

Biography Alejandro

Alejandro was born in a central neighborhood of Buenos Aires city, Argentina. He began his artistic career at the age of 16 with music, composing and playing with Argentine folklore groups in Bars of Buenos Aires.

He is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the field of embodied cognitive psychology in dance and music, as well as a dancer specialized in the study of Traditional Argentine tango and a musician specialized in contemporary and modern dance. he 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).

Doctor of Philosophy in artistic studies at the University of Évora.

Graduated in Musical Education and Classical Guitar from the Higher Conservatory of Music “Manuel de Falla” of Buenos Aires. He also studied at the Faculty of Arts of UNLP. He obtained the recognition of degree in Music Education from the University of Évora (2007).

Since 2014, he has taught in postgraduate seminars (PhD-Masters-Degree) 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. [1]

Alejandro is also a musician specialized in dance with 15 years experience (Lisbon Higher School of Dance), highlighting his work of musical collaboration with the dancer Antonio Carallo (Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch) for several years.

Dance Training in Movement technique, basics of classical technique and Gyrotonic Expanded System for 10 years with Barbora Hruskova (Principal dancer of the National Ballet Company of Portugal and current ballet master of the company).

His main teachers and references in Tango Dance were Carlos and Inés Borquez, Sergio Natário and Alejandra Arrué, Ana Maria Schapira, Milena Plebs, Graciela González, Lautaro Cancela, Alfredo Alonso and Silvia Mucci. His experience in tango dancing comes from his immersion in Milongas in Buenos Aires since the late 90s.

Alejandro is the first teacher to give regular tango courses in Lisbon (1997) and created in 1998 the first milonga in Portugal (with Solange Galvão, Portuguese dancer). In July 1999 they founded the Milonga d'A Barraca dedicated to spreading the tango soul of the “milonga porteña”. Alejandro has conducted the Milonga d'A Barraca weekly and uninterruptedly for 21 years (until the beginning of the pandemic). It is considered the oldest traditional milonga in Europe organized by an Argentine on

a regular way. The Milonga d'A Barraca takes place in the Bar of the mythical A Barraca's Lisbon Theater.

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, among many other important Fado artists have performed at the Milonga d'A Barraca.

[1] *During the last years Alejandro was part of two competitive projects; PICT-2008-0927, "Intersections between musical experience and early childhood in the framework of corporate cognition and PICT-2013-0368 "Communicative Musicality In the Time Arts and Early Childhood", funded by the National Agency for the Promotion of Science and Technology, Argentina and developed at LEEM.*