \$110.00

\*\*\* Melina Brufman and Julio Altez are available for tango shows and performances at your business event or private party - call Tiffany Asta for more information.

\*\*\*\*Tiffany Asta will be available for questions and registration **IN PERSON** for the month of January at **CLUB 720** on Tuesdays and at **TANGO NADA MAS** on Saturday nights. **SEE YOU AT THE BALL AND WORKSHOPS** and remember: **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING!!!!**

Purchase your tickets for the Ball by February 5th at \$15 each with check (include phone number and number of tickets) payable to:

**Tiffany Asta**  
**809 South Bishop Street #2**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60607**

**\*\* After February 5th, or at the door, tickets will be \$20 each.**



# CHICAGO TANGO

## Chicago Milongas

### First Sunday of the Month – January 7th

#### *Chicago Dance Ballroom*

3660 West Irving Park, Chicago

7:00 – 10:00 pm \$6,

free class at 7:00 pm

Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.Tuesdays

### Tuesdays

#### *Club 720*

Sponsor: Chicago Tango Club Argentine

720 North Wells 3rd Floor, Chicago

7:30 – 12:00 pm \$5 cover

Lesson from 7:30 to 8:15

Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

### First Thursday of the Month – January 4th

#### *Tango 21 – Fine Arts Building*

410 S. Michigan 10th floor, 7:30 – 10 pm

Lesson from 7:00 to 7:45 \$10

Call 888-TANGO 21 for details.

### Thursdays beginning January 11th

#### *944 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago*

Sponsor: Community Tango

8:00 pm – midnight \$5

Introductory Lesson 7:15 – 8:00 pm

Call Jan Carpenter 312-664-4865 for details

See advertisement on page 5

### Fridays (except last Friday of the month)

#### *Hilton Arts*

400 South Green Street, Chicago

7:00 pm – Midnight

\$10 Contact Arica Hilton 312.226.1118 for details.

### Saturdays

#### *Tango...nada mas*

6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago

9:00 pm – 2:00 am (Free Introductory Class at 8:30)

\$10 includes light buffet

Contact Bob Dronski 773.792.2099 for details.

### Fourth Friday of the Month – January 26th

#### *Latvian Community Center*

4146 N. Elston (at Hamlin) , 7:30 – Midnight \$10;

Contact Valentina Cisar 773-763-8729 for details.

## Chicago Classes

### On-Going Classes – call instructors for details:

▶ Bob Dronski and Kathleen Krehler

▶ Fred Romero

▶ Jorge Nidas

## Chicago Practicas

#### *Tango...nada mas*

6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago

Fridays beginning at 8:00 pm Cost \$5

Note: No practica on December 29th

Contact Bob Dronski 773.792.2099 for details.

#### *North Shore Dance Studio*

6163 N. Broadway, Chicago

Fridays beginning at 7:00 PM Cost \$8

Contact Al Gates at 773.994.7929 for details.

## Chicago Teachers

<b>Tom Barnard*</b>	tbarnard@hotmail.com
<b>Jose &amp; Gerri Caravantes*</b>	773.286.6424
<b>Bob Dronski &amp; Kathleen Kreher**</b>	773.792.2099
<b>Emilia Boykov**</b>	773.743.2962
<b>Sean Erwin*</b>	314.862.8504
<b>Carlos Favre *</b>	773.481.1551/773.852.6555
<b>Leroy Hearon*</b>	773.276.1518
<b>Louis Gallo **</b>	773.878.8089
<b>Gadi Lissak *</b>	773.293.3249
<b>Tina Mangos **</b>	773.282.5108
<b>Jorge Nidas**</b>	888.826.4621
<b>Elena Robles*</b>	773.327.1667
<b>Fred &amp; Yermen Romero**</b>	773.725.0518
<b>Pamela Strateman**</b>	312.902.2803
<b>Erica Sutton*</b>	773.505.1577
<b>Charlotte Vikstrom**</b>	Argentango@usa.net

\*Privates only

\*\* Classes and Privates

## Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors of *Tango Noticias*,

Once again, congratulations on your ongoing and outstanding work and improvements to *Tango Noticias*. This letter is a suggestion/request for a publication to appear in *Tango Noticias*. I would like to see published a complete (or fairly complete) set of rules for proper conduct both at the *Milonga* and outside of it. Certain that there must be a protocol, I'm not aware of it and even though I try to apply common sense at a public space like a *Milonga*, I'm sure that I have broken the rules at some point and probably still do. Knowing that I'm not the only one with this concern I would greatly appreciate if something of the sort described above could be published in *Tango Noticias*. Once again I congratulate you for your fine work and await the next issue of *Tango Noticias* anxiously.

