

August 2011

Tango in SUOMI ?

In the beginning of the last century many poor and hopeless people from Europe emigrated to North and South America. Besides into the big North American cities, also many people moved to the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires. Soon in the poor quarters of the city, a little sub culture had developed. Crime and prostitution was a part of life. Different European dances, like waltz and polka, were combined with other rhythms. La Habanera, an aria of the opera Carmen, written in 1876 by Georges Bizet from Paris, and based on an AfroCuban song, did a big part in the new type of music and dance. The tango. Based on the accordions from Germany and Austria, a new instrument was created, the bandoneon. In the dark bordellos of the poor suburbs this dance became more and more popular, forbidden at first in the public, because the poses were considered obscene, although the dancers did not even touch each other yet. Among the dancers, poses and steps were interpreted as the active longing for, the possession of, and the protecting of a woman by a man. And then the sultry, teasing desire for catching the attention of a man by a woman and possessing him,



yet always pulling back a little again. By adding new and erotic moves, this was slowly brought to its peak. Also another important part of this dance was the strong expression of passion and devotion, but always with style and pride. In the 1920s visiting musicians from Argentina then brought this dance to Europe. Via Paris and Berlin it then spread over all countries. Big Palace Orchestras brought it to perfection with some additional instruments and it was now danced with "touching" in the dance schools. Until times of the 2nd world war the dance was very popular. Tango songs now were sung with French and German texts. And in 1936 the first "Nordic" Tango song, Lumhiutaleita (Snowflakes) had its breakthrough in Finland (Suomi). For some time people had been in favor of the

accordion already because it easily replaced the whole orchestra in the forests. Due to the restriction of public dancing during some years of the war, one could hear more and more Finnish Tango songs out in the Finnish nature, mostly played with very melancholic lyrics. Until today, Tango is very much liked in Finland and an own kind of Tango culture was developed. The dance probably expresses best the at first reserved and melancholic part of the Finnish soul, but also a deeply hidden passion and desire. In Finland the Tango is not being danced by quite so strictly set steps, and often danced in casual clothes. The old and the young dance as good as they can and quite often you will notice that a couple is just standing close to each other, slightly moving to the, somewhat slower, Finnish tango. During Midsummer, for over twenty years, in the town of Seinäjoki a yearly Tango festival is being held. Thousands of dancing visitors are electing the Tango Queen or Tango King. However, they are not being elected for by their dancing, but by their voices and by the best lyrics. Meanwhile one can hear that the Tango fever has broken out again in European dance schools. The perfect dance for tall people. Just try it out. One year time to practice!

Let's Tango!

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