

Doble Ocho feels like a warm bath... Meet your friends

Doble Ocho is a complete tango festival, that is definitely different than other tango festivals. The festival has its own unique atmosphere with low social barriers, where you will meet old friends and easily find new favourites.

When it feels like a warm bath you step in to soak up the complete tango experience, we are satisfied.

Surprising

Doble Ocho deals with all aspects of tango. It is more than just a workshop and a milonga. Every previous edition of the Doble Ocho festival presented something surprising. There's been a tango caravane, the world record attempt tangodancing, the first tangofusion night in a Dutch tangofestival, the tango pub crawls, a concert with bandoneon, church organ and acoustic bass, a lecture on tango music and a photo exhibition. This year's edition will surprise you with



Tango caravane 2004

FOTO: LUCIEN LECARME

the documentary, a tango fusion music jam, a workshop for musicians and the concurso del Ocho. In the future, the festival will go on presenting new and refreshing activities.

Crossovers

Lucien Lecarme started organising Tangofestivals in 2002 in Zwolle, after teaching tango in Deventer and Zwolle for 2 years. He has been dancing tango since 1987. His goal is

to present new developments in tangodance and tangomusic and to look for cross-overs in a 'classical' tangofestival set-up. This led to the innovative programme of Doble Ocho in the past editions, and will hopefully lead to future surprises. A warm bath and sometimes a big surprise to stir up the tango community.

More info: www.kunstburo.nl
www.doble-ocho.com

Tango and the divine

Alejandra Mantinian. Not many people in Holland know her, and that's why I would like to describe a very special experience I had with her during the 2000 Sitges festival.

At that time it was presented in what felt like a small shed crammed full with 400 crazy tangueros from mainly France, Spain, Italy and some Northern European countries. The temperature had reached roasting point by the time we stepped aside to make space for the rough ma-

chismo of Omar Vega met and matched by the elegant and sensual Alejandra. Magic was all that was left after these dancers touched the floor. But, did they really touch the floor? A rare combination of technique, a rough and refined male-female confrontation stripped to its bare essence of sexuality, strength and surrender. A power too strong to handle was created by these magnificent creatures of dance, the archetype of man and woman in an eternal embrace of love and struggle, that reached to and opened the imagination and hearts of all the audience present that night. We became one that night, and tears were

shed. Of pure joy and ecstasy, of our mortal lives, in front of the divine.

Lucien Lecarme

► SATURDAY MARCH 22, VEERENING
Alejandra & Gabriel and Santiago & Erna will perform on the Saturday 'Gran Noche'.

► THURSDAY MARCH 20, EL CORTE
Peter & Pingel will perform live music by Wim Warman on the Thursday 'fiesta' night.

Help to paint a future

The latest book of Mrs. Marie Cecile Moerdijk, a Dutch singer, writer and ethnomusicologist, will be sold during the Doble Ocho festival. In this nice book she has published an article about the origins of the word Tango. Half of the proceeds of the sale will be donated to a Dream of one Argentine Child. The Paint a Future Foundation collects drawings made by children in poor circumstances who have a dream. In Holland, these drawings are used as a basis for a painting made by a Dutch artist. With the money made by the sale of this painting, the foundation helps to realise the dream of the child. The foundation also produced a CD with tango singer Omar Mollo, which resulted in 6 tango's. This CD, accompanied by a booklet, is also sold during the festival.

Mrs. Moerdijk will be present as jury member at the final of the Music Concurso on Friday 21st March. Come and help to make a dream come true!

www.paintafuture.org



Alejandra Mantinian and Gabriel Missé

20 years of El Corte – Built from the ground up, reaching heaven

It all begins with the revelation of the tango for Eric Jeurissen. It seizes him and he decides to start teaching at two partial evenings a week. He is astonished when he sees two filled groups on both evenings within a year. He sets up his tango school and chooses the name El Corte. El Corte (Spanish for "cut") will not be a traditional dancing school but a social, lively community for tango activities.

by Marc van Ameijden

NIJMEGEN – Without exaggeration it can be stated that Eric has succeeded. His first lesson as a teacher abroad was a memorable moment. He received many positive responses and he realised that with his method of teaching he followed the right path. Afterwards he was invited to teach in the United Kingdom and in the United States. He crowned it all when he was able to teach in New York for a couple of months per year and moved into his own apartment there. He finds

himself internationally recognised. In the same period Eric starts teaching workshops in France. Surprisingly, this country becomes his gateway to a completely different continent: Asia. Unfortunately his success also has its downside. Almost from the start Eric encounters housing problems for El Corte. It provides him with moments of fear and anxiety. In just a couple of months there are six burglaries and literally everything is taken. He is also seriously intimidated. But the strong tango

community strengthened him in his beliefs. Therefore, Eric chose not to move abroad.

In deepest secrecy Eric eventually buys a new building. He has the interior done by an Italian friend and receives his surprised students on the new location from one day to the next. Eric feels affirmed when he is sitting in El Corte all by himself, enjoying his new place and meanwhile listening to a beloved song. A few moments later Eric discovers the surprising and promising title of that song: Graafseweg 108. The very address of the building he just bought! Because of his experiences with housing, Eric decides to buy all the buildings around El Corte in the following years. Last year this was completed with the purchase of the building behind El Corte. One of the most extraordinary experiences for Eric, however, is to witness the development of the teachers within El Corte over the

years and how they become part of what El Corte is. He is touched and proud.

Eric has a clear picture about his legacy for the tango. In spite of all recent developments he has remained faithful to the salon style that belonged to him from the start. Awareness of the body, the dance and the music and to be in touch with the surroundings is essential. Eric experiences tango as resonance and overlap. Looking back, he sees himself as an example and as a source of inspiration as a teacher and host. His motive is to show that all can be done in a different way. Different from traditional dancing schools, different in the method of teaching and different in the idea that money is not an issue. His role model doesn't just stick with the dancing. This year a new, low-energy and ecological building will arise behind El Corte, the highest building in the surroundings.

His idea is to build a community for retired tango dancers who like to live among like-minded people. For Eric himself his wish is to adjust the intensity of the past 10 years, just for a little bit. For the rest: the future will show itself.

El Corte is there for 20 years! Ellen Kocken made her docu-portrait about El Corte and Eric Jeurissen. But how do the other teachers of El Corte look back on this period? How did the tango effect their lifes?

What is their view on teaching tango? Read the complete interview with Toine and Komala on the website: www.doble-ocho.com/20yearsalcorte.htm

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