

MUSIC CENTER
STRATHMORE

Strathmore presents

TANGO AFTER DARK

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 8pm



TANGO AFTER DARK

Music By
Astor Piazzolla

Lead Dancers
Germán Cornejo and Noelia Pizzo

Dancers
**Juan Cupini, Marilu Leopardi, Guido Palacios, Erica Rossi,
Nicolás Schell, Nair Schinca, Esteban Simon, Florencia Zarate**

Singer
Vanina Tagini

Musicians
**Tomás Falasca, Double Bass
Jerónimo Izarrualde, Drums
Gemma Scalia, Violin
Matías Rubino, Bandoneon
Diego Ramos, Piano**

Choreographed By
Germán Cornejo
In Collaboration
With The Dancers

Assistant Choreographer
Gisela Galeassi

Original Lighting Designer
Charlie Morgan Jones

Additional Assistants
Noelia Pizzo and Nicolás Schell

Sound Designer
Gaston Briski

Costumes Designer
**Germán Cornejo
Alberto Mauri**

Costume Maker
**Ema Benitez
Alberto Mauri
Celsa Valdez**

Costume Manager
Jaqueline Aviles Diaz

Lighting Designer
Federico Leyenda

Sound Operator
Nahuel Delgado

Production Management
Silvia Otero

Executive Producer
Sandra Castell-Garcia

Musical Director
Diego Ramos

Production Assistant
Guadalupe Cornejo

Original Production Idea
Germán Cornejo

Directed By
Germán Cornejo

ABOUT THE SHOW

Tango After Dark is the ultimate theatrical tango experience straight from Argentina, that merges the intoxicating music of the great Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla, jaw-dropping choreography, and breath-taking moves, to reveal tango in its most authentic but sophisticated form.

As Argentina's most popular dance—world-renowned for its seductive powers—this mesmerizing show combines the sensuous side of tango with the rawness and quick-fire precision of this dance, taking this passionate dancing language to the limit, to create a unique and exhilarating performance.

This outstanding theatrical experience is entirely inspired by the great work of Piazzolla. His music, a masterful blend of urban music and cutting-edge composing technics, sought a provocative renewal of style through a transmutation of sonority as well as rhythm, which resulted in world widely recognized unique and remarkable sounds and sensations. Starting in the '60s, Piazzolla's figure became the core of avant-garde thought, whose three-decade leading transformation took the "New Tango" to the most prestigious stages in the world. This renowned composer transformed the tango landscape in the 1960s and 70s by introducing the world to his Nuevo Tango.

Piazzolla is Buenos Aires, but he is also night: peak and abyss, fierceness and mystery, lights and shadows of this city which never sleeps; all reflected in his music, as they would look in a kaleidoscope. *Tango After Dark* springs from this porteña night, Piazzolla's muse and inspiration.

Live music including a sensational singer and five musicians bring Piazzolla's passionate music to life, while tango superstar and world champion Germán Cornejo leads the superb company of 10 world-class dancers. The show widely approaches different periods of Piazzolla's work, which transforms dancing into a vivid portrait of this Argentinean great composer's creative spirit. Cornejo, who was deeply inspired by this revolutionary and creative spirit, goes through his own transformation of tango dance language by setting free his creativity and taking it to its limits. The final outcome is both an authentic and personal tango which magnificently blends roots with the cutting edge, the melancholic and surreal Buenos Aires with 21st century sophistication.

Tango After Dark is an unforgettable evening that will keep the passion for tango burning deep into the night.

MEET THE DANCERS

GERMÁN AND NOELIA

Germán Cornejo was born in Zárate, Buenos Aires Province, on May 31, 1986, and began studying tango at the age of 10. By 15, he graduated with honors as a Tango Master from the Gatell Dance Conservatory. He went on to broaden his training with classical, contemporary, jazz, and partnering techniques, later studying choreographic composition at Argentina's National University of the Arts (IUNA). His artistic godmother and mentor, the legendary Nélica Rodríguez, deeply influenced his career.

