

10. INTERNATIONAL QUEER TANGO FESTIVAL HAMBURG 30.9. - 3.10.2011

... the cradle of queer tango! don't miss it!

with you

and

Martin Maldonado
Mauricio Ghella
Paula Irene Villa
Michael Cysouw
Charlotte Rivero
Brigitta Winkler
Mariano Garces
Alejandro Figliolo
Stravaganza
Adriana Pegorer
Helen La Vikinga
Ulla Schwarz
Timm Christensen
Marga Nagel
Ute Walter

BALLS
MILONGAS
WORKSHOPS
SEMINARS
...

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August 2011

Dear Queer Tango fans,

with this year's 10th festival from September 30th until October 3rd the International Queer Tango Festival Hamburg celebrates an anniversary.

What started as a try-out 11 years ago has now become part of Tango history.

In 2000 the International Queer Tango Festival was worldwide the first event of this kind. By now the idea has spread around the globe: Stockholm, Buenos Aires, Oslo, San Francisco, New York, Mexico City, Paris, Kopenhagen, Berlin, Cologne, ...

Back then in Hamburg we created the term Queer Tango, but the phenomenon has been existing since the beginning of Tango, as the traditional focus of Tango is as well a cliché. Tango has always been a niche, a shelter to live or discover new identities. (Magali Saikin, 2004)

Anyhow, Queer Tango as a term did allow that an idea of Tango could be established, which is free of specific representation of masculine/feminine relations and predetermined gender differences, which are seen as a given fact and which reduce people's possibility of communication. Wherever this grows to be a cliché, it triggers just as much the urge to disassemble supposed certainties.

By now the term finds itself naturally used in the world of tango and further more contributes to create a general consciousness, that gender and sexual identities are

always in motion. They are not necessary, naturally given or unchangeable. They are social constructions which, if not being questioned, restrict our individual expression and the diversity.

The Queer Theory has made an important contribution to make the construction of gender and sexuality, which still converts tango into a reservoir of masculinity and femininity of the past millennium, available for a practice of change. Paula Irene Villa, tangodancer and sociologist, once defined queer as the following: "queer can be understood as the often conscious and often playful, not always but sometimes very painful experience of transcending boundaries of identity, with at the same time a more or less sharp awareness that those boundaries exist and even facilitate our existence."

The debate in this issues demands a questioning of our own understanding of gender: How much are we caught up in it, what do we ourselves develop concerning it? How do we move in this rigidly gendered lead – and follow–structure, where unequal relations dominate and prevent a real dialogue?

Through a new definition of Tango, which regards its essence more in the potential of an equal dialogue, Tango with its unique, universal, social value can be utilized as medium for development which lies far beyond Tango as an artform and vivid (as well queer) social praxis/dance culture.

We are delighted to participate in this development through a variety of innovative concepts in different social areas.

We have been doing all this all those years with a lot of joy, without missionary ambition and yet with love and respect for "tanguidad".

And: "Tradition is not the preservation of the ashes but the handing-on of the fire!" (or the matches?)

Through our years of intensive work, especially in the early years, we could build the foundation of a nowadays well connected worldwide Queer Tango Community, which next to developing into a consumed product, offers an amazing possibility to practice an example of a dialogue focused on cooperation through and by intercultural differences. There are lots of things which connect us but still there are (not only intercultural) differences in the view of Tango/Queer Tango. There are conflicts, distinct interests, identities and identifications.

But all the Queer Tango rooms offer over and over again the opportunity for people with all their varieties to get in touch and meet each other with sympathy, care and solidarity.

We can use the huge potential in Queer Tango as a physical space of experience and as community, to strengthen the ability we naturally inhabit to enter into real dialogue and reflect about existing obstacles. We all have our share to learn in that respect and it is without doubt one of the main topics of mankind these days.

(Amen)

Come and celebrate with us!

We are looking forward to a wonderful festival with
you and

Martin Maldonado & Mauricio Ghella, Brigitta Winkler, Paula Irene Villa,

Charlotte Rivero, Stravaganza, Adriana Pegorer, Ulla Schwarz, Mariano Garces, Helen LaVikinga, Alejandro Figliolo, Michael Cysouw and many more.

The balls, milongas, workshops promise a lavish pleasure. You will get warm for sure! This time it is due to a new festival location, which unites everything during daytime: Workshops, cafe and dance opportunities.

On Sunday, 2nd of October our panel will try a summary under the title “**11 years of Queer Tango. About the relation of queer being and queer consciousness – cheerful theory versus sluggish practice?**”. We expect exciting, stimulating, enlightening and controversial discussions... With us will be

**Paula Irene Villa (Universität München),
Marta Savigliano (University of California, CA),
Adriana Pegorer (London),
Charlotte Rivero (Queer Tango Stockholm),
Marc Vanzwoll (Queer Tango Boston),
Felix Feyerabend (Queer Tango Hamburg)
Melanie Haller (Universität Hamburg)
Winter Held (Queer Tango San Fransisco)**

You can find the entire programm of the 10th Queer Tango Festival from now on on www.queer-tango.de

A few notes:

Please use the **online booking for your registration**. For the participation of workshops we recommend an early registration. Single-registrations are possible and welcome.

Also this year we are happy to offer a **teachers training** with the brilliant and experienced tango teacher of the first hour, **Brigitte Winkler**. More information about that can be found on our webside. This extra workshop isn't part of the normal registration process. Please just send an email to booking@queer-tango.de

Also this year the popular **tango-catwalk** is part of the programm. Participation is welcome. You have the possibility of small, witty, strange, bold, tingling, thoughtful, ironic, not-perfect short-performances of max. 3 minutes, by which we cheer up the audience of one of the balls as a colourful flashlight. Please register with [Marga info@queer-tango.de](mailto:Marga.info@queer-tango.de)

Be more than welcome

Ute
for the queer tango team

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