

Tango Noticias

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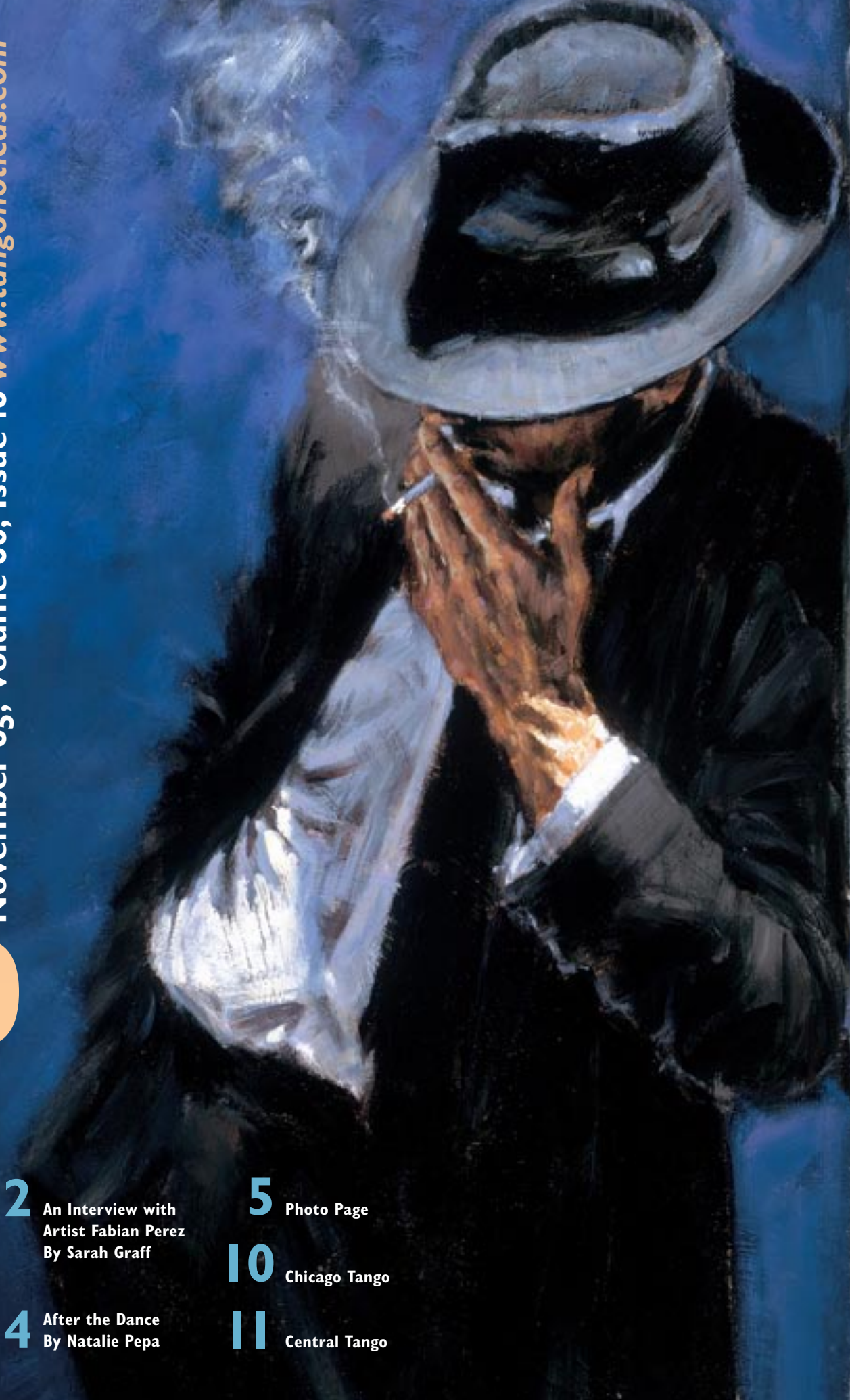
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AN INTERVIEW By Sarah R. Graff

Fabian Perez will be exhibiting his artwork at the Berdon Fine Art Gallery in Oakbrook, Illinois during the month of November. Some of Mr. Perez's paintings depict tango dancers and indoor Buenos Aires scenes. We asked Mr. Perez about his subjects, his influences, and his history.