Winner of more than 20 national competitions and seven consecutive gold medals at the Buenos Aires Youth Tournaments, Germán was crowned World Tango Champion in 2005. He went on to perform in renowned tango houses in Buenos Aires, major international festivals, and leading theaters around the world, from the Sydney Opera House and Walt Disney Concert Hall to the Teatro Colón and London's Peacock Theatre. He has appeared on major TV shows across Latin America, Europe, the United States, and Asia, including Susana Giménez, *Showmatch*, and *Q'Viva! The Chosen*, where he performed in Las Vegas alongside Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony under the direction of Jamie King.

As a choreographer, Germán has created acclaimed productions such as *Mission Tango*, *Tango Inferno*, *Immortal Tango*, *Tango After Dark*, and *Wild Tango*. He served as lead dancer and later artistic director of the international company *Tango Fire*, and collaborated with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in *M!longa*. He has also coached numerous couples who went on to achieve top positions at the Tango World Championships. Beyond tango, his artistry has connected with the fashion world, collaborating with houses such as Chanel, Prada, Karl Lagerfeld, and Christian Louboutin at Paris Fashion Week. Today, he directs his own company, touring worldwide with groundbreaking tango productions.

Noelia graduated from the National School of Classical and Contemporary Dance (Aida V. Mastrazzi) and received a scholarship from the Julio Bocca-Ricky Pashkus Foundation to study musical theatre. Her training spans multiple disciplines, including theater, singing, acrodance, lyrical, urban, heels, and jazz. Over the past 15 years, she has performed internationally in productions such as *Tanguera: The Tango Musical*, *Break the Tango*, *Estampas Porteñas*, *Tango Desire*, and *Tango After Dark*.

She has represented Argentina at high-profile international events, including Paris Fashion Week 2019 at the Grand Palais, FITUR 2017 in Madrid, *America's Got Talent* 2017 in Los Angeles, and Expo Milano 2015 in Italy with El Choque Urbano. Noelia has also been part of exclusive dinner shows such as *Billionaire Dubai* and *Billionaire Mykonos* (2021–2023). In Argentina, she has performed on the most

prestigious stages of Buenos Aires, including *The Addams Family* and *Chantecler Tango* at Teatro Ópera, *Aladdin* at Teatro Gran Rex, and *Disney in Concert* at Teatro Colón. She has also been a permanent cast member of iconic tango venues such as El Viejo Almacén, Café Tortoni, Señor Tango, and the Rojo Tango Show at the Faena Hotel. Her versatility led her to share the stage with Beyoncé at Atlantis The Royal Hotel in Dubai, and to appear dancing tango with pop star Tini Stoessel in the music video *Duele*.

Since 2016, Noelia has been a principal dancer of Germán Cornejo's Dance Company, where the two artists unite their extensive experience, performing on the world's leading stages and continuing to expand the boundaries of tango with innovation, elegance, and passion.

NICOLÁS AND NAIR

Nicolás and Nair are dancers, teachers, and choreographers with extensive training and experience in Tango.

Nair took her first steps in Tango at eight years old. She graduated with honors from the Jose Neglia Dance School and trained at ACETA (Academia de Estilos de Tango Argentino), where she received a scholarship. Nair has also perfected her skills as an interpreter at the Mora Godoy Tango School.

Nicolás began dancing at the age of 11. He studied with some of Argentina's most respected teachers and choreographers, and after many years of study, graduated from National University of Arts (UNA). He is currently the resident director and choreographer of the UNA's tango company.

Nicolás and Nair have toured the world performing in shows such as *Estampas Porteñas*, *Tango Fire*, *Tango Lovers*, *Tango Legends*, *Gotambó*, *Milonga* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and *Break the Tango* by Germán Cornejo. They have represented their country at various internationally recognized events, including, FITUR 2017 at Plaza Mayor (Madrid), and *America's Got Talent* (Los Angeles).

