



2014

2015

SEASON

PRESS KIT

SADLER'S WELLS
(UK)

MjLONGA
SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI

February 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 2015
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

Length: 1 h 35

Tour: February 10, 2015 – Grand Théâtre de Québec

With ten masters of Argentine tango, a duo of contemporary dancers, five musicians performing live and images of Buenos Aires, the brilliant Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui eulogizes the essence of tango, revealing its hidden aspects. Complex figures, spectacular lifts and a contagious fever.

CREDITS

Directed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Choreographed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in collaboration with the dancers

Tango Dancers Germán Cornejo "Nikito", Martin Epherra, Gisela Galeassi, Esther Garabali, Maricel Giacomini, Bruno Gibertoni, Claudio Gonzalez, Roberto Leiva, Julia Urruty, Valentina Villarroel

Contemporary Dancers Silvina Cortés (17 – 19 February), Damien Fournier (17 – 19 February), Jason Kittelberger (20 – 21 February), Jennifer White (20 – 21 February)

Musicians Fulvio Giraud (piano), Guillermo Rubino (violin), Alejandro Sancho (guitar), Federico Santisteban (bandoneon), Roberto Santocono (bass)

Tango Consultant and Rehearsal Director Nelida Rodriguez de Aure

Set and Video Designer Eugenio Szwarczer

Composers Fernando Marzan, Szymon Brzóska

Additional composer Olga Wojciechowska

Costume Designer Tim Van Steenberg

Lighting Designer Adam Carrée

Sound Designer Gaston Briski

Assistant to the Choreographer Satoshi Kudo

Additional assistants Damien Fournier, Silvina Cortés, Johnny Lloyd

Production Manager Adam Carrée

Production Manager (Argentina) Jose Luis Fioruccio

Assistant to the Costume Designer Greet Prové

Costume Supervisor and Wardrobe Manager Lydia Hardiman

Fileteado Artist (applied to costumes) Alfredo Genovese

Set and video design assistant Paula Bosch

Touring Production / Stage Manager Zeynep Kepekli

Tour Manager Carol Murcia

Re-lighter Will Frost

Technical Stage Manager Sam Thornber

Video Operator Oscar Lisshagen

Sound Operator Alejandro Zambrano

Wardrobe Manager Leila Ransley

Set construction Théâtre de Vidy, Steel the Scene

Video supplier XL Video

Executive Producer Suzanne Walker

Executive Producer (Argentina) Ricardo Szwarczer

Producer Ghislaine Granger

Assistant Producer Sandra Castell-Garcia

Producing & Touring Co-ordinator Isabelle Drummond

Head of Touring Dawn Prentice

Marketing Manager Lucy White

Press Manager Caroline Ansdell

Consultant Hisashi Itoh

Original production idea Ricardo Szwarczer.

A Sadler's Wells London Production

Co-produced with Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne; Migros Culture Percentage Dance Festival Steps; Théâtre du Jorat, Mézières; deSingel international arts campus, Antwerp; Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg; Les Nuits de Fourvière/Département du Rhône; Movimentos Festwochen der Autostadt in Wolfsburg; Festspielhaus St Pölten; Fondazione Musica per Roma; Eastman.

Thanks to: Michel Beuchat, Lars Boot, Christopher Bugot, Michel Caspary, Myriam de Clopper, Diego Franssens, René Gonzales, Nick Holdridge, Isabelle Imsand, Jérôme Ingravallo, Lies Martens, Karthika Nair, Fernando di Nasso, Stéphane Sagon, Dieuwertje Spek, Isabella Spirig, Barbara Suthoff, Thierry Tjordman, Sarah Turin, René Zahnd, Alejandro Zambrano, Teatro de la Ribera - Buenos Aires, all the staff at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, Théâtre du Jorat, Mézières and deSingel international arts campus, Antwerp.

Sadler's Wells

DEFINITION OF THE WORD 'MILONGA'

A milonga is a tango dance party, which originated in Buenos Aires. During a milonga, three to five songs are played in a row followed by a short musical break to give dancers a chance to find new partners. Dancers who attend milongas are called *milongueros* or *milongueras*. The term milonga also refers to a distinct style of tango, which is a faster-paced and less complex form of tango. Milonga can also refer to a musical genre.

ABOUT M;LONGA

Deeply rooted in Argentinean culture, tango has fascinated and captivated the world with its sexuality, power and beauty. It is this unique appeal that has drawn one of the world's most successful contemporary choreographers to create m;longa.

Internationally renowned for his ground-breaking and critically revered productions with artists like Akram Khan and Maria Pagès; for his award winning works, *Sutra*, with the monks of the Shaolin Temple and *Babel* with Damien Jalet, both presented at Danse Danse, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui now collaborates with an incredibly talented cast of Argentinean dancers and musicians to create a show that brings his own unique style to the tango.

Taking the idea of a milonga as its starting point, those social dance-evenings held in intimate late night bars in Buenos Aires, Cherkaoui draws on traditional influences and adds a contemporary twist. This is the first time that an international large-scale production about tango is directed by a non-Argentine artist, offering exciting opportunities to explore the traditional dance from another cultural perspective.

Cherkaoui, whose fascination for tango can be traced almost as far back as the beginnings of his career, says, "What attracts me most about tango is the eternal embrace of the dancers. When a tango couple dances, we sense the hypnotic dialogue between

two bodies connecting intuitively, merging into one. If there is such a thing as my style of dance, it is rooted in touch, in physical contact - and that is inherent in tango."

With guidance from tango superstar Nelida Rodriguez de Aure and featuring new music from Argentinean composer Fernando Marzan and Cherkaoui's long-term collaborator Szymon Brzóska, video and set design by Eugenio Szwarcer, and costumes by renowned fashion designer Tim Van Steenberg, *mjlonga* combines traditional Argentine aesthetics with state of the art technology. With a cast of ten tango dancers from Buenos Aires, two contemporary dancers and a tango band of five musicians, this is a fascinating exploration of both traditional and contemporary tango for the 21st century.

PRESS QUOTES

**** "*mjlonga* is a very beautiful show indeed"
Daily Telegraph, UK, November 2013

**** "One of his most touching and entertaining shows"
The Guardian, UK, November 2013

**** "*mjlonga* casts a magic spell"
Metro, UK, November 2013

**** "Rhythms flicker around the stage like forked lightning"
The Guardian, UK, November 2013

**** "Mating rituals can never have looked more artfully sexy, nor, in the show as a whole, can tango ever been given a fonder or more imaginative makeover. What a treat"
Daily Telegraph, UK, November 2013

**** "[Cherkaoui's] take on tango is a sweetly melancholic love letter"
Evening Standard, UK, November 2013

**** "Cherkaoui has drawn the best from his five top tango couples, bringing classic stylings to a show that highlights the drama and passion for which tango is renowned"
Metro, UK, November 2013

**** "Cloaked in intimacy, dappled with melancholy, Cherkaoui's *mjlonga* makes you feel as if you've stumbled into a fantasy dance hall, and you're the luckiest wallflower in town"
Metro, UK, November 2013

'A parabolic, mind-blowing, intoxicating, euphoric vision [...] The basic ingredients of tango that Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui simply sublime [...] *mjlonga* is an almighty successful bet'
Sortir, France, September 2013

'Extraordinary and flawless, the twelve performers are impressive and effective in showing us the visionary daring of Cherkaoui.'
La Repubblica, Italy, July 2013

'A stunning version of a tango reviewed and updated [...] Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui offers a poetic stroll through Buenos Aires where tango is sovereign, a delight!' *The Glamattitude.com*, France, July 2013

