

Summary Biography of Alejandro Laguna

Alejandro is an Argentinian (Buenos Aires city) PhD Researcher in Performative Arts—Dance Body Movement and Music, a Professional Tango Dancer and Teacher, and a Musician specialized in Contemporary and Modern Dance Technique.

Alejandro holds a DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in Artistic Studies by the University of Évora. Awarded Grant by the Foundation for Science and Technology of Portugal (FCT.IP). His doctoral thesis addresses communication problems between dancers and between dancers and musicians in dance technique classes. **Degree in Music Education** from the University of Évora (2007) and **Musical Education and Classical Guitar** (1990) at the Higher Conservatory of Music “Manuel de Falla” of Buenos Aires. He also studied during 3 years at the Faculty of Arts of National University of La Plata.

In his professional career stands out 7 years of **POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER**, awarded Grant by the FCT.IP. His project address is “Aspects of communication in multimodal expressive performance: Crossing propositional and non-propositional contents” and lately “How to think of art from the body? Phenomenological Investigation on the Construction and Transmission of Non-Propositional Knowledge.”

Dance Professional Training in GYROTONIC Expanded System and Movement Technique (including ballet notions) for 12 years with Barbora Hruskova, principal dancer of the National Ballet Company of Portugal and current ballet master of this company.

His training and references in TANGO DANCE have been relevant Argentinian dancers namely Aurora Lubitz (1997), Nélica Miglione, Jorge Ramirez, Carlos Borquez, Inés Borquez, Sergio Natário, Alejandra Arrué, Ana Maria Schapira, Milena Plebs, Graciela González, Lautaro Cancela, Alfredo Alonso and Silvia Mucci. More

recently he attended some master classes in Buenos Aires with Gustavo Naveira and Giselle Anne, and seminars about “popular tango phrases” with Olga Besio. His experience in tango dance comes from his immersion in referents traditional Milongas of Buenos Aires City since the late 90s.

He has published 30 works in scientific journals of Art, namely Research Dance in Education. A Taylor and Francis Editorial best-ranked (Q1) journal for investigation in dance.

Alejandro is currently member of the R&D Ethnomusicology Institute - Music and Dance Research Centre (INET-MD) - University of Aveiro (UA) and R&D Laboratory for the Study of Musical Experience (LEEM) of the Faculty of Arts, National University of La Plata (UNLP). During the last years Alejandro was part of two research competitive projects. The PICT-2008-0927, "Intersections between musical experience and early childhood in the framework of corporate cognition and the PICT-2013-0368 "Communicative Musicality In the Time Arts and Early Childhood", both funded by the National Agency for the Promotion of Science and Technology, Argentina and developed at LEEM.

Since 2014, he has taught in Doctorate, Masters and Degree seminars at the Faculty of Human Kinetics of the University of Lisbon; no Laboratory for the Study of Musical Experience (UNLP), Argentina; and Dance Faculty of University Autonomous of Chiapas, Mexico.

Alejandro has more than 15 years experience as **dance musician** specialized in modern and contemporary dance (Assistant Professor of the Lisbon Higher School of Dance) highlighting his collaboration with the dancer Antonio Carallo (Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch) for five years.

Alejandro was the first teacher to give regular Tango classes in Lisbon (1997, Athenéu Comercial of Lisbon). In September 1998 he created the first milonga in Portugal (Rua de Santo Amaro 8, Campo de Ourique) together with the Portuguese dancer Solange Galvão. During 1999 they founded three other milongas. The first in the bairro de Madragoa in the Vendedores de Jornais Futebol Club (early 1999), the

second in the Club Estefânia (late 1999), and the third in the Santos neighborhood, the iconic Milonga d'A Barraca (July 1999). All projects dedicated to disseminating the cultural identity of the milonga 'porteña' and tango social dance.

The Milonga d'A Barraca takes place in the mythical Bar of the A Barraca Theater - Cinearte and is directed by Alejandro weekly since 1999. It is considered the oldest traditional milonga in Europe - 23 years old - organized by an Argentine dancer, in the same space and on the same day.

The originality of Alejandro's Milonga d'A Barraca is also to promote the encounter between TANGO and FADO. In this meeting "inside the milonga with the same light as a Fado house" a magical moment has been taking place for two decades reserved for "dancing the fado" through a free interpretation of the tango figures.

Relevant Fado artists such as Celeste Rodrigues, Katia Guerreiro, Helder Moutinho, António Chainho, Fernando Alvim, Luís Guerreiro, Carlos Manuel Proença, Pedro de Castro, Maria Amélia Proença among many other important Fado artists (around 80) have performed at the Milonga d'A Barraca.

In April 2020 Alejandro created a **Tango Laboratory** that aims to develop a methodology to study and transmit non-propositional knowledge that shapes the roots and foundations of traditional Tango Dance.

Since mid-2022 he has been a dance partner with Camila Delphim, a Brazilian dancer born in the state of Rio de Janeiro who was a finalist in the World Tango Dance Tournament (Buenos Aires) in the stage category. Camila thus joins the project Collaborative Artistic Reconfiguration of the Tango Dance towards Fado.

CV: <https://www.cienciavitaet.pt/191E-174E-5492>