Yours Truly  
Romulo Assis

Dear Romulo,

**Thank you for your gracious letter; we searched about a bit and found someone willing to put together what you have requested to see (see page 6). Given that discussions of these subjects tend to be inflammatory, our contributor's only request was that the submission be an anonymous one – a request we have honored here. However, speaking only for myself, I am in substantial agreement with much of what our contributor has written and am pleased to publish the following piece as a way of responding, in full, to your letter. Again, thanks.**

**S. Erwin**

Are you ready for

## Thursday Night Milongas

Beginning January 11<sup>th</sup>

944 W. Lake (just west of Halsted)

8:00 – midnight

Free intro lesson at 7:15 pm

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> lesson with Brooke Burdett

Street Parking

Contact the awesome foursome -

Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137

Erica Sutton 773.505.1577

Elena Robles 773.327.1667

Sheila Langeron 847.778.7782



## Advertising Opportunity in Tango Noticias

Tango Noticias is now accepting advertising. Monthly rates for advertising are as follows:

1/8 page	\$25
1/4 page	\$35
1/2 page	\$50
whole page	\$85

Deadline for consideration in the next issue is January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please call or e-mail Editors Sean Erwin or Jan Carpenter with your copy or questions.



# TANGO GUIDELINES

## About Milongas

### ***Milongas v. Practicas***

The term “Milonga” has 2 meanings. First: it is a name for a social dance party. Second: it is a specific type of music, a close relative and predecessor to the tango known by its steady rhythm.

The term ‘*practica*’ signifies exactly what it sounds like—a practice session. This is a time when people have the opportunity to work on steps they have learned in classes and workshops. Often there is a teacher or other students around to answer questions about a particular step. During a *practica*, it is perfectly acceptable to stop on the floor and talk through a step. This should never be done during a *milonga*, where the purpose is just to dance and have a good time.

### ***What s a tanda?***

A *tanda* is a group of songs in one particular style usually performed by one orchestra. It allows the dancers to get into the feeling of the music with their partner for more than one dance. Traditionally, people will dance the entire *tanda* with the same partner. In Buenos Aires, if someone does not complete the *tanda* with the same person it is considered an insult.

### ***What s a Cortina?***

In Buenos Aires, a *cortina* is always a short piece of non-tango, or even non-danceable, music played to signal the end of a *tanda*. This music acts as the cue for escorting the woman back to her seat.

### ***Asking For and Accepting a Dance the Argentine Way***

At the *milongas* in Buenos Aires, often not a word is spoken in asking someone for a dance. A man will look around the room and try to make eye contact with a woman. Also, a woman can initiate the eye contact as well. If she does not want to dance with him, she will avert her gaze. If, however, she wants to dance with him, she will make eye contact; he will then slightly nod his head in the direction of the dance floor. If she has decided to dance with him she will nod yes. Only at this point would a man go to a woman’s table and escort her to the floor. This set of conventions serves a myriad of purposes. First: it prevents women from feeling obligated to dance with just any man who comes to her table and asks her to dance. Second: men are kept from looking foolish by going to a table and being refused a dance. Third, if for any reason something comes up, or anyone changes his or her mind, no one else need ever know.

## Dance Courtesy

### ***Line of Dance***

Dancers at a *milonga* should respect the line of dance — counter-clockwise around the room. When someone wants

to do fancy figures they need to move to the center of the floor, execute their move, and then blend back into the line of dance. Cutting across the middle of the dance floor is impolite and can be dangerous.

Also, a person never wants to stop for long periods in the line of dance unless, of course, there is an extremely long pause in the music! Steps should generally contribute to progressing forward. Traditionally, it was bad form to pass another dancer on the floor when all were moving in the line of dance.

### ***Can I dance fancy steps such as Ganchos and High Boleos?***

Normally — No. The dance floor can be a crowded place. Steps like these were designed for performances, *not* a social floor. It is very easy to kick someone else on the floor when doing such moves. If a *boleo* is led, it should be done with the woman’s toe staying very low to the ground for safety.

### ***The Music is Playing. Why aren t People Dancing?***

In the old days, single people came escorted to *milongas*. Between the songs proved to be the only time that couples had to talk to each other without anyone listening. Often one would talk to one’s partner through the entire introduction of a song, often lasting as much as 30 seconds! At one time, it was like magic to watch the entire floor begin to dance at the same time as the musical introduction completed!

### ***Talking and Teaching on the Dance Floor***

Tango is an intimate, personal, and improvised dance. A person’s focus should only be on your partner and the music. Unlike other forms of social dance, any step can be changed at any time. Obviously, this is also why no one should be teaching on a social dance floor, since this can be extremely distracting and dangerous to the other dancers.

## Milongas and Valses

*Milongas* and *valsas* are the two other dances closely related to tango and danced at a *milonga*. *Valsas* basically exhibit the same tempo as a Viennese waltz but also possess a definite tango flavor with an emphasis on syncopation and turning movements that match the music.