'Cherkaoui frees the Tango: with *mjlonga*, the Belgian choreographer passionately reinvents the dance from the streets of Buenos Aires.' *Figaro*, France, July 2013

'With *mjlonga* Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui delivers another jewel' *Concertnieuws.be*, Belgium, June 2013

'The audience is enraptured by these virtuoso artists' transcendent movements.' *24 heures*, Switzerland, May 2013

'This «mjlonga» had every audience member in ecstasy. Cherkaoui's Tango kick is addictive.' *Basler Zeitung*, Switzerland, May 2013

SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI – CHOREOGRAPHER

'My first dalliance with art was not dance, but drawing. As a child I wanted to draw reality and all the images I associated with it. For example, the clouds and what I could see in them, and people and the shadows they cast. They were 'surrealist-type' drawings: realistic but never just the bare facts. It was my way of interpreting the reality around me. But eventually I started to get impatient. The two dimensions were no longer enough. Then I started dancing, and the nice thing about dancing is that you have to dance constantly to see the drawing. Moreover, you are both the pencil and the draughtsman. Dance is always a temporary drawing; it disappears when the movement ends. So the drawing can be written over, or rewritten at any time. Each performance has to be drawn again the next evening.'

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's first experience as a choreographer was with the 'contemporary musical' *Anonymous Society*, director Andrew Wale's salute to the music of Jacques Brel. Cherkaoui also danced in this production for which he won several awards including the Fringe First Award and the Total Theatre Award in Edinburgh and the Barclay Theatre award in London. *Rien de Rien*, Cherkaoui's first choreography as a member of Les Ballets C. de la B. artistic team, toured Europe in 2000 and won the Special Prize at the BITEF Festival in Belgrade. He worked on this production with singer and dancer Damien Jalet, who introduced him to Italian folk songs and went on to have a great influence on his later creations. The six dancers in *Rien de Rien*, whose ages ranged from sixteen to sixty, have a thorough command of as many different dance styles and techniques: from classical ballet through salon dance to the hand gestures we all make when we speak. Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui regards them all as equally valuable sources for a contemporary dance language. This eclecticism fits in very neatly with a theme that is close to his heart: equality between individuals, cultures, languages and means of expression. *Rien de Rien* went on a marathon tour and also won him the Promising Choreograph prize at the Nijinski Awards in Monte Carlo in 2002.

That year Larbi and Nienke Reehorst also led a workshop for mentally disabled actors at Theater Stap in Turnhout, which led to the production *Ook*. This collaboration was a revelation. The individuality, directness, empathy and stamina of the Stap actors taught Larbi more about what it takes to be a 'performer' than all his previous professional

experience together. At that point Stap actor Marc Wagemans joined the group of kindred spirits who have accompanied Cherkaoui through his career. In July 2002 he took part in *Le Vif du Sujet* in Avignon, dancing in *It*, a Wim Vandekeybus production. Inspired by a short story by Paul Bowles, *It* is a dance solo in which the very specific languages of movement of both choreographers merge. “Cherkaoui pulls out all the stops. His body seems to have been uprooted and is inaccessible. When his foot touches the back of his head, it is as if the upper part of his body doesn’t know there is also a lower part. The body fights with itself, juggles with the air between his hands, twists itself into a thousand curves” (from ‘De Standaard’, EVC, 19/07/02). In the autumn of 2002 Cherkaoui, Damien Jalet, Luc Dunberry and Juan Kruz de Garaio Esnaola (from the Sasha Waltz company and initiator of the project), created *D’avant* for the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz in Berlin, which combines medieval songs from the thirteenth century and contemporary dance. *D’Avant* is a highly physical production, which succeeds in coupling lightness and relativization with important social phenomena such as fanaticism, physical violence and moral apathy in a mosaic of styles. This production is so close to the performers’ heart that it is a permanent part of the repertoire.

2003 saw Cherkaoui storm Europe with the much-acclaimed *Foi*, presented at Danse Danse that same year, which revolved around the nature and power of belief – and went on to win the Movimentos Dance Prize in Germany. At the request of the Festival d’Avignon, in July 2004 Larbi presented a new project with Les Ballets C. de la B. Entitled *Tempus Fugit*, the piece calls into question the apparent absoluteness of time. People the world over seem to use the same concepts of time, but time is experienced and interpreted in different ways in different cultures. In *Tempus Fugit* an ensemble of fifteen performers from just about every corner of the world explored their own cultural past. Each of them tried to take control of time, which took the form of diverse dance rhythms and speeds. *Tempus Fugit* focused on the Mediterranean, the Arab and Central African worlds and on their mutual relationships.

In December 2004 Cherkaoui made *In Memoriam* at Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, and for the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève he choreographed *Loin*, which was première in April 2005 and was presented at Danse Danse four years after. In 2005 Larbi worked with Akram Khan for the first time. Akram Khan is also a dancer and choreographer with dual ‘roots’: the son of Bangladeshi parents, he grew up in England. Together Cherkaoui and Khan created and danced the production *Zero Degrees* about the effect of their mixed cultural backgrounds. *Zero Degrees* was nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award in 2006, and went on to win two Helpman Awards in Australia in 2007.

For België danst, a special nationwide edition of *Bal Moderne* staged out in the open air in twelve Belgian cities simultaneously on July 16th 2005, Sidi Larbi worked with Damien Jalet to create a new choreography, *Ik hou van jou/je t’aime tu sais*, to music by Noordkaap and Marie Daulne. *Corpus Bach* followed in the spring of 2006 in which Larbi and Nicolas Vladyslav explored the theatrical effect of Bach’s cello suites. The spring of 2006 took Larbi back to Monte Carlo, where he made a new creation for Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, *Mea Culpa* (première in April 2006). In August 2006 his new creation *End*, made for the Cullberg Ballet, had its première at the Gothenburg Dance and Theatre Festival. The piece, made during the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, clearly bears marks of the geopolitical realities that paralleled its gestation. 2006 also saw Larbi shift base back to his hometown, Antwerp, when Het Toneelhuis theatre invited him to step on board as associate artist. Rehearsals on *Myth*, presented in 2008 at Danse Danse, Larbi’s first production with Toneelhuis and one of the most encyclopaedic pieces in his repertoire, began almost immediately.

Myth would open in June 2007 but before that, audiences at the impressive new opera house in Copenhagen were to discover *L'homme de bois*, Larbi's ballet for eighteen dancers from the Royal Danish Ballet to music by Stravinsky (May 2007). Furthermore, at the request of the Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration, a museum in Paris, Larbi and photographer/film-maker Gilles Delmas created *La Zon Mai*, an extraordinary three-dimensional video installation in the shape of a house filled with footage of dancers who reveal themselves through dance in the privacy of their homes.

September 2007 brought the première of *Apocrifu* (Apocrypha) commissioned by La Monnaie in Brussels. *Apocrifu* is a musical encounter with the Corsican a capella polyphonic singing of A Filetta. The group's music provides the backdrop for Larbi's new creation in which he also dances. The title is telling: a concise but key scene from *Apocrifu* (in which the three dancers take it in turns as threeheaded monsters to read aloud from the Talmud, the Koran and the Bible) makes it clear that the difference between apocryphal and canonical is more a question of perspective or authority than of content or value. In this way Larbi treats in a light-hearted manner a broader theme that has been with him for a long time: the intrinsic equality of different cultures and religious viewpoints. That theme returns in *Origine*, his second piece for Toneelhuis, one in which he brought two male and two female dancers - all from different parts of the world - together with the Sarband Ensemble. Again Larbi chose an unusual approach to the musical tradition and with that music he provided the leitmotif for a choreography that subtly examines topical political issues. Light-heartedly but unmistakably he touched on themes like immigration, alienation, and our excessive consumerism before abandoning them to an increasingly abstract dance vocabulary.