They have been masters and artists at the CITA Festival in its 2024 edition. Together, they have performed at the most important milongas in Buenos Aires, such as La Viruta, Sunderland, La Baldosa, Porteño y Bailarín, and Grisel, among others. They have also performed in prominent Buenos Aires night shows, including Esquina Carlos Gardel, Tango Porteño, Café de los Angelitos, El Viejo Almacén, Señor Tango, La Ventana, Gala Tango, and Rojo Tango at the Hotel Faena.

ESTEBAN AND MARILU

Esteban and Marilu have dedicated themselves to the art of Tango, honing their skills under the guidance of esteemed Maestros such as Roberto Herrera, Vanina Bilous, Sabrina and Ruben Veliz, Juan Carlos Copes, Alejandra Barboza, Omar Caceres, Raul Bravo, Tani Herrera, Veronica Vidan, Oscar Bacigalupi, Claudio Gonzales, Melina Brufman,

Vanessa Villalba, David Leguizamon, Maria Nieves, Miguel Angel Zotto, and Alejandra Gutty, among others.

As professional dancers, they showcased their talent in some of the most famous Tango houses in Buenos Aires, including La Ventana Tango Show, Señor Tango, Taconeando, Boca Tango, Michelangelo, Piazzolla Tango, and El Viejo Almacén. Since 2007, they have been part of shows, such as *Tango, una historia Argentina* touring South Korea, Vale Tango's *Tango Baile* at the Roma de Avellaneda theater in Buenos Aires, and *Tango Feeling* at the Teatro Astral of Buenos Aires.

Their journey extended to sharing the stage with Julio Iglesias on his world tour, captivating audiences in Miami, Brazil, Uruguay, and Mar del Plata. They also participated in the productions *Tango Seducción* in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the Czech Republic; *Tango A Tierra* showcasing their artistry in Brazil, Russia, Ukraine, China, and the USA; *Tango Buenos Aires*, which took them on an extensive tour across the United States; and *Una Noche de Tango* with performances in Italy, Israel, and Argentina.

Since 2018, they have been members of Germán Cornejo's Dance Company, wowing audiences with the company's productions *Tango Fire* and *Tango After Dark* across the United Kingdom, Monaco, Scotland, the United States, and Mexico.

In addition to their performances, Esteban and Marilu share their passion for Tango as teachers, conducting workshops and classes in various cities across Argentina, Brazil, Chile, the United States, Italy, and Japan. Their dedication to both performing and teaching has undeniably left an indelible mark on the global Tango community.

GUIDO AND FLORENCIA

Guido Palacios, from Villa Flandria (Luján), and Florencia Zárate Castilla, from Ramos Mejía, are among the most renowned Argentine tango couples of the past decade. Dancing together since the late 2000s, they achieved international acclaim in 2013 when they were crowned World Tango Stage Champions in Buenos Aires. Their style blends classical elegance with powerful stage presence, always rooted in the embrace as the heart of the dance.

They have performed on major stages and festivals across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, while also teaching masterclasses and workshops in countries such as Germany, Italy, Japan, Brazil, and Turkey.

Today, they combine their pedagogical work with theater performances in Buenos Aires and international tours, standing as leading figures of a new generation in tango dance.

JUAN AND ERICA

Juan Cupini and Erica Rossi form a tango couple distinguished by their fusion of social tango and stage tango,

striking a balance between choreographic innovation and the authenticity of the traditional embrace. With a growing presence in both local and international scenes, they perform in festivals, milongas, and theater productions, while also sharing their artistry through classes and exhibitions.

Their work emphasizes connection, musicality, and expressive movement, shaping a unique language that resonates with both traditional and contemporary audiences.

They have appeared at events such as the Milonga Federal at Palacio Libertad and international tango festivals, building a reputation for combining technical precision with freshness and artistic sensitivity.