WITH ARTIST Fabian Perez

TN: Where are you from originally and how has your upbringing influenced your artwork?

Fabian Perez: I was born in Campana, Buenos Aires, Argentina. My father's family was from Spain, and my mother's side was from Brazil. For that reason, when I was 18 (after I lost both my parents) I decided to go to Sao Paulo, Brazil, and then to Rio and other cities in Brazil. After spending much time there, I moved to Italy for several years to teach martial arts and paint, and then to Japan before moving to California.

All that traveling and experiencing different cultures and so many people had a significant influence on my work, making my

collection of subjects really eclectic - from bars to wineries, from women to gypsies. So many stories that I heard from older people when I was a child influenced my paintings a lot, like the tales of "Las Brujas" from my father's nightclub in Argentina.

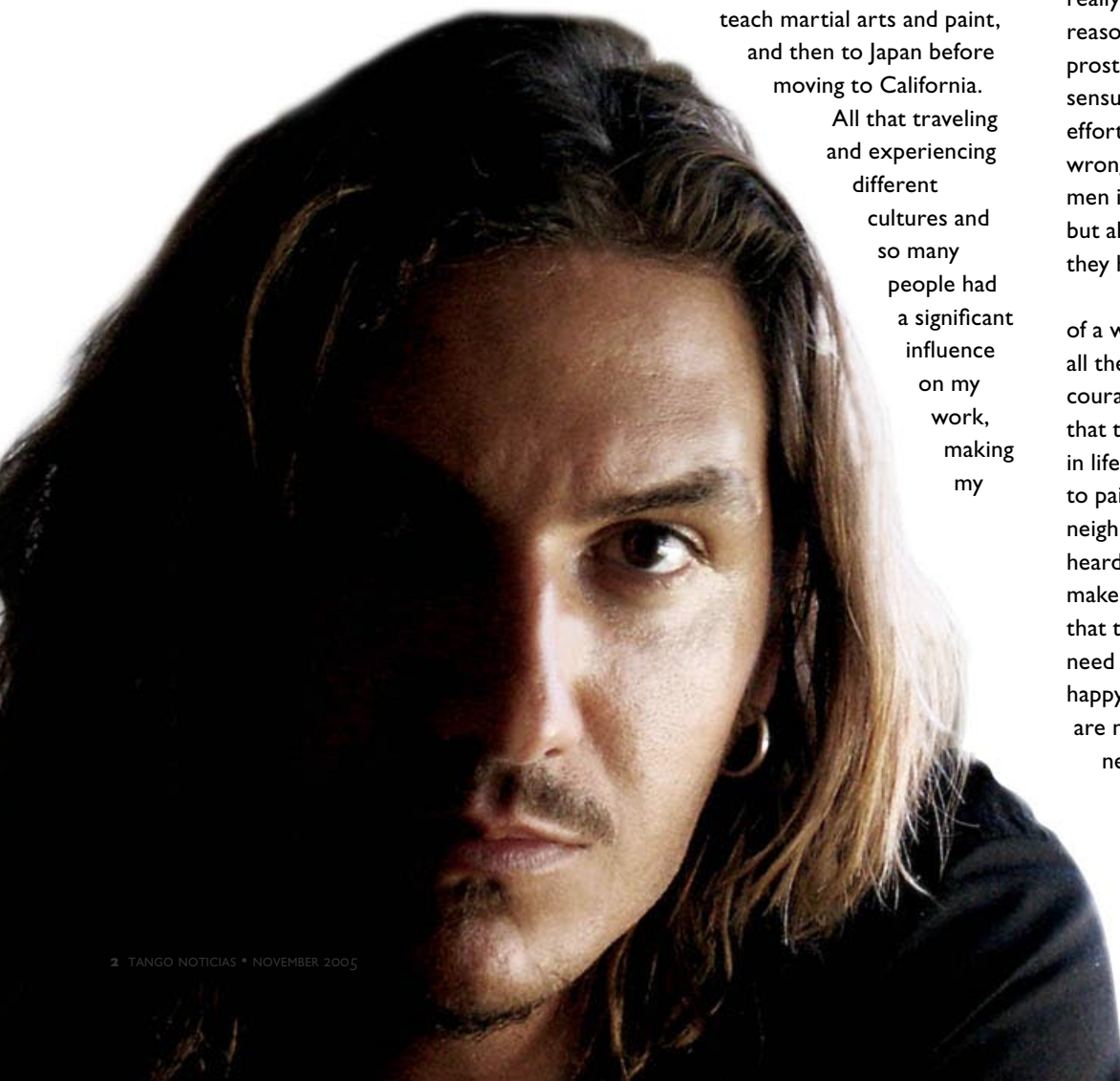
TN: What subjects do you like to work with the most in your art and why?