Sutra, Sidi Larbi's brand-new project in collaboration with Antony Gormley, Szymon Brzóska and monks from the Shaolin Temple in China, was produced by Sadler's Wells where it had its world premiere in May 2008 before touring across the globe ever since. The piece fetched him a nomination in the Best Choreographer (Modern) category at the 2009 National Dance Awards in Britain. Presented at Danse Danse that same year, it also won the 2009 Ballettanz award for Best Production of the year.

In August 2008, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui received the title of Outstanding Choreographer of the Year by Ballettanz, the European dance journal and its committee of forty dance critics from all over Europe, for his work across 2007-2008. In the same year, Sadler's Wells, named him an Associate Artist, alongside choreographers like Wayne McGregor, Christopher Wheeldon and Akram Khan. In February 2009, he received the Kairos European Cultural Prize endowed by the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung, lauded by the jury "because he raises fundamental questions about human existence through movement and because of the connections he makes between elements of different cultures". 2009 brought his first commissioned work for an American company: *Orbo Novo* (meaning The New World) choreographed for the New York-based Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet premiered at the historic Jacob's Pillow dance festival in July 2009. The piece, made for sixteen dancers, was another collaboration with composer Szymon Brzóska. Autumn 2009 will probably stand out as the season for duets: Cherkaoui choreographed *Faun* on James O'Hara and Daisy Phillips as part of Sadler's Wells' celebratory evening *In the spirit of Diaghilev*, and won much acclaim with *Dunas*, his encounter with Flamenco legend, Maria Pagés. For *Dunas* he was awarded the Giraldilho Award for Best Show at the Bional de flamenco in Sevilla in 2011 and the National Dance Award for Outstanding Male Performance (Modern) in 2012.

2010 marks a watershed year in the trajectory of Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui: the launch of Eastman, his company, which is project partner of Art Campus de Singel, Antwerp. In April, De Munt hosted the world premiere of *Babel*, choreographed together with Damien

Jalet, the third part of a triptych that began with Foi and continued with Myth. *Babel* is also the third collaboration with sculptor Antony Gormley whose stark and modular aesthetics were seen in *zero degrees* and *Sutra*. *Babel* triumphed at the Laurence Olivier Awards in 2011; the performance won two Olivier Awards: Best New Dance Production and Outstanding Achievement in Dance for the set design by Antony Gormley. Danse Danse presented *Babel* in 2011.

In May 2010, Cherkaoui's choreography embellished Guy Cassier's vision of *Das Rheingold*, the first part of Wagner's tetralogy, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, at La Scala in Milan. Summer and autumn 2010 brought research on more intimate duets. *Rein*, a focus on purity and its aim for nothingness, is choreographed on Guro Schia Nagelhus and Vebjørn Sundby. *Bound*, about the ties that bind us in life, is choreographed on and with Gregory Maqoma and Shanell Winlock, both dancers/choreographers from South Africa. *Play*, Cherkaoui's duet with Shantala Shivalingappa, in which he explores Indian kuchipudi dance, premieres in its final form at deSingel in Antwerp.

In 2011 Cherkaoui and Vandekeybus made a new version of *It* that they created in 2002 and they renamed it *IT 3.0*. Moreover he choreographed *Labyrinth* for the Dutch National Ballet, an intimate piece for a group of 19 dancers, for which Szymon Brzóska composed the music. He also created *TeZuka*, co-production between Eastman, Sadler's Wells and iconic Tokyo arts centre, Bunkamura. *TeZuka* is a piece for 15 dancers and musicians based on the work of the Japanese manga artist Osamu Tezuka, with an original score by Nitin Sawhney and video projections by Japanese artist, Taiki Ueda. Cherkaoui was also awarded 'Best Choreographer of the Year' for the second time by the dance magazine *Tanz* and collaborated with Joe Wright on his movie *Anna Karenina* (release Sept 2012), for which Cherkaoui helmed the choreography.

In 2012 he has worked on *Automaton*, a choreography for the American dance company Pilobolus, together with Renée Jaworski. For his own company, Eastman, he developed *Puz/ze*, premiering at the Festival d'Avignon in La Carrière de Boulbon. This old stone quarry inspired him to take stone as a defining element for the choreography. Together with eleven dancers, the Corsican men's choir A Filetta, Lebanese singer Fadia Tomb El-Hage and Japanese flautist and percussionist Kazunari Abe, he is questioning the puzzles that lie behind human relationships. The final months of 2012 see Cherkaoui working on *KURIOS - Cabinet of Curiosities*, the brand new production of Cirque du Soleil in Montreal, Canada.

In 2013 Cherkaoui, together with Damien Jalet and Marina Abramovic, created a new choreography of Ravel's *Boléro* for the Ballet de L'Opéra de Paris. He also opened *mjlonga*, a journey into Tango, combining his own unique style with this fascinating and sensual, Argentinean dance, which is a Sadler's Wells production. Fall 2013 sees the world premiere in Beijing of his latest work *Genesis* with Chinese dancer Yabin Wang - piece inspired by nature and translated into pure movement. (European premiere 10 January 2014, deSingel, Antwerp)

SADLER'S WELLS – COMPANY

Sadler's Wells is the UK's leading dance house, uniquely dedicated to bringing the very best international and UK dance to London audiences. We are committed to producing, commissioning and presenting works of the highest standards, crossing boundaries between different art forms. In the past five years we have commissioned and co-produced over 70 productions. Our group of Associate Artists and companies are critical to our work, representing the most exciting dance talents working in the UK today. They

are the Balletboyz, Matthew Bourne, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Jonzi D, Sylvie Guillem, Michael Hulls, Akram Khan, Russell Maliphant, Wayne McGregor, Kate Prince, Nitin Sawhney, Hofesh Shechter, Jasmin Vardimon and Christopher Wheeldon. Our resident companies are Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, New Adventures and ZooNation.

We present works across our three venues (Sadler's Wells, the Lilian Baylis Studio and the Peacock Theatre) plus offsite locations around London. Sadler's Wells' productions tour prolifically - in 2009/10 we visited almost 100 venues around the world. As well as bringing the very best international and UK dance to London audience, we have an impressive portfolio of our own productions that tour throughout the world. In the last year alone, Sadler's Wells has presented 140 performances of 12 productions in 51 international cities to audiences of over 130,000.

Since 2005, Sadler's Wells has produced 25 new shows, in collaboration with our Associate Artists, other dance companies and international partners, many of which have received international awards. These include PUSH with Sylvie Guillem and Russell Maliphant, Sutra with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Antony Gormley, and The Letter with Jonzi D, as well as our Cuban dance show Havana Rakatan and the British Bollywood musical Wah! Wah! Girls. Sadler's Wells Productions have been presented at some of the most prestigious venues and festivals around the world including Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center (New York), Hong Kong Festival, Berliner Festspiele, Abu Dhabi Festival, Theatre Chaillot (Paris), Palacio de Bellas Artes (Mexico) and the National Centre for Performing Arts (Beijing).