MATÍAS RUBINO, BANDONEON

Matías Rubino began his studies at the Manuel de Falla Higher Conservatory of Music. Then, he ventured into Tango under the guidance of maestro Rodolfo Mederos with whom, in addition to the bandoneon, he studied tango arrangements and orchestration. Later he took bandoneon lessons with Julio Pane and Carlos Lazzari. He performed as a bandoneon player in the following tango houses: Complejo Tango, Molliere, el Viejo Almacén (as musical director), Legendario Buenos Aires, Hotel Faena, Pigmalion, Piazzolla Tango, Esquina Carlos Gardel, Esquina Homero Manzi, Gala Tango and Señor Tango.

Matías was a member of the Rodolfo Mederos Typical Orchestra. He was part of electronic tango groups such as Narcotango, Tanghetto, and Otros Aires, with whom he made several tours in Europe and Latin America. He has performed in *El Tango y La Sombra* (2006) at the Maipo Theater, in *Tango a Tierra* (2007) in South Africa, and in *Tango Emotion* (2007) at the New York Tango Festival.

From April 2007 to April 2010, Matías was the leading bandoneon player at the “Café de Los Angelitos” tango show in Buenos Aires. In December 2009, he was invited as a soloist to interpret Astor Piazzolla’s “Tres Tangos Sinfonicos” with the Lanús University Orchestra conducted by maestro Daniel Bozzani.

Since 2010, Matías has participated in various tango groups and companies, touring Europe, Asia, and America. He directs his group, Matías Rubino Sexteto, where he plays his compositions. He also has participated in the shows *Stravaganza Tango* at the Broadway theater and *Manzi, la Vida en Orsai* at the Tabaris Theater, both in Buenos Aires theaters.

In 2016 and 2017, he was on tour around Europe with the show *Bailando con la Vida* as musical director, performing in theaters such as the Folies Bergere in Paris. In 2019, he premiered Jorge Retamoza’s concert for saxophone and bandoneon at the CCK as soloist with the Buenos Aires Symphonic Band.

Currently, Matías is part of Jorge Retamoza’s quartet, Daniel Melingo’s band, and Otros Aires ensemble. He also plays at the Tango Porteño tango house and continues

developing his teaching career of bandoneón, musical theory, and composition.

GEMMA SCALIA, VIOLIN

Gemma Scalia born in the city of General Roca, Rio Negro, Argentina, graduated from the Patagonia University of Arts where she studied violin under the guidance of Elvira Faseeva and Vitali Bujiashevily (from Russia).

In 2008, she moved to Buenos Aires to continue her studies with Daniel Robuschi and Nicholas Giordano. Gemma studied Tango with violinists Ramiro Gallo, Leonardo Ferreyra and Guillermo Rubino, joining the Orchestra School of Tango Emilio Balcarce under the direction of Maestro Victor Lavallen. She recorded with his orchestra, *Mistonguero* winning the 2014 Gardel Award for Best Tango Instrumental Album.

Gemma has performed in Cátulo Tango, Elvino Vardaro’s Orchestra, Camerata Almagro’s Tango Orchestra Sans Souci, Agustin Guerrero’s Orchestra, Walter “Chino” Laborde and the Federal Tango Orchestra under the direction of Raul Garello and Osvaldo Piro. Gemma has participated in numerous recordings and orchestras of traditional and contemporary Tango performing in the most important theaters and festivals in Argentinan Tango.

TOMÁS FALASCA, DOUBLE BASS

Tomás Falasca started taking double bass lessons in 2001. In parallel, he also began learning electric bass and music theory with Daniel Naka. In 2003, he specialized his knowledge of bass with Javier Dragun, who continues being his teacher at present.

Tomás went on to higher education, to Manuel de la Falla conservatory, where he got his Bachelor in Music degree. He improved his technique with Lucian Ciorata in Spain in 2012. He has been studying composition with Gabriel Senanes for two years. Tomás’ central focus is tango genre. He has joined several bands and artists such as Susana Rinaldi, José Colangelo, Amelita Baltar, etc. He has also been playing and delighting audiences at the tango house El Querandí since 2007.

Many national venues have enjoyed this talented artist’s performances: Maipo Theater, Astral Theater, Gran Rex Theater, and more. He has also participated in Buenos Aires Tango Festival and Justo Daract Festival. Recently, Tomás has taken his music to international audiences in Canada, Colombia, and Chile.

