

SIGNIFICANCE of GENDER ROLES in MUSICAL EXPRESSION

Homer's Early Tango History:

1990's early US Tango Pioneers (Daniel Trenner, Micheal & Loren)

1997 - Started Tango, Initial Conflicts:

- 1. Statement: "I want you to be my disciple and you can F**K any woman you want!"**
- 2. How to resolve what you learned from stage dancers at the milonga?**

Tango Learning based on patterns

...very little connection to music, partner, floorcraft

1998 - Started Teaching for free to address this problem

2001 Met Cristina and fell in love...

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Homer and Cristina Personal History:

2002 - Full-time with Cristina, New Conflicts:

How to Dress? What Music to Dance to (or to DJ)? How to Dance (Open vs Close, creative vs conservative)?

Answers:

2003 CELLspace & Free Video Project

2004 Project Tango

2004 “Nothing Else Matters” - DCTM in Argentine Embassy

2005 (growth & coming out of Queer Tango world wide)

2007 Tangostudent Youtube page & Blog

2012 The Organic Tango School w/ online DJ & Teaching Resources (TTC, etc)

2013 Solidified Our 'Organic Tango' Philosophy (for Leaders and Followers):

including 4 Branches of Tango Awareness & 3 Cs

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Homer and Cristina Personal History:

2015 SF scene (more men dancing with men)

2015 New Athletic Playground (AP) Tango Class

2015 Tango Connect - “Creativity thru Equality”

**2016 New Thursday Night Next Practica
(Gender Neutral, Shoes Optional, alt Music)**

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Class Warm-Up: The Conversation

- 1. Find a partner.**
- 2. Dance to Poema.**

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Class Warm-Up: The Conversation

- 1. Find a partner.**
- 2. Dance to Poema.**
- 3. Talk to partner about what we like...
(we'll play song once in background)**

Things our partner did that we enjoyed
Things we like in the song
Things we'd like to do

- 4. Formulate a strategy!**
- 5. Dance to Poema.**

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- 1. Find a partner.**
- 2. Dance to Poema.**
- 3. Talk to partner about what we like...**
- 4. Formulate a strategy!**
- 5. Dance to Poema.**
- 6. Change Roles dance again...**

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General Problem:

Tango is still primarily a "Patriarchal Society", especially at highest levels:

"of, relating to, or characteristic of a system of society or government controlled by men" wrt codes, behaviors, & business.

Questions:

How do we find more balance relevant to our time and global culture?

In doing so, do we lose the essence of what tango was and currently is?

Can we help the dance grow (accepted by more people open to broader ideas)?

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Group Activity: Gender Neutral Teaching

Form groups of 5 or 6 couples

5 minutes to prepare with partner a basic concept to teach

Each couple has 3 minutes to teach concept to group

Avoid using 'his', 'her', 'male', 'female', 'man', 'woman', i.e. any gender specific vocabulary, etc

Try using "Leader", "Follower", and "They"

Discussion

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Teaching Hints for Tango Couples aka Your Partner's voice

- 1. Never Rephrase what your partner just said**
- 2. Don't Affirm or Agree with partner's immediate comment**
- 3. Don't Both Count/Talk When the Music is Playing**
- 4. Don't Compliment Partner's Improvements**
- 5. Never Contradict; Use "And Also"**
- 6. Let Go and Give Space**
- 7. Constructive Arguments OK**
- 8. Plan Class Material Together Ahead of Time**

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Gender Questions

Why Do men lead and women follow?

How can we add more balance in today's scene?

How do we address LGBT issues?

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Our Answers

At a basic level it's important to encourage folks to dance both roles

Train “Leaders” to Listen More

Teach using “Leader”, “Follower”, and “They”

Athletic Playground & Thursday Next Practica

No shoes, mixed music or alternative, everyone leads and follows

Result - still identifiable role choices (sometimes) but overall more balanced