Sadler's Wells producing and touring programme ensures we can play a dynamic role in the development of dance, and bring innovative and inspiring productions to audiences across the world.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE COLLABORATORS

Nélida Rodríguez – Tango Consultant and Rehearsal Director

Nélida Rodríguez was born in Argentina. She started studying classical and Spanish ballet at the age of six. When she was 15 years old, she became a dance teacher. A year later, she began her professional career in different theatre stages across Buenos Aires, TV programmes and cinemas. In 1970, she met Nelson Ávila, a talented dancer, and they discovered together the magic of the tango music. Ever since, they have performed as a dance couple, Nélida and Nelson. They have created their own artistic ensemble, formed by dancers, musicians and singers, and have played in the most well known places of Buenos Aires. In 1980, they showed tango's beauty in many countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, amongst others. In 1983, Claudio Segovia and Héctor Orezolli asked them to join *Tango Argentino*. At that time, the French Minister of Culture wanted the show to be presented at the Chatelet's theatre in Paris. *Tango Argentino* immediately became a hit in the story of tango music. From its very beginning and for ten consecutive years, it shone and was admired from many spectators in many countries: France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Mexico, Belgium, Austria, Venezuela, Canada, Japan and 59 cities of the United States of America. *Tango Argentino* became the first Latin show presented on Broadway, and was presented there twice: in 1986 and most recently in 1999-2000. In both occasions it was nominated for the Tony Award, for best clothing, best musical spectacle and best choreography. The most well-known people who have seen *Tango Argentino* include: Lady Diana, Jacqueline Kennedy, Ann Miller, Rita Moreno, Mikhail

Baryshnikov, Rudolph Nureyev, Burt Reynolds, Kirk Douglas, Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro, Lisa Minelli, Katherine Hepburn and Plácido Domingo, amongst others. In 1987, Nélica and Nelson danced in the movie *Tango Bar*, a Puerto Rico coproduction, performed by Raul Julia, Valeria Lynch and Rubén Juárez. In 1988, they performed for Fantastico's R.A.I. TV program and a special created for Astor Piazzolla and Jerry Mulligan. After that they moved to Paris in order to play at the Champs Elysées and to have a photo shoot for Vogue magazine. In 1989, they staged their own show, *Tango 89*, and they began a long tour across Japan. In 1991, they choreographed *Una noche en Buenos Aires*, which was presented in the most important cities of Brazil, and where the Sexteto Mayor, Osvaldo Berlingieri and Raúl Lavie were invited to take place. In 1992, the organisation of *Expo Sevilla* asked them to choreograph *Campo and Ciudad*. After that they began a tour in many countries of Europe: Spain, Bulgaria and Portugal. In 1994, Nélica and Nelson inaugurated a new show untitled *Buenos Aires...Tango*. The well known tango composer Atilio Stampone performed there and they travelled all across Canada, The Lincoln Center of New York, Madrid, Badajoz, Marbella, Granada's Tango Festival, Barcelona, Lisbon and Cairo. Nélica and Nelson have participated in fashion shoots for Vogue, Vanity Fair in Paris, New York and Japan. In 1996, Nélica Rodríguez became responsible for the artistic direction of *El Viejo Almacén*, a well-known venue of Buenos Aires, until the end of 1999. It is at that time that the directors of *Tango Argentino* asked her to work as a dancer and choreographer on the show. Rita Moreno, Sharon Stone, Linda Cristal, the Russian dancer Vasiliev, Anthony Quinn and Robert Duvall were some of their most well known students. At the beginning of 2001, Nélica produced a show, which took place in Hong Kong. Lately, she has been producing a tango show for the Royal Caribbean Cruises. Nowadays, she continues with *Buenos Aires... Tango*, after the show being declared a Cultural Interest of the Nation, and started to perform and travel all over Argentina. Besides that, she was asked to be the choreographer and director of the play *Discepolín y Yo*.

Eugenio Szwarczer – Set and Video Design

Born in Argentina, and a graduate of the Theatre Institute, Barcelona, Eugenio's career began immediately, whilst he was still a student. He was able to bring with him specialist training in the use of video and digital technology for the arts, gained through working with a leading Italian company in the field of video for opera. Collaborating with leading Spanish directors Carmen Portaceli and Joan Oller, Eugenio has presented his work at the National Theatre of Catalunya, Teatre Lliure, Mercat de les Flors and the Grec Festival, and on tour in Valencia, Madrid, Frankfurt and MOMA, New York. In 2011 Eugenio was delighted to move between smaller scale work (*Against Democracy*: Dir. Carlos Fernandez) at the Sala Beckett to set and video design for *Concha* – a biographic spectacular of the life of the actress Concha Velasco, to the *Merchant of Venice* (Dir. Rafael Duran at the National Theatre Catalunya). Eugenio works intuitively and with great flexibility, drifting away from the industry standards and looking for a perfect fit between the action on stage and the technical requirements. This gives him great pleasure in his artistic collaborations with directors and choreographers.

Fernando Marzan – Composer, Musical Director and Pianist

Fernando continues the legacy of the Marzan family as a line of extremely reputable and well-known musicians in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He started his musical studies at the age of six. His early achievements include Choir Director at the age of 14 and Professor of Music from the National Conservatory of Music at 17. In addition, he refined and perfected his skill as a classical pianist under the tutelage and direction of the very finest

professors in Argentina and the United States. Some of his many CD recordings include the soundtracks of *Evita*, starring Madonna and *The Impostors*, starring Oliver Platt and Stanley Tucci. In 1996, he recorded *The Suite* for USA with Ruben Gonzalez and the Chicago's Symphonic Orchestra. In 2000, he recorded *Watashi* with famous Japanese artist *Taro Hakase*. In 2002, he recorded with the singer Martin de Leon and with the Carlos Galvan Orchestra. He has worked with the Swedish singer Rolando Pomo on two albums: *Pasional* and *Barrio de Tango*. In 2007, he recorded a CD with the famous Argentinian singer Maria Jose Montana. In 2008, he arranged and recorded the album *Audacia* for the Danish-Argentinean singer Victor Hugo Diaz. As a soloist, he has produced five albums: *Bendita Buenos Aires*, *Recuerdo*, *Gotanda Tango Station*, *Tanguera y Tanguendo en los '40*. He has also recorded four CDs with *Forever Tango*. Since 1994, he has been the pianist for the Broadway / London hit production of *Forever Tango*. With this company he has toured for seven years throughout the United States, Canada, Japan and many other countries around the world (Italy, England, Portugal, Korea, Mexico, Argentina, to name a few). In 2002, he took over the musical direction of the show *Tango Seducción*, touring throughout Europe. In 2003, he became the musical director and arranger for the show *Tango Buenos Aires*. This show was acclaimed by more than 50 cities in the USA and acknowledged by most of the reviewers as one of the best tango shows that toured the country. Many of the theatres where they performed are considered the most important in the USA: The Chicago Symphony Hall, The Dallas Orchestra Hall, The McCallum Theater, etc. In 2004, he joined the Mora Godoy show *Tango Emotion* as musical director, touring through several cities in Finland and Sweden. In the same year he worked on the show *Tango Dreams*, being part of a very extensive run of more than 100 presentations in Tokyo, Japan. That year, he was also back in *Forever Tango*, performing in a tour that would start in Rome and continue later in some cities of USA (Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia) and Canada (Toronto). In 2005, with his own quintet, many maestros from the Symphonic Orchestra of New Mexico and the orchestral direction of Maestro Javier Lorenzo, he did the play *Maria de Buenos Aires, de Astor Piazzolla*, during the opening of the Hispanic Convention Center of Albuquerque. In the European summer, he played with his quintet at the Tango Festival in Denmark and Italy. In 2006, again with *Forever Tango*, he travelled two months around Mexico and Florida, USA and then went to Lisbon, Portugal and Reno, for another two more months. Due to the great success of that show, he performed with his quintet, in the second edition of the Tango Festival and also played as part of the prestigious Vendsyssel Festival in Denmark, getting excellent reviews. Then, in 2007, *Forever Tango*, went through the United States, performing in 30 different cities of California in a tour that lasted two months. In July of the same year, he arrived in Latvia, where his quintet joined the Riga's Symphonic Orchestra, to give a tango concert and accompany the Sweden-Argentinean singer Rolando Pomo. Afterwards, they participated again in the Vendsyssel Festival in Denmark. In 2008, he was the musical director of the show *Tango Premium*. This show was wonderfully received in the most important theatres in Japan (Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and 40 other main cities of that country), as part of a tour that started in January and finished by the end of March. The cast included the last five World Champion Tango Dancers. At the end of 2009, he became the musical director of *El Viejo Almacén*, the most legendary tango show in Buenos Aires, place where he is still working at the present time. In 2010, he was the musical director of another tango show that went to Japan: *Tango Romance*. In 2011, back with *Forever Tango*, he started a tour that began in Colombia (Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Cartagena) and ended up in San Francisco, two months later. In April and May of the same year, he performed in Greece, China and many other cities in the USA. In previous years, Fernando has worked with many well-known musicals and television shows. In 1988, at the age of 21, he had the privilege of directing the musical *High Society*. From 1987-1994, he worked on popular Argentine television shows, such as *La Noche del Domingo*, *Alejandro Dolina*, and *Hola Susana*, among

