

# Midnight Tango



Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace are aficionados of the Argentine Tango

Bristol is the place to be to feel the passion of the Argentine tango this month, on stage and in person. Words by Caroline Sherwood

Tango is almost a religion in Argentina: to study it in depth could take a lifetime. A *milonguero* is a person whose life revolves around the philosophy of tango and who has mastered the art of its dance.

The original, authentic style is danced in 'close embrace', with the dancers' upper torsos in contact, allowing for powerful communication to pass between them. This traditional tango is very different from the more-familiar styles designed for stage performance or the ballroom. The key is in listening to and expressing the musicality, rather than doing fancy steps.

## Vincent and Flavia at the Bristol Hippodrome

When Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace performed the Argentine tango on *Strictly Come Dancing*, they were given an exultant standing ovation.

World Argentine Tango champions in 2006, they are skilled at creating the dance's sultry look with its intense and passionate atmosphere and intricate leg-wrapping and footwork.

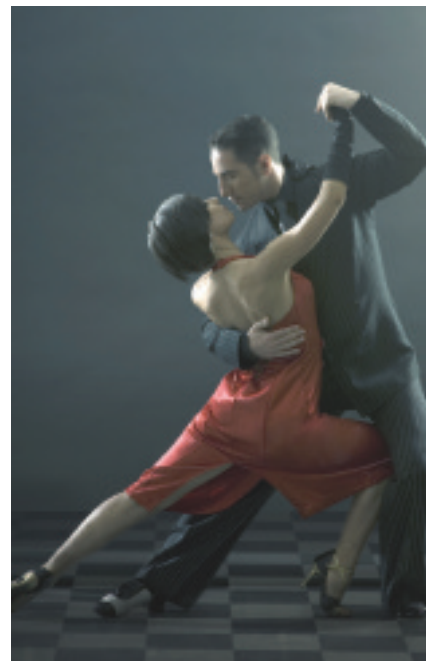
Based in Guildford, they met in their teens when each needed a dance partner. Flavia had been brought up here, so meeting Vincent helped her improve her Italian, while she taught him English! Vincent comes from a family of professional dancers. He adores flashy racing cars and dreams of owning a Ferrari. He also has a knack with computers and would quite like to work in that field, if he wasn't a dancer.

Flavia would like to apply her love of gorgeous clothes to creating a fashion collection under their brand name of VincentandFlavia. Flavia says that if she wasn't a dancer, she'd choose to work with animals, possibly as a trainer or behaviourist. She is also Patron of three charities: Danceaid helps orphaned, poor and exploited children in the developing world and the UK, The Fountain Centre helps people living with cancer, and Home-Start helps families with young children who are having financial problems.

Vincent and Flavia will be performing at the Bristol Hippodrome from 12-16

July. They will be accompanied by Tango Siempre. Considered to be the UK's leading tango music ensemble, their new album, *Malandras del Tango*, will be released this year.

Vocal colour will be provided by 41-year-old, Buenos Aires-born singer and guitarist Guillermo Rozenthuler. Guillermo started his career as a jazz singer and still cultivates a love for vocal improvisation and a creative approach to interpretation and arranging.





Tango classes are available from beginners to advanced at the Redlands Club

### Learn to dance authentic Argentine Tango

Tango West was established 13 years ago to teach genuine Argentine tango. The school, whose founders between them have 40 years' experience, prides itself on providing a solid foundation of accurate technique which insists on correct posture. It is essential that bad habits are eradicated early, as soon as they rear their heads, and that is a key focus of the classes, which are taught at four levels.

One of their long-standing students says, "I was first attracted to tango



Maggie Cowan-Hughes dancing the Tango in Buenos Aires

because of the music and the chance to meet new people, having been ill... My best story is how I got out of a wheelchair and onto the dance floor, hanging onto my partner for dear life, almost as if he was a Zimmer frame!"

Maggie Cowan-Hughes was introduced to the dance by Michele Tedder and now lives in Buenos Aires where she arranges holidays for tango lovers. This evolved into Tao Focus, "a concept which came to me after years of dancing tango when I made connections between the spiritual practices I've studied and this powerful dance". The aim is to learn "how to be present, how to feel, and how to open your heart". Maggie emphasises the importance of 'the embrace' – "It's a whole concept," she says.

"The music is crucial: it's a universal language coming out of a host of different cultures, speaking of love, life and politics." □



Helen Iles from Wales and Salvador Holik from Belarus have been dancing Tango for just over one year!

### Booking for Midnight Tango

Online at [bristolhippodrome.org.uk](http://bristolhippodrome.org.uk)

By telephone:

Ticketmaster, 0844 847 2325

Groups of 10+: 0844 372 7272;

Mon – Fri, 10am-6pm (telephone service only)

This is selling out fast; you might like to go in person to the box office:

Bristol Hippodrome, St Augustine's Parade, Bristol, BS1 4UZ



### Classes in Wells

Tuesdays at the Town Hall

Beginners: 7.30-8.30pm

Intermediate: 9-10pm

Cost: £5 (includes refreshments)

[fodjiveandswing.co.uk](http://fodjiveandswing.co.uk)

### Classes in Bath and Bristol

Graeme Puckett and Ann Peskett

[hoppinmad.co.uk](http://hoppinmad.co.uk)

01225-332942

### Tango holidays in Buenos Aires

[tangofocus.com](http://tangofocus.com)

### Vincent & Flavia's achievements

UK Professional Ten Dance

Champions 2002-2006

UK Professional Showdance

Champions 2003-2006

UK Argentine Tango Champions 2006

(first year of competition)

World Argentine Tango Show

Champions 2005/2006

UK Ballroom Champions for many years

World and European Ten Dance and

Showdance finalists 2002-2006

*Strictly Come Dancing* TV series

2005-2010 (Vincent reached semi-finals with Louisa in 2006)