JERÓNIMO IZARRUALDE, DRUMS

Jerónimo made his first steps in the world of music with Horacio López and then, with the renowned teacher Chiche Heguer.

Jerónimo has always joined different bands with different musical styles: folk, pop, funk, and soul (Tía Flor, Alejandra Bayas, and Astom). He usually replaces Horacio

López in drums at Cuartoelemento. Between 1999 and 2002, he was a member of the band Monotributo, together with Rubén “Mono” Izarrualde and Eduardo Pandolfo. He continued perfecting his musical talent with Norberto Minichilo—with whom he shares stages today—and Cristian Judurcha, who is his current instructor. This talented drummer was also a member of Revelados (Gustavo Kupinsky, Facundo Farías Gómez, Pablo Guerra, Jonathan Cuellas and Patricio—Los Caballeros de la Quema’s ex-keyboardist).

In 2009, Jerónimo joined Laura Kersevan in several performances. Chango Farías Gómez called him to join the Popular Chamber Orchestra Los Amigos del Chango in the same year, where he currently performs as a singer and drummer. The orchestra launched its first album, *MCA volume I*, in 2012.

In 2011, the well-known producer Juan Carlos Villavicencio invited Jerónimo to record Walt Disney’s *Robinson Crusoe* soundtrack.

At present, Jerónimo is recording the first album of El Mondongo de Palermo tango quartet where he performs as a singer.

VANINA TAGINI, SINGER

Vanina Tagini is an Argentine singer and cultural manager whose voice has become a hallmark of Buenos Aires’ most prestigious tango houses. A professional performer since 2000, she has carried the spirit of Argentine music to more than 30 countries across six continents.

Her debut as a tango singer took place at the historic Café Tortoni, in a tribute to her grandfather—the legendary tango lyricist Armando Tagini. Since then, she has held leading roles in some of the most renowned tango productions in Buenos Aires, including Café Tortoni Show, Michelángelo, Calle de Tango, Piazzolla Tango Show, Tango Porteño, Esquina Homero Manzi, El Viejo Almacén, Sabor a Tango, Bien de Tango, Black Tango, and Palacio Tango, among others.

Internationally, Vanina has toured extensively since 2009, first with bandoneonist Gabriel Merlino in their acclaimed show *Íntimos*, performing throughout Europe and Latin America and releasing three albums together.

As the lead female voice of the iconic company Tango Pasión, she has performed over 200 concerts worldwide, including engagements at the Folies Bergère and Théâtre Bobino in Paris, and tours across Russia, Poland, Lebanon, Canada, Morocco, and Finland.

In recent seasons, she has joined *Tango Desire*—the only tango show to reach Antarctica aboard international cruises—and toured Japan as a guest soloist of *Tango Origin*. Her solo albums *Otro Cantar* and *Urbana* reflect her deep connection to both traditional and contemporary

Argentine song.

Beyond her career as a performer, Vanina has served as a producer and cultural manager for over a decade at the Ministry of Culture of Buenos Aires, co-directing programs such as Distrito Tango and contributing to the Tango Festival and World Cup. She was also co-host of the city’s radio programs *Las 5 en Tango* and *Silbando Bajito* on La 2x4.

A distinguished member and current Treasurer of the National Academy of Tango, she was honored by the Argentine Senate with the Diploma of Honor for her contribution to national identity, and in 2025 received the Tagini Award for her artistic and cultural achievements.

Vanina holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Buenos Aires and a post-graduate degree in cultural management and communication from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences.

GERMÁN CORNEJO, DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Germán Cornejo, choreographer and lead dancer of Tango Fire-Flames of Desire Smash Hit is regarded as one of the world’s best tango show choreographers and dancers today.

Worldwide critics such as *The New York Times*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *The London Times*, and *Financial Times*, among other top newspapers, have consolidated him as the current “hot young choreographer” and highlighted the excellence and quality of his work.

For more about Germán, see page 3.