others. As a tango pianist he played for the most prestigious tango houses, like Michelangelo, Casablanca, La Ventana, and Tango Mio.

Szymon Brzóska – Composer

Born in Poznań (Poland) in 1981, Szymon Brzoska already started playing piano at the age of seven. From 2000 until 2005 he studied at the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Music Academy in Poznań where he was taught composition by Mirosław Bukowski and from which he graduated as a Master in Arts. In 2007 Szymon completed his postgraduate degree in composition at the Royal Flemish Conservatory in Antwerp (Belgium) under the guidance of composer Luc Van Hove. During his studies in Antwerp he was selected among the contestants in the competition for composition of the *music @venture 2007* festival in Antwerp, which commissioned him to create a piece for the prestigious Belgian ensemble I Solisti del Vento. September 2009 saw the premiere of his concerto for piano, strings and percussion *Hommage à Schnittke*, played by pianist Barbara Drażkowska, during the 42nd edition of the Festival of Polish Piano Music in Słupsk. In May 2010 Drażkowska also performed the World Premiere of *Septem* – seven miniatures written especially for her at the Sounds New Contemporary Music Festival in Canterbury. Szymon has a particular interest in the synergy between music and other arts, such as contemporary dance, theatre and cinema. Szymon composed the score for *Sutra*, a Sadler's Wells' production. This dance performance was made in collaboration with choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, sculptor Antony Gormley and monks from the Shaolin temple in China. *Sutra* premiered in London in May 2008 before touring across the globe through 2008-2012. Szymon also wrote the soundtrack for the French film *Le bruit des gens autour*, directed by Diasteme, which was premiered at the Festival D'Avignon in 2008. After the success of *Sutra*, Szymon collaborated again with choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui by writing the score for *Orbo Novo*, a modern dance piece performed by the New York-based Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. *Orbo Novo* premiered at the Jacob's Pillow dance festival in July 2009 before touring through the United States and Europe. His connection with modern dance continued when he composed a cello piece for *I will*, the solo by Małgorzata Dzierżon of Rambert Dance Company (premiere June 2009 in London) and by composing the score for *Dunas*, a duet between Cherkaoui and flamenco dancer Maria Pages. A new collaboration with choreographer Joost Vrouenraets led to the premiere of (S)NOW in October 2010 in Tilburg, Netherlands. Szymon's orchestral score for *Labyrinth*, a full length ballet commissioned by Het Nationale Ballet in Amsterdam premiered in June 2011. This was another collaboration with Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. November 2011 saw Szymon back in his home town, Poznan, for the premiere of his new score for *Desert* – a dance performance choreographed by Paulina Wycichowska (Polish Dance Theatre in Poznań). *Casting Traces*, a collaboration with New Movement Collective premiered in London in July 2012. Performance *Oh, Noh*, choreographed by Kaya Kołodziejczyk had its premiere in Warsaw in November 2012. Szymon's music was performed live by *Kinematic Ensemble*. In June 2013 Szymon collaborated with David Dawson composing a score for *Overture*, choreographed for Het Nationale Ballet in Amsterdam. The music, written for piano and sixty strings was performed by Holland Symfonia conducted by Matthew Rowe and pianist Barbara Drażkowska.

Olga Wojciechowska – Additional Composer

Olga Wojciechowska graduated from the Poznań Music Academy in Poland in 2005. She plays acoustic and electric violin as well as collaborating in a variety of projects with

choreographers, DJs, musicians and producers. Since 2008 Olga has been working together with acclaimed Belgian choreographer, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. She joined a worldwide tour of his productions: *Sutra*, *Play* and *TeZuka* (her own compositions were included in the two latter shows) and created music for one of his recent works – *Puz/zle*. Olga also worked on *Constellation* performed by Aakash Odedra, a rising star of British South Asian dance. This year she collaborated with Guro Nagelhus Schia and Vebjorn Sundby for Dansens Dager 2013 in Norway and with Daniel Proietto for *Cygne* performed in Oslo Opera House in October. She is currently working with Cherkaoui on his new production *Genesis*, which will premiere in November in Beijing.

Tim Van Steenbergen – Costume Designer

Tim Van Steenbergen graduated Magna cum Laude at the Antwerp Royal Academy of Fine Arts (fashion department, textile creation and theatre costume). Subsequently he took classes in drapery and couture techniques and worked as the first assistant of Olivier Theyskens. His first collection was launched in 2001 in Paris and in the same year he set up his company Mitzlavv bvba. Meanwhile he's up to his 23rd collection/ fashion show and the label Tim Van Steenbergen is being sold in the best designer shops all over the world. His style evolves into a refined pureness and female elegance. He is a master of contemporary drapery and every detail, high quality standards, tradition and craftsmanship are being cared for. *Le Petit Livre Blanc*, a publication on Tim, is a booklet printed on hand-layered paper which evokes his special story. Tim Van Steenbergen also created jewellery for Swarovski UK, shoes for Novella Italia, Barbie outfits, a jean for Xfit by Lycra, an haute couture dress for the Museum of Fine Arts and Lace in Calais (France) and the bag *le Seau Elsa* for the French label Lancel. Tim Van Steenbergen exposed four haute couture dresses within the project *Framed*, in The Groeninge Museum in Brugge, UCAD Louvre Paris and at the occasion of the motion pictures festival in Cannes. He also set up an installation *Stills* at the Biennale of Venice in 2003, besides several other exhibitions into which he participated. He created the uniforms for the attendants of the Flemish Parliament. In collaboration with the well-established shoe manufacturer Ambiorix, Tim van Steenbergen is enlarging his women and men's collections with a selected choice of shoe designs, made by hand in Belgium. For Theo, he created the sunglasses *theo by Tim Van Steenbergen*. International personalities, such as Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna, Dita Von Teese, Kimberly Stewart, Hilary Duff, Katy Perry (video, *Firework*), Axelle Red, Micha Barton, Kim Cattrall, Jared Leto and George Michael have been spotted in Tim Van Steenbergen. Tim received the award for best Belgian designer at the Elle Style Awards 2009. Tim designs the costumes for international movie, theatre, dance and opera creations including Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker, Guy Cassiers and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. *Tim Van Steenbergen, act(e)*, a book by fashion journalist Veerle Windels has been released by Ludion Publishers. Nowadays Tim Van Steenbergen is increasingly evolving into a creative lab. Recent developments thereof are *Metronome*, a first light design for Delta Light, an interior fabrics collection in collaboration with Aristide and total interior concepts Tim Van Steenbergen with Boa Interior.

