

### **A combination of tango and modern dance, TANGOkinesis, to perform at 8 P.M. Oct. 13 at UCSD**

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Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, (858) 534-0497, rbaily@ucsd.edu or

Jan Jennings, (858) 822-1684, jnjennings@ucsd.edu

A COMBINATION OF TANGO AND MODERN DANCE, TANGOkinesis, TO PERFORM AT 8 P.M. OCT. 13 AT UCSD

TANGOkinesis, a troupe that Dance Magazine describes as "already in a miss-them-atyour-own-risk category," will perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 13 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"For the first time," the magazine continues, "tango's rhythms, musicality, and delicious tension between the sexes merge with modern dance's sense of drama."

The Buenos Aires-based company is directed by choreographer Ana Maria Stekelman, whose background is rooted in both modern dance and the tango. The dancers include Nora Robles, Pedro Calveyra, Cristina Cortes, Marcelo Carte, Pilar Alvarez and Claudio Hoffmann.

"These are dancers that act out every choreography with whole-hearted passion," writes the Buenos Aires Herald. "One and all are incredible and equally worthy of praise."

Formerly the artistic director of the Ballet Contemporaneo del Teatro San Martin, Stekelman formed the tango troupe in 1991, later taking its name, TANGOkinesis, from her most successful work, a signature piece, which she premiered in 1993.

Stekelman studied modern dance in Buenos Aires and in New York at the Martha Graham School of Dance. She was researching tango and its fusion with contemporary dance over a 10-year period prior to forming her own company. Stekelman says tango began as "a dance for men in the streets (of Buenos Aires). They would try steps. The women came to the dance later on. Then it became a social dance." Like American jazz, it began in working class neighborhoods. She adds that tango and modern "blend slowly. The tango steps are interesting, very irregular because the women and men do different things at the same time. There's an enormous vocabulary of movement relating to the weight of women and men and their legs."

The trademark of the company is not only the fusion of the two choreographic languages, but also the merging of dancers from the two different currents: the women have classical training; the men, a tango background.

"Though you clearly see tango's bone structure and modern(dance)'s muscularity, the result (is) completely fresh," writes Dance Magazine.

TANGOkinesis has performed in major dance festivals throughout the world, including the Nantes Dance Festival, France; the Fetes de Ete in Valence, France; the Lyon Biennale de la Dance, France; the Kuopio

Festival, Finland; the Latin American Biennial of Art, Argentina; the Israel Festival, the American Dance Festival, Durham, NC, the Colorado Dance Festival at Boulder, and in Bolivia, Mexico and Guatemala, among others.

"Stekelman has taken her nation's most popular participatory export and elevated it to an enchanting spectacle," writes the Durham (NC) Herald Sun. "The company took final bows to a crowd that whooped, cheered, and then imitated the performance in parking lots. Stunning."

In addition to the traditional tango music of Astor Piazzolla, Stekelman has choreographed her dances to the recorded music of Chopin and Vivaldi and to the street sounds of modern urban life.

"Her dance company is both hot and cool," writes the Boulder News, "and worth a trip from anywhere. The dancers are simply elegant smooth and silky."

Tickets for TANGOkinesis are \$20 general admission, \$18 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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