

Celebrate Tango Week NYC 19th - 26th July, 2009

3rd USA TANGO CHAMPIONSHIP 23rd & 24th July, 2009

Sponsored by and held at: Stepping Out Studios, 37 W 26 St. NYC

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OFFICIAL EVENT RULES

Overview The 3rd USA Tango Championship shall include the following categories: Tango Salón and Tango Escenario for Couples (allowing the participation of amateurs and professionals).

The Organization

2 - **Celebrate Tango** shall ensure the compliance with all provisions set forth herein.

3 - **Celebrate Tango** shall not be responsible for delays or contingencies arising out of any reason whatsoever, at the moment of presentation of competitors in the different rounds.

4 - Celebrate Tango reserves the right to record all Championship instances, by means of any customary or new support, including but not limited to, filming, audio recording, photographing, digitalization, on its own or through third parties authorized to this effect. Records so obtained shall be the exclusive property of Celebrate Tango. The mere entry in the Championship shall signify the express and irrevocable authorization by participants to use said records, without purporting any related payment for any reason by Celebrate Tango, in favor of any person or organization that claims for the alleged rights. This clause also includes, but is not limited to, the photographic material to be published and/or used for promotion, advertising or other purposes to be determined.

5 - All Championship participants shall undertake to participate in the acts and events planned by Celebrate Tango, such as press conferences, articles, reports, interviews either on the radio or air or cable TV, etc., as long as they are advised to that end.

6 - **Celebrate Tango** shall be entitled to change the order of performances of participants and the modality thereof, as well as to specify the number of rounds in which each couple shall take part.

7 - All contestants must be present to obtain their assigned round on the date and time indicated by the Local Producer. At that moment they shall be given a contestant number and shall be informed about the date and approximate time for the corresponding category.

8 - Competitors who have not provided hard copies of their id shall not be allowed to participate in the Championship.

Entry

9 - The cost of entry and participation in the Championship for each category is \$US150 per couple. See Entry form for early registration dates and discounts.

Entries are open until July 20th based on category capacity and Celebrate Tango and the Judges discretion.

10 - Entry is open to couples legally in the USA of any nationality with a passport from any country valid until August 31st. 2009. Contestants must be 18 years or older as of the date of commencement of the Championship. (Some restrictions do apply, call for confirmation)

11 - Duplicate or more entries in the same category are not allowed. However, any competitor may enter in a different category with the same or a different partner.

12 - All data supplied at registration check shall be considered an affidavit. Participants shall sign a proof of evidence in duplicate. Upon the signature thereof, any contradiction in the data supplied shall result in a penalty by the Organization such as deduction in the score, disqualification or any other measure determined by said body.

13 - The official means of communication will be via the email addresses provided unless stipulated by the contestant. It is assumed that participants give their consent to this mechanism when signing at entry.

Entry

14 - All participants shall confirm their entry accuracy as