Credits include: *Hanjo*, opera, Festival Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence / the Monnaie Brussels. *Hersenschimmen*, theater, Ro Theater Rotterdam. *D'Un Soir un Jour* and *Steve Reich Evening*, dance, Rosas / the Monnaie Brussels. *Triptych of Power*; *Mefisto*, *Wolfskiers* and *Atropa*, theater, Toneelhuis Antwerp / Festival d'Avignon / Théâtre de la Ville de Paris. *The House of the Sleeping Beauties*, opera, LOD / Toneelhuis Antwerp / the Monnaie Brussels. *Adam in Exile*, opera, Opera of Amsterdam. *La Chanteuse du Tango*, movie by Diego Martinez Vignatti with Eugénia Ramirez.

Prélude à la Mer movie by Thierry De Mey at Kazakhstan *Das Rheingold*, Teatro alla Scala / Staatsoper Unter den Linden. *Blood & Roses*, *the Song of Joan and Gilles*, Toneelhuis Antwerp / Festival d'Avignon. *Die Walküre*, Teatro alla Scala / Staatsoper Unter den

Linden. *Labyrinth*, National Ballet Amsterdam, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. *Siegfried*, Teatro alla Scala / Staatsoper Unter den Linden. *Götterdämmerung*, Teatro alla Scala / Staatsoper Unter den Linden. *Milonga*, dance, Sadler's Wells, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. *Macbeth*, theater, Toneelhuis / Spectra Ensemble / Vocaallab. Between 2010 and 2013 Tim Van Steenbergen is creating the costumes for Richard Wagner's opera cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Teatro alla Scala in Milan and the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin.

Adam Carrée – Lighting Designer

Adam Carrée studied lighting design at Rose Bruford College, graduating in 1997. He then went on to work with Central Saint Martins based at their Cochrane theatre, working annually on the Peter Williams Design for Dance seasons, collaborating with design students from Central Saint Martins, dancers and choreographers from Royal Academy of Dance, Central School of Ballet, London Studio Centre and Rambert School. Since then he has gone on to work in theatre, dance and opera. Carrée has worked on a number of projects with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. He collaborated with Antony Gormley and Cherkaoui on *Sutra* and *Babel*; other collaborations include *Faun*, *Play*, *Puzzle*, *4D* and recently *milonga*. Lighting designs for other companies include: *Epson Downs* and *Hobson's choice* for Drama Centre London, *A Taste of Mangoes* for Tara Arts, *Flavio* for Early Opera Company, *RSVP* with Philine Janssens for The Place Prize, *Rites/Before Night Falls*, *Shattered*, *Second Grace* and *Gameshow* for Company Chameleon, *The Cat Who Ran*, *The Tempest* for Unicorn Theatre, *For The Best* with Mark Storer and the Unicorn Theatre & *Party for Freedom* with Oreet Ashrey, for ArtAngel.

Gaston Briski – Sound Designer

His career began more than 25 years ago. Around the globe, Gaston Briski's credits as sound designer in musical theatre include: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *CATS*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Harold Prince's *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Sam Mendes' *Cabaret*, Jaimie Lloyd's *PIAF*, Mel Brooks' *The Producers*, Disney's *Mary Poppins*, *The Beauty and the Beast*, Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, *The Sound of Music*, *Sweet Charity*, David Levoux's *Nine*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Full Monty*, *Blood Brothers*, Claudio Segovia's *Tango Argentino* and *Brasil Brasileiro*, *Zorba*, *Victor Victoria*, *High School Musical*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, to name a few, including the new sound design for Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2005. He has also worked as production sound supervisor for *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Priscilla*, *Addams Family*, as associate sound designer for *Chicago* and as sound engineer in productions like *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Nine*, *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Blood Brothers*, *Chicago* and many other international touring companies.

Satoshi Kudo – Assistant To The Choreographer (Production)

Satoshi Kudo has been working with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui since 2006. He works as a dancer, assistant choreographer and rehearsal director, for productions including Sadler's Wells' *Sutra* and *TeZuka*. Kudo was born in Japan and is now based in Stockholm. He has worked for Ohad Naharin (Israel), Jorma Uotinen (Finland), Tim Rushton (UK/Denmark), amongst others. In 2002 he founded Company KUDO, based in Stockholm. The company has performed in Scandinavia and Japan.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE DANCERS

German Cornejo “Nikito” – Tango Dancer

Born in Zárate, Buenos Aires Province, German started studying Tango at the age of 10. After obtaining a degree from Gatell Conservatory of Dance at 15, he broadened his skills by studying classical and contemporary ballet, jazz and acrobatic techniques and qualified as a Master of Choreographic Composition at the National Institute of Arts. After seven gold medals obtained in a series of Contests for Youth in Buenos Aires Province, and more than 20 first prizes at national level, German became World Champion of Tango in 2005. German has performed on popular TV shows in South America and around the world. He has also been a dancer in the production *Bien de Tango* with the Orchestra El Arraque, *Vamos al Tango* with Osvaldo Berlinger, *El Viejo Almacén – Brazilian Tour* together with Ariel Spandrio’s Orchestra and *Tango por La Igualdad*. He joined the Tango Fire Company in 2006 and was assistant choreographer of the group tangos. He is Lead Dancer for the Company and has also performed with *Tango Inferno*. He has toured internationally since 2006 performing in Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, Greece, Canada, Korea, Turkey, Malaysia, South Africa, Chile, Singapore, New Zealand, Philippines, & extensively throughout USA, Brazil, United Kingdom, Spain, Netherlands, Australia, China and Japan. He appeared as part of the show *Q Viva Live* with Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, under the direction of the renowned entertainment director Jamie King, and at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. In June 2012 he was J-Lo’s special guest artists at her first ever concert in Buenos Aires at GEBA Arena. German has been choreographer for the show *Mission Tango* under the musical direction of Lisandro Adrover & in *Tango Inferno - The Fire Within*. Cornejo also performed for the President of Vietnam when he visited Argentina with the dance group *Sentimientos Tangueros*, under his own direction. In 2008 German was paid homage to, in the show *Evocacion* at the Coliseum Theatre by the Department of Culture of Zárate, his hometown, for his outstanding achievements.