Fabian Perez: Different from many artists today, I paint many subject matters. I really like to paint them all for different reasons. For example, I like to paint prostitutes because they move like cats; sensual, smooth, getting a lot with a little effort. They are like queens born in the wrong place. What I like to paint about men is not only the texture in their suit, but also their body language that shows they have seen and experienced so much.

The flamenco dancer is a symbol of a woman proud to be a woman with all the advantages; sensual but strong, courageous, they give me the sensation that they can take care of any situation in life with a great sense of family. I like to paint gypsies because I grew up in a neighborhood that was 30% gypsies. I heard so many stories from them. What makes them so special to me is the fact that they showed me that you do not need to have material possessions to be happy and that those who possess more are not richer, but rather those whose needs are less are perhaps richer.

More important is not how much you have but with whom you share it.

I paint musicians because it is my dream to be a





Untitled II

really good guitar player and also a lot of my friends are musicians. My friends have a band called "Cale". They attend most of my solo exhibitions in California where they come and play their music. All we need is a few guitars in my place or my friend's homes and the party or juerga begins.

TN: Do you dance tango? If so, how long have you been dancing tango? If not, why did you choose tango as a subject for your artwork? What provoked your initial interest in tango?

Fabian Perez: Even though I really appreciate tango, I never tried to dance it. I paint tango dancers as a tool to show people in real life situations, how someone can live a life so intense, loving another person, even if the reward is almost impossible. I also try to show the struggle, trying to conquer the heart of a night-life woman.

TN: What prompted you to become a fine artist?

Fabian Perez: I never decided to become an artist, it was just a consequence. Talent is something that you have and maybe later you develop it, if you recognize it, and also if you like it. I always paint because I like it. My friends knew about it throughout my



Sophia

life, some people liked it and then some people started to borrow my paintings. All my life is the consequence of my career today.

TN: Who and/or what has been influential for your work? Are there other artists that have influenced your artistic direction? What inspires you?

Fabian Perez: My karate master, Oscar Higa, encouraged me to paint more and

more. He took classes in different art schools when he was in his twenties and he is a person full of sensitivity. After that I was fascinated with the Japanese technique call shodo for the energy of the strokes. I took some drawing classes and started to copy techniques from books of the great masters. I like Rembrandt's pallet - warm hearth colors; Sargent because there is always tension and mystery in his paintings; the solid compositions of Picasso; Cezanne's brushstrokes; the strong drawing of Toulouse-Lautrec; and of course the contrast and mood that Caravaggio creates with the "Chiaro Scuro".

TN: What has been the most difficult subject for you to work with?

Fabian Perez: The most difficult subject to work with is commissions. I do them because I think they are a good challenge for me, but I always prefer to paint what I feel inside: my thoughts, and what I like. It is difficult to capture the sense of a person you are trying to paint if you do not know them.

TN: Why did you choose to use the medium of acrylic painting? Do you ever work in other mediums?

Fabian Perez: I tried many mediums but for me personally and for the way that I paint I prefer to work with acrylics. I paint instinctually fast and acrylics dry faster than oil so for that reason it allows me the opportunity to be more spontaneous.

TN: Are the scenes in your paintings taken from photographs you have taken? Can you tell us any stories behind these particular places or moments?