*Milongas*, on the other hand, pre-date the tango, having evolved from the African *Candombe* — a dance form recognizable by its steady beat. Although many people just dance tango steps to *milonga*, there is a specific way to dance the *milonga*, always changing one’s weight with every beat of the music. ❖

# CENTRAL TANGO

*Regional Supplement to Tango Noticias*

## Central Illinois

### Contacts:

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

**Practicas:** Thursdays 8-10 pm; Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at 805 West Pennsylvania, Urbana. An ongoing class in *Tango Topics* precedes practica.

**Milongas:** Monthly milong held at *Phillips Recreation Center*, December 9th, \$8 includes workshop prior to milonga.

**Classes:** Joe Grohens & Carlota, *White Streets Art Center*: 304\_ East White Street, Champaign, IL. Ongoing classes Tuesday nights at White Street Arts Center.

## Detroit, MI

### Contacts:

*MotorCity Milongueros.com*

Amy y Ray: AmyRay@mediaone.net; 313.561.3236  
Lori Burton: Argentinatangodetroit.com; 810.726.2370

**Amy & Ray:** MotorCity Milongueros.com

**Classes:** Thursdays 7-9 pm followed by a practica 9-10 pm; Pitsfield Grange, Ann Arbor; all levels. \$10 for all evening.

**Peña:** Every 4th Saturday at the Pitsfield Grange. Performance during show segment open to anyone. Class 7-9 pm Dinner at 9 pm followed by show and general dancing. Folk-loric dance played throughout the evening; \$20 covers class & dinner show.

**Lori Burton:** Argentinatangodetroit.com

**Classes:** Wedensdays 6-8 pm (Intermediate & Vals/Milonga); Friday 8-9 pm (Beginners); Sundays 2-5 pm (Vals/Milonga, Advanced)

### Milongas:

- *Sangria Club* Thursdays 7-9:30 pm; \$5; 401 south Lafayette Street, Royal Oak, MI.
- *Brickhouse*. Auburn Road, Utica, MI. 8 pm; \$7.

### Visiting Teachers:

**Facundo & Kely Posadas** – February 17th & 18th

## Iowa City

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

## Kansas City, MO

### Contacts:

**Elizabeth O'Keefe;** tangotemptress@hotmail.com  
*Midwest Argentine Tango Society:* masociety.org; 816.361.1281

**Milongas:** Wednesdays at *Fedora on the Plaza*; lessons from 7-8 pm. Live tango music 8-10:30 pm.

### Visiting Teachers:

**Mauricio Castro** – February 2001

## Madison, WI

### Contacts:

Steven Fosdal: fosdal@mail.com; 608.347.2718  
Anna Snider: annatanguera@mail.com

**Practicas:** *Pasión del Tango:* Weekly; University of Wisconsin campus in Lathrup Hall. Steve and Anna teach and answer question; free.

**Milongas:** Date and time to be announced. Call for details.

## St. Louis, MO

### Contacts:

- Roxanne McKenny: stltango@aol.com
- Estella & Randy: akapros@stlnet.com
- Sean & Yanira: drtango@hotmail.com
- Lourdes Ylagan: Lylagan@path.wustl.edu
- Soon Keng Lee; itistangotime@hotmail.com

**Practicas:** Mondays at *Focal Point*, Maplewood, MO 4-8 pm. \$10; call 314.849.3007 for details

**Classes:**

Estella & Randy: call for classes  
Roxanne: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced  
Sean & Yanira: Privates and semi-privates, ongoing

**Visiting Teachers**

**Brooke Burdett** – January 19th – 29th. Contact Sean Erwin at 314.862.8504 for details.

**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

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

**Milongas:**

- Live music at *Hopkins Dance Center* with Severin Behnen's *Cambiando Sombras*. 816 Main Street, Hopkins 612.938.0048; \$10 (\$13 non-members)
- *Steve Lee's Tango Plus*. One Friday of each month, usually the 3rd one. 9 pm-1 am; lesson 9-9:30 pm, \$5; *Lake Harriet Dance Center*, 6438 Lyndale Ave. S., Richfield. Call for Information: 612.729.5306.
- *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;* lesson 8-9 pm; dancing beginning at 9 pm. 2524 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis

**Classes:**

- Mondays 8:30-9:30 pm combinations class, followed by practica 9:30-10:00 pm. *Lake Harriet Dance Center*,

START THE NEW YEAR RENEWING  
YOUR TANGO WITH

**SEAN & YANIRA**

at

**LATIN STREET DANCING**

Sean and Yanira will offer a week-intensive of TECHNIQUE ORIENTED workshops and private lessons at the studios of *Latin Street Dancing*.