Silvina Cortés – Contemporary Dancer

Born in La Plata, Buenos Aires, Silvina Cortes began her training at the age of eight at Escuela de Danzas Clasicas de La Plata, where she graduated with the highest qualification as classical dance teacher in 1996. In 1993 she continued her studies at the Instituto Superior de Arte del Teatro Colon, the largest and most renowned dance school and theatre in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 1995 Silvina joined the North Carolina Dance Theatre (USA) directed by Salvatore Aiello. In 1996, she joined the Ballet Estable del Teatro Colon de Buenos Aires and the Ballet Estable del Teatro Argentino de La Plata, where she has taken lead roles on many occasions. In 1996 Silvina was granted a scholarship by the Colon Theatre Foundation. In 1997, Julio Bocca Foundation and The Alvin Ailey Dance Center NYC granted her a scholarship. She completed her training in USA and Europe with renowned teachers. From 1999 through 2007, she was a principal dancer of the Ballet Contemporaneo del Teatro General San Martin de Buenos Aires, the most respected contemporary ballet company of Argentina. In 2002 she was awarded best new artist 2002 in the dance category by the Clarin Awards Honour, and three years later, was nominated best artist 2005, due to her acclaimed interpretation of *Medea*. In November 2008 she moved to Europe to integrate the Ballet d’Europe, directed by Jean-Charles Gil, in Marseille, France. In 2009, Silvina was awarded the Konex Foundation’s *Diploma of Merit* as the Female Ballet Dancer of the decade 1999-2008. This award was

one of only five given to the most distinguished Argentine artists of the last ten years. In 2010, Silvina joined the Russell Maliphant Company and Sadler's Wells (London UK) to integrate his piece *AfterLight (Full version)*. From 2012 she became professor of contemporary dance at École Nationale Supérieure de Danse de Marseille and also teach at École Supérieure de Danse de Cannes Rosella Hightower in France. The French Minister of Culture and Communication awarded her a Diploma as a Teacher in Contemporary Dance in 2013. She joined Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui for *mjlonga* in 2013.

Martin Epherra – Tango Dancer

Martin is an artist coming from the new generation of tango dancers. In his trajectory across diverse scenes of the world he has been accompanied by great orchestras of tango as Sexteto Mayor, Los solistas de D'arienzo, touring with the latter in several Japanese cities. He was part of the casts of many Night Shows from Buenos Aires such as *El Querandj*, *La Ventana*, *Piazzolla Tango*, among others. He is currently choreographer and artistic director at the legendary *Viejo Almacen*.

Damien Fournier – Contemporary Dancer

Damien Fournier was born in 1977 in France. At the age of 13, he fell in love with the circus and immediately signed up at the regional circus school in Toulouse, where he trained for five years before moving on to the National Centre for Circus Arts in Chalons (France). The teachers who inspired him were Mario Gonzales, Francis Viet, Pal Frenak and Pierre Doussaint. After school, he worked with Alloucherie (*Les sublimes*), Giorgio Barberio Corsetti (*Paradiso, Argonauti*), Kitsou Dubois (*Traversées*). With the latter he discovered the parabolic flight (*zero gravity*) which was an extremely inspiring experience. He worked with Josef Nadj (*Il n'y a plus de firmament, Asobu*) and collaborated with Mariko Aoyama, Yoshi Oida and Jean Babile. He discovered Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in *Iets op Bach* by Alain Platel, which has impacted upon him deeply. In 2006 he joined Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui on *Myth*. Damien Fournier is impassioned about widening the vocabulary of dance through sources as diverse as sign language and personal narratives. Since *Myth*, he stayed involved with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Eastman. He acted as assistant-choreographer and rehearsal director and dancer in *Sutra*, dances in *Babel(words)* and *Puz/zle, 4D* and participated in the film *Anna Karenina*.

Esther Garabali – Tango Dancer

Esther was a member of the Ballet Folklórico Nacional of Argentina and participated in important festivals such as the Cosquin festival in Argentina and the Expo Sevilla in Spain. From her dance beginnings in 1996, Esther has brought herself up as a tango dancer with a clear traditional style, dancing in the renowned Argentine shows such as *la Ventana*, and *Michelangelo*, among others. She participated in the movie *Tango* by Carlos Saura and the movie *Evita* by Alan Parker. She is currently choreographer and artistic director at the legendary *Viejo Almacen*.

Gisela Galeassi – Tango Dancer

Gisela has been a part of Sadler's Wells' production *mjlonga* from its creation, working closely with world-famous choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in Buenos Aires since 2012 and creating her own unique and pivotal role in the production. Gisela has

performed *milonga* across Europe and is recognised as one of the greatest tango dancers in the world. Gisela began studying dance at the age of 3, and graduated as Professor of Classical and Spanish Dances when she was 16, when she started to study tango with the best teachers in Argentina. Gisela won several national and international awards, in classical and tango dance, including Best Artist in 1999 at the Ibero-American Exhibition of Dance, and World Champion of Tango in 2003. In 2004 she was appointed Cultural Ambassador of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, later representing Argentina around the world in this capacity. Gisela has dazzled in several Tango houses in Buenos Aires, as well as dancing for celebrities like Kylie Minogue, Sting, John Travolta and others. She performed several shows in renowned theaters as Colon Opera, San Martín, Luna Park Stadium, Sydney Opera House and Theatre National De Chaillot among others. Gisela has participated on top rated TV shows in Argentina and in the reality TV show *Q Viva- The Chosen* in the USA. She joined tango companies such as *Tango Pasion* and *Tango Seducción* and was part of the cast of the remake and legendary show *Tango Argentino*. Other performances in shows were '*Buenos Tangos-Japan Tour* and '*One Night in Buenos Aires*. Gisela has been the director and the choreographer of *Tango Dance Premium* with the Fernando Marzan's Orchestra, showing his performance for three months around Japan. Currently, Gisela is Lead Dancer in *Tango Fire Company of Buenos Aires*. Because of her tango knowledge, she filmed the well-known teaching videos *Tango Lesson (I and II)*, and she is frequently invited to join the jury in different regional tango championships in Chile, Spain, Italy and Japan. She was choreographer and tango coach for one of the couples in the Argentine version of *Dancing With The Stars: Bailando 2012*.

Maricel Giacomini – Tango Dancer

Maricel began her dance training at the age of 13. After being trained in different dances, at the age of 25 she began in tango and Argentinean folklore. She was asked to join *Danza y Amistad Company*, participating in many shows. After intense research, gathering information and experience from different teachers, she concentrated in tango dance and teaching. In 2006 she won the Metropolitan Vice Championship award in tango salon, and in 2008 the World Vice Championship award in stage tango. From 2006 onwards, she toured across Europe, Latin America and Asia, performing and teaching tango. Regularly, she has been also performing in tango shows in Buenos Aires, such as: *Café Tortoni*, *La Cumparsita*, *Tango Palace*, and *Cátulo Tango*. She also made appearances as a dancer and teacher in Argentinean movies: *La suerte está echada* and *Buenos Aires Ghosts*.

Bruno Gibertoni – Tango Dancer

Bruno created his role in Sadler's Wells' production *milonga* from its first stages, working closely and collaboratively with world-famous Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in Buenos Aires since 2012 and creating his own unique and pivotal part in the production. Bruno has performed in *milonga* all over Europe. His partner in the work is Maricel Giacomini.

Claudio Gonzalez – Tango Dancer

Claudio is a dancer, teacher and choreographer, trained in contemporary dance, jazz, and classic dance, as well as performance skills in trapeze and acting techniques. He has performed in international musicals: *Tanguera*, *Forever Tango* and *Otango*; he is a member of *Tangokinesis* company (director and choreographer Ana Maria Stekelman). He

created his own company, Tango Elemento, together with his dance partner Melina Brufman. They created their own work *Coded Episodes in Tango*, and they were first dancers in a well-known show *Tango Palace* (Carlos Veiga's choreography). Claudio has been working with his dance partner Melina Brufman for 11 years, researching an essential approach to dancing tango, which gives their work a unique and individual flavour.