Fabian Perez: Most of my tango images I painted from photographs. Actually, I go to Argentina at least once a year, especially to a neighborhood called San Telmo (Buenos Aires). This is the heart of the tango

AFTER the DANCE



by Natalie Pepa

Dark and light – a whole year gone. Like the peel of blood oranges discarded in the trash can

linger, hold captive with scent clinging to wood. A drop of red on the sharp edge of a knife.

My year gone and going still, Carlos and tango, dark and light a summer night of oranges and candles,

a meal, a dance and nothing but the empty cover of an eyebrow pencil at the bottom of my purse.



Face of Tango II

where there are still a lot of milongas and tango shows. I enjoy the bohemian night life there. When I come back to my studio I recreate my memories with professional dancers, first taking their pictures and afterwards I paint from this reference.

I never like to go around with my easel. I like to take experiences and paint them in my studio. If you paint a glass of whisky, you should have been drinking it. If you paint someone dancing tango, be sure that your heart has been broken before.

TN: One can say that tango and visual art are two separate mediums in which one can create forms and by doing so transmit an idea or emotion. What specifically then motivated you to cross these two mediums?

Fabian Perez: I believe all the arts are compatible. Art is a big mountain and all the forms of art have different ways to get to the top. No matter what you do, it is always a long way, there are no short cuts which allow you to arrive first. The goal is the same for any kind of art. Not to do things only with your mind, but also with your soul. Not to think about the result but leave the result as the consequence of your experience and effort on the long journey. My karate teacher Oscar always told me, "You do not throw a punch, you should become the punch," and I translate that in my paintings. "I do not paint, I should become the colors" so "dancers do not dance, they should become the music".

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Contact:

Dany: 312.296.1955
info@tangoinchicago.com
or **Natalie:** 847.877.9332
tangonata@aol.com

Tango Noticias Photo Page



Babette & Kiyoko



Don & Ellen



Beth & George



Kiyoko & Bernard



Joan & Ed



Jose, Netza, Greg & Jim



Sherwin & Jacqui



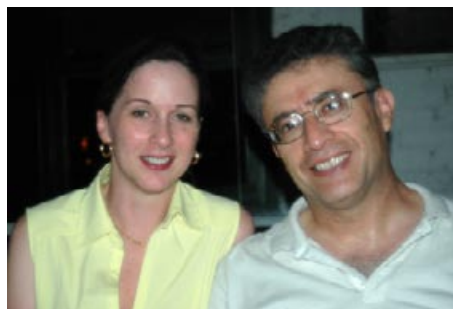
Misha, Sarah, Olga & Javier



Virginia & Les



Edward & Joe



Sonia & Jose

**Photos are Taken by Photo
Page Editor Daniel Byrnes
byrnesdaniel@hotmail.com**

WITH MISHA AND SARAH



14
november
start of upcoming
class sessions

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.

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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Berdon Fine Art cordially invites you to a cocktail reception to meet internationally acclaimed artist Fabian Perez.

Fabian will be signing all of his pieces purchased on that day or prior to the event.

**Saturday, November 12TH, 2005
12:00 P.M.- 5:00 P.M.**

Berdon Fine Art
74 Oak Brook Center
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523
Phone: (630) 571-5200

For more information on our featured artists and upcoming events visit:
www.berdonfineart.com

Fabian Perez



BERDON
FINE ART

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Late registration fee: additional U\$100

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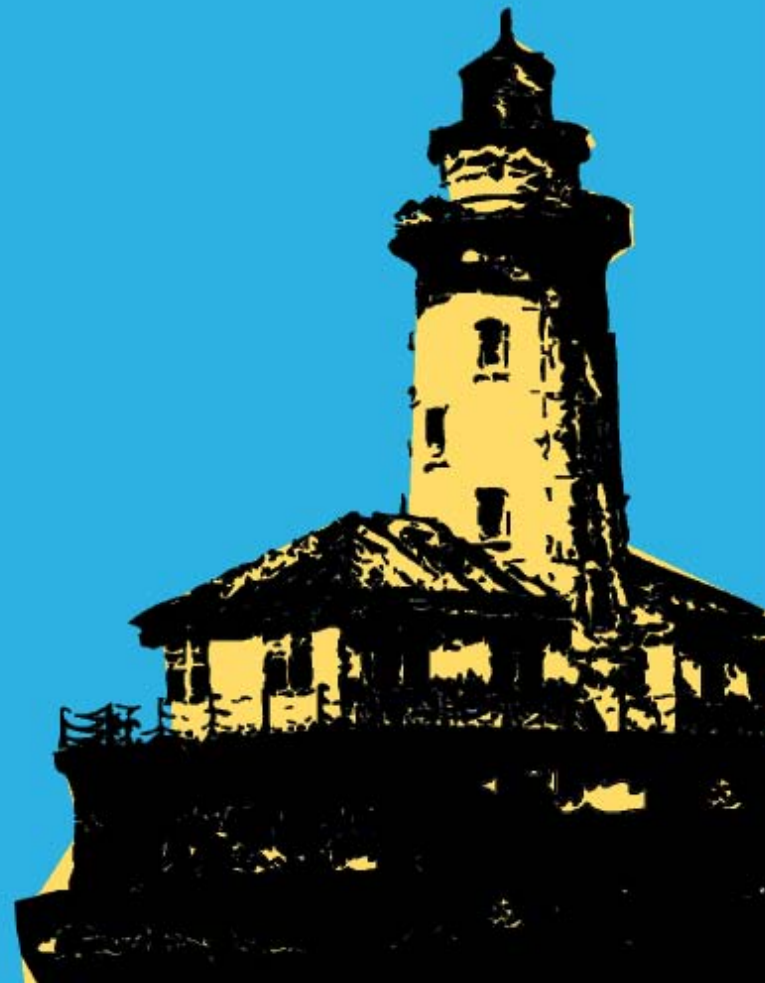
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- *Logo Design
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Chicago Tango

CHICAGO MILONGAS

MONDAYS

Malena

1st, 3rd & 5th Monday of the month.
Mariposa, 346 N. Justine St., #300
Chicago, 8:30pm – 12am; \$10
Contact: George Drivakos 847.845.2669

Milonga Rubia

2nd Monday of the month. Mariposa, 346 N.
Justine St., #300, Chicago, 8:30pm – 1:00am,
\$10. \$8 after 10pm. Contact: Phoebe J. Grant
at 312.342.4335 or WindyCityTango@yahoo.
com.

Milonga del Morocho

4th Monday of the month.
Mariposa, 346 N. Justine St., #300,
Chicago, 8:30pm – 1:00am, \$10; \$8 after 10pm
Contact Contact: Phoebe J. Grant at
312.342-4335 or
WindyCityTango@yahoo.com.

Cousin's Restaurant

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

TUESDAY

Tango Chicago Tuesday Night Milonga

Tango Chicago Dance Centre. 1043 W.
Madison, Chicago, 8:30 pm – 12 midnight,
\$12. 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
\$10 includes entrance and AT lesson
8:30-12:am. Netza Roldan 312.287.8406,
MyTangonet@yahoo.com or www.
americantangoinstitute.com

WEDNESDAY

Tango Motivo

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

THURSDAY

"Entre Amigos" Cabana Nights

Vida Lounge
1248 W. George Street, Chicago
Contact : Jorge Nideas 312-397-0100 or
D'Antoni Productions at 312-217-0304 or
visit www.21tango.com

FRIDAY

Milonga Vida

1st and 3rd Fridays of the month

Milonga Vida-Blue Moon

4th Friday, when there are 5 Fridays in a
month. 346 N. Justine Street, #300 Chicago,
9pm-2am; \$15. \$10 students with I.D. Contact:
Bethdancel1@aol.com, 847.846.5611;
MariLiz7@aol.com, 630.254.5628.