**Jan 2nd - 6th**

Tues/Wed, 6-9PM: *Tango Base I & II*  
Thurs/Fri, 6-9PM: *Tango Core I & II*  
Saturday, 3-6PM: *Advanced Motions/Molinetti*

Cost \$30 workshop; \$125 for the week.  
CALL 312.527.9006 TO REGISTER



- 6438 Lyndale Ave., S., Richfield.
- Carol Fritchie's basic Argentine Tango in Roseville. 651.429.4785 or cfritch@MR.net.
- Rebecca Trost's intermediate tango 8 pm followed by practica until 10 pm. *Four Season's Dance Studio*, 1637 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis 612.342.0902
- Lois Donnay's tango class/practica, *42nd Ave. Ballroom*, 8 pm; \$6; 705 42nd Ave., N, Minneapolis.

**Visiting Teachers:**

- **Ricardo & Zulema** for a visit of indefinite length. Call 612.872.1562 for more information or to schedule private lessons.



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## HISTORICAL PIECE: TANGO IN JAPAN, PART II

In our October issue (*Tango Noticias: 1, 7*), we began to raise questions concerning the strength of tango's popularity in Japan. As we saw, Japan has often been described by Argentine commentators as something of a second capitol for tango, some writers going so far as to ascribe the tango's current influence among the Japanese to a 'spiritual conquest' effected by the Argentine music in the 20's and 30's – a 'spiritual conquest' aided, as they see it, by some special, deep-rooted kinship between the Japanese and Argentine psyches. In our last installment, we asked the following very straightforward questions concerning the phenomenon of tango in Japan: *how* then did tango achieve the popularity it currently boasts among the Japanese? What were some of the material, 'flesh-and-blood' factors that allowed for the subsequent growth of tango's popularity in that country? Further: what allowed tango to continue to prosper in Japan long after its popularity peaked and then declined in the West?

To begin speaking of tango's popularity in Japan, we must first return to Paris in the opening decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Here we discover the figure of Baron Megata Tsunami who, in 1926, returned to Japan after having traveled, during the post World War I years, throughout the capitols of Europe. The Baron brought home to Tokyo a collection of tango records and a thorough knowledge of dancing tango heavily inflected by the Parisian approach to the dance. In Tokyo, Megata established a dance academy for instruction in the tango where he taught the dance for free to aristocratic friends and relatives, instructing his students in the 'proper *Parisian*' dance forms of the tango, along with cultivating in them an ear for the music. He also coached his students on how to behave in this 'very Western' setting, how to dress, even what to eat; as Megata advised: "avoid eating Japanese sauces before dancing since these will provoke an abundant and strong perspiration not recommended for coming close to ladies."<sup>1</sup>

Being aristocrats, many of his students were well placed in the diplomatic corps, frequently mingling among foreign officials; further, many of these people were becoming more intimately connected to the West through international commerce. Unlike their European counterparts, they did not find the tango 'scandalous' and were eager to learn what

Megata had to teach. More importantly, Megata's students were drawn so strongly to the dance for the principal reason that Megata's academy aided them in the acquisition and practice of a particular set of Western social skills and Western manners of behavior. At that time, such 'Western' social skills were at a premium among those circles of Tokyo society that had become increasingly connected to Western and Central Europe. As reported by a student of Megata's who had studied the dance from him in the 60's:

Megata offered private dance classes to the young boys and girls of the aristocracy *Our parents thought that it was very important for us to behave properly in Western high circles.* There were some young British dance masters around, but our parents didn't trust them. They didn't know them and they were foreigners; dancing could be tricky, especially for young girls...So Megata was a perfect choice.<sup>2</sup> [My emphasis]

Interestingly, if we attend to this sketch of tango's early years among the Japanese, much of the initial impulse that gave tango its first roots in Tokyo had nothing to do then with some sort of 'spiritual kinship' between the Argentine and Japanese psyches. Initially, their interest stemmed from a pro-West current, at that time strong in certain Tokyo circles, whose members had an interest in 'Westernizing' themselves for both political and economic reasons. By 'Westernization' we mean that these people exhibited a desire to emulate more French and English modes of behavior, and the tango, through the services of *Megata*, was perceived as being a principally *French* mode of entertainment. At least within the lines of this provisional sketch, it does not seem to be the case that the early interest of the Japanese for learning the tango was really the expression of their desire to become, in some fashion, more 'Argentine.' ❖

### S. Erwin

<sup>1</sup> Alposta, Luis: *El Tango en Japón*; Buenos Aires, Corregidor: 37.

<sup>2</sup> Yoneyama Eiko: Interview, November, 1990 — quoted from: *Tango and the Political Economy of Passion*, Marta Savigliano; Westview Press, Boulder: 180.