Julia Urruty – Tango Dancer

Julia was asked to join the cast of Sadler's Wells' *milonga* to replace Melina Brufman, who was unable to continue touring due to injury. Her first performances will be in the USA, followed by dates in Europe and Australia. As evidenced below, she is a world-class tango dancer who has toured the world with other shows and is essential to the success of Sadler's Wells *milonga*, as the replacement for a lead dancer. Julia started her professional career in February 2000. She did her superior degree in Tango and Folklore, obtaining a distinction. She has been teaching tango since 2001 in places such as: La Ventana, Gala Tango, Viejo Almacén, Taconeando, Piazzolla Tango, Señor Tango and Tango Porteño. Julia has been performing in some of the most recognised shows including: *Tango Emoción* (2004-2007) in Russia, China, France, Spain, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, *Tango A Tierra* (2008-2011) Russia, Ukraine, China, Hong Kong, Brazil, Buenos Aires, Company *Jose Colagelo* (2005) in Spain, Company *Tango Feeling* (2009- 2011) Turkey and Poland, Company *Tango Pasión* (2007-2011) Russia, France, Germany, UK, Switzerland, Ireland, EEUU, Romania, Finland, Austria, Portugal and others, *Sexteto Fabio Hager* (2012) in Japan and *Balada para mi muerte* (2014). She has also been part of many festivals and TV programmes.

Valentina Villarroel – Tango Dancer

Valentina trained as a classical dancer from the age of eight at Maria Ruanova's National Dance School in Buenos Aires. She performed at different theatres in Buenos Aires including Teatro Roma, Teatro Alvear and in Estela Erman's Company. She then specialised in contemporary dance, and later in tango, having as teachers Juan Carlos Copes, Gachi Fernandez and Graciela Gonzalez, amongst others. She began her artistic work as professional tango dancer in 1997, in big companies such as *Forever Tango*, *Fatal*, *Evita Alive* and others of great prestige in Argentina and abroad. She has worked in famous tango venues in Buenos Aires: *El Viejo Almacén*, *Señor Tango*, *La Ventana*, *El Barracas*, and *Rojo Tango*. She has also worked in a fusion experience between tango and trapeze, on the show *Piazzolla by Piazzolla* (2000). At present, she dances in *Tango Porteño*.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE MUSICIANS

Guillermo Rubino – Violin

As one of the five original musicians involved in the creation of *milonga*, Guillermo has been a vital part in shaping the musical sound of the work. All the music in the show is live and therefore the musicians are as much a part of the performance as the dancers. They are the most highly regarded tango musicians from the world and as such, they each perform important roles in the show. Born in La Plata, Guillermo did his studies in the

Conservatory Gilardo Gilardi in La Plata and graduated as Violin teacher. Some of his music teachers include José Bondar, Pablo Saraví and Szymisia Bajour. He was concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of the Conservatory Gilardo Gilardi and Camerata Académica of the Teatro Argentino de La Plata. He performed as understudy soloist in the Orquesta Estable del Teatro Argentino in La Plata. He took chamber music and violin courses with the English violinist Roland Roberts and with the Catalan Orchestra Director Jordi Mora. Since 2005 he has been first violinist of the Orquesta El Arranque, making numerous tours in the country and abroad and recording many records with the orchestra. Since 2009 he has served as first violin and strings instructor in the Orquesta Escuela de tango Emilio Balcarce. Guillermo is part of the Diego Schissi Quinteto, participating in records record *Tren* (EPSA Music, 2008), *Tongos* (Untref, 2010) and *Tipas y Tipos* (Vinyl records, 2012) and touring through Latin America and Europe.

Alejandro Sancho – Guitar

Alejandro Sancho has played in Argentina with some of the most renowned tango musicians and singers. He is the guitarist of the Fernando Marzan Quintet with which he made several recordings and has toured worldwide as a cast member of the shows *Tango Buenos Aires*, Mora Godoy's *Tango Company*, *Tango Seducción* and *Tango Dance Premium*, performing in concert halls and theatres such as Chicago and Philadelphia Symphony Halls, Berkeley Zellerbach Hall, Stockholm Koncerthuset, L'Olympia, Paris and Toronto Roy Thomson Hall among others. He is a member of Jungman & Sancho Tango Duo with which he recorded the album *Tango Bohemio* and performs in many European countries. He also performs as a solo artist in Europe, playing a wide repertoire of tango, bossa nova as well as jazz standards. Between 2004 and 2008 Alejandro was the artistic producer and programmer of the *Vraa Tango Festival* in Denmark, which was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina and by the Argentine Embassy in Denmark. Based in Denmark since 2010, Alejandro is now one of the leading forces on the Danish tango scene, performing with a wide constellation of musicians and singers.

Federico Santisteban – Bandoneon

Federico began studying bandoneon in 2000 when he was 11. His teachers were Domingo Diani, Lisandro Adrover, Carlos Lazzari, and Carlos Corrales. Since 2005 he began his professional career, travelling for the first time to Europe, and taking part in the young tango orchestra Cerda Negra. He played with the orchestra up to 2008, with intense activity, and recorded *Quiebre*. Since 2009 he has worked in the most important tango venues, in many of them as first bandoneon or soloist. He has shared the stage with musicians like Suarez Paz (great violin player for Astor Piazzolla), Pablo Agri, Carlos Lazzari, Julio Pane, Ernesto Baffa, Nestor Marconi, Juan Jose Mosalini, Raul Garello, etc. and with Tango stars like Raul Lavie, Nacha Guevara, Dyango, Horacio Ferrer, Juan Carlos Copes and Virginia Luque. At present, he is a member of the Ramiro Gallo orchestra, and also participates in a bandoneon group called *Los que vendrán*, with whom he recorded their first CD in 2011. In 2013 they recorded and presented *A solo con Leopoldo*, an homage to the great bandoneon player Leopoldo Federico, who will be 86 by now, also participated in the recording.

Roberto Santocono – Bass

Roberto began studying double bass and violoncello at the Conservatorio Municipal Manuel de Falla. In 1980 he started playing music with renowned singers like Julia

Zenko, Estela Raval, Daniel Riobos, Raul Lavie and some of the most important jazz musicians of Buenos Aires. He was bassist to the famous Brazilian singer Maria Argentina Creuza and Donna Carroll, with whom he toured Europe and South America several times. He was also a member of the Quintet Oscar Lopez Ruiz, Pablo Ziegler Quintet, Saul Cosentino group and big band arranger Oscar Cardozo Ocampo, and the Fernando Marzan Quintet. During the '90s he played with renowned tango artists Julio Pane, Fernando Suarez Paz, Daniel Binelli, Cristian Zarate, Horacio Romo, Nicolas Ledesma, amongst others. In 1992 he joined the Electronic Octet Daniel Piazzolla, with whom he travelled to Japan in 1999. This tour ended in Buenos Aires the following year with a show whose guests were the brilliant Chick Corea and Gary Burton. From 1996, he toured the world with different shows: *Maria de Buenos Aires*, *Forever Tango*, *Tango Buenos Aires*, *Mora Godoy Tango*, *Tango Dreams* and *Tango Seducción*. He has also been a member of the Fernando Marzan Quintet since the beginning, participating in their tours and recordings.

SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI AT DANSE DANSE

2011: *Babe*^(words), Eastman vzw
2009: *Sutra*, Sadler's Wells, in co-presentation with Place des Arts
2009: *Loin*, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève
2008: *Myth*, Toneelhuis Antwerpen
2003: *Foi*, Les Ballets C. de la B.

*This press kit consists of material provided by the company
and by research conducted by the Danse Danse team.*