Los Besos Milongita

2nd Friday of the month. 346 N. Justine Street,
#300 Chicago, 9pm - 2am; \$15. \$10 students
with I.D.; Ellen's sweets & savories; BYOB.
Contact: Ellen & Oleg Mashkovich at una_
emocion@yahoo.com

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 IL,
9pm.- ?, \$15. Hosted by Carlos & Melisa Favre
contact: tango@recuerdoclub.com

SUNDAY

Tango Motivo

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

CHICAGO PRACTICAS

TUESDAY

University of Chicago Practica

9-10pm. One hour lesson before practica.
Ida Noyes Hall; 1212 E. 5th St. Chicago \$5
(\$3 with valid UofC ID). contact: Mambo
Mambelli; marco@hep.uchicago.edu; www.
tango.uchicago.edu

THURSDAY

Chicago Tango Project Practica

Dance Connection Studio
3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago, 8:30 to 10:00
pm Hosted by Sarah Graff and Misha Goro.
Advanced Class prior to practica from 7:30-
8:30pm. Drop-in practica \$10. Registered
students \$5. Contact Sarah & Misha at
773.575.6906 or www.tangoproject.com

Tango a la Leroy y Phoebe

Mariposa, 346 N. Justine St., #300
Chicago, 7:30pm – 9:30p. Practica with
instructions. First 1.25 hour class instructed
by Leroy Hearon Jr, Phoebe J. Grant and/or
guest instructor. Contact: Phoebe Grant
312.342.4335, WindyCityTango@Yahoo.com

University of Chicago Practica

8:30-9:30pm. One hour lesson before
practica. Ida Noyes Hall; 1212 E. 5th St.
Chicago \$5 (\$3 with valid UofC ID). contact:
Mambo Mambelli; marco@hep.uchicago.edu;
www.tango.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

SUNDAYS

Tango Sentido Productions Practica

Drukker Center, 1535 N. Dayton St.
Chicago, 6pm – 9pm, \$10. Contact: Dany
Novakovich 312.296.1955, 773.550.2646,
info@TangoInChicago.com,
www.tangoinchicago.com

ON-GOING CLASSES

Check the recently updated 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, info@elaynesdance.com 479.521.6683

DENVER AND BOULDER, CO

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

ATLANTA, GA

Contacts: www.atlantatangofestival.com

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL

Contacts: www.centragtango.com; Joe Grohens: joe@joegrohens.com; www.tango.joegrohens.com 217.378.4751, Ron Weigel: TangoSociety@aol.com; 217.328.1311 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: <http://soli.inav.net/~dance/tango.html>, Fairfield Tango Community - Sheryl Ryan: sryan@humanfactors.com, 641.233.1011, Kelly Custer: 641.472.1001 Iowa City Tango Community - Greg Kovaciny tangoic@yahoo.com

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@argentinetangodetroit.com; <http://www.argentinetangodetroit.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/TangoSt.Louis>: <http://www.tangostlouis.com/> Roxanne McKenny: www.tangoteacher.com, 314.324.0887. Carter Maier: tngomn@hotmail.com. Estella & Randy: tangoartists@tangorosa.com, www.tangorosa.com, 314.849.3007; Rick Barbarash: 314-993-3698, rbarbarash@yahoo.com, Milonga Sin Nombre-Monthly Alternative Milonga: <http://home.earthlink.net/~rbarbarash/analternativemilonga> Tango at Washington University: www.gatewaytango.org, Shaun Sellers: sellers@wustl.edu, 314.935.6098

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

Contacts: Fred and Jessica Stowell; fjstowell@aol.com

CINCINNATI, OH

Contacts: Fred and Jessica Stowell; fjstowell@aol.com; or Virginina Malton at vmalton@yahoo.com Barbara Bill @ bbillcinci@yahoo.com and Patricia Paz @ pato_paz@hotmail.com www.CincinnatiTangoZone.com

CLEVELAND, OH

Contacts: www.tangocleveland.com Tim Pogors: TimmyTango@aol.com, 440-748-2204; Greg Messina 330.554.8900; atanguerita@yahoo.com or 330.608.4444

PITTSBURGH, PA

Contacts: PATangoS – Pittsburgh Argentine Tango Society at www.pitt.edu/~mchp/PATTangoWeb.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.wisconsinintango.com or www.milwaukeeintango.com Marek Sztokowski: 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.