



# Larrys Corner

Volume 8, Issue 12

December 2008

This is called Larrys Corner because when I teach I stand in the corner so I can see everyone.

If you want to read dance stories they are under Headlines or Larrys Corner.

[Http://www.comedancewithus.com](http://www.comedancewithus.com) Or  
<http://www.dancempls.com>

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Do you have any likes or dislikes, stories, or helpful hints for dancing? If so, write it down and give to Larry Ablin or Barb Johnson. We will add it to one of the future News letters.

If you would like to tell us how you became interested in dancing, write it down and give to Larry or Barb, we will add your picture with it and put it in one of the future Newsletters. If you have anything you would like to write about, just write it up and give to Barb or Larry. I enjoy writing something for you.

Come Dance With Us

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American Style Smooth Tango

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## American Style Smooth Tango

Ballroom Tango was born in the slums of Buenos Aires in the late 19th century. Argentine gauchos and migrating blacks met and mixed in the infamous Barrio de las Ranas, trading cultures rhythms and dance steps in and around the area's well known brothels. From this melting pot emerged a highly erotic dance, one that the "respectable" classes of society shunned. But as we've seen with the Waltz, there is nothing like eroticism to make a dance triumph.

In the U.S., Tango became all the rage right before the First World War. Vernon and Irene Castle made their fortune from it, becoming America's sweethearts of the dance. In New York City some 700 dance halls opened, and Tango teas became popular in big hotels. Couples even danced between courses at the finer restaurants. Rudolph Valentino did his part, performing a sensual Tango in the silent film "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse."; The dance varied greatly from performer to performer, and was finally standardized in the 1920,s by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing.

Today, there are three commonly taught types of Tango: American style, International style, and Argentine style, most notable for its intricate, high speed kicks. American style Tango is characterized by a close hold, a low center of gravity, a stealthy, almost cat-like attack and an emphasis on Contra Body Movement. The music is in 4/4 time, with an unmistakable staccato feel and the tempo is about 32 bars per minute.

## Dance Tango

Tango is a social dance form originating in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Montevideo, Uruguay. The musical styles that evolved together with the dance are also known as "tango".

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Early tango was known as tango criollo, or simply tango. Today, there are many tango dance styles, including Argentine Tango, Ballroom tango (American and International styles), Finnish tango, Chinese tango, and vintage tangos. The Argentine tango is of-

ten regarded as the "authentic" tango since it is closest to that originally danced in Argentina and Uruguay, though other types of tango have developed into mature dances in their own right.

Music and dance elements of tango are popular in activities related to dancing, such as figure skating, synchronized swimming, etc., because of its dramatic feeling and its cultural associations with romance and love.

## Film

Tango is the main subject in these films:

*The Tango Bar* (1988), starring Raúl Juliá

*The Tango Lesson* (1997), starring Sally Potter and Pablo Verón, directed by Sally Potter

*Tango* (1998), starring Cecilia Narova and Mía Maestro, directed by Carlos Saura

*Assassination Tango* (2002), starring Robert Duvall, Rubén Blades and Kathy Baker, directed by Robert Duvall

*Orquesta Típica* 2005, documentary film about typical orchestra Fernandez Fierro, directed by Nicolas Entel

A number of films show ballroom tango in several scenes, such as:

*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* (1921), starring Rudolph Valentino and Alice Terry, directed by Rex Ingram.

*Last Tango in Paris* (1972), starring Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci.

*The World's Greatest Lover* (1977), starring Gene Wilder (who also directed), Carol Kane and Dom DeLuise.

*Death on the Nile* (1978), Peter Ustinov and Olivia Hussey tango whilst David Niven is the unfortunate partner to Angela Lansbury's rather eccentric version of the dance.

*Never Say Never Again* (1983), starring Sean Connery and Kim Basinger, directed by Irvin Kershner.

*Scent of a Woman* (1992), Al Pacino as blind Colonel dances Argentine Tango.

*Strictly Ballroom* (1992), directed by Baz Luhrmann

*Addams Family Values* (1993), Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston dance a tango so passionate that it literally burns the floor and makes all the champagne bottles in the nightclub pop their corks.

*Schindler's List* (1993), starring Liam Neeson

*True Lies* (1994), starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis, directed by James Cameron

*Happy Together* (1997), directed by Wong Kar-wai

*Moulin Rouge!* (2001), featuring Ewan McGregor and "El Tango de Roxanne"

*Le Tango Des Rashevski* (2002)

*Chicago* (2002), starring Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Richard Gere, directed by Rob Marshall includes a song titled "The Cell Block Tango" and is accompanied with a dance.

*Shall We Dance* (2004), starring Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon, directed by Peter Chelsom.

*Mr. & Mrs. Smith* (2005), starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, directed by Doug Liman.

*Rent* (2005) had Anthony Rapp and Tracie Thoms perform a semi-elaborate ballroom tango in the song "Tango:Maureen" to describe their emotional relations and issues over a promiscuous girl they both dated.

*Take the Lead* (2006), starring Antonio Banderas, directed by Liz Friedlander

## Music for Tango practice:

Blue Tango

La Comparsita

Hernandos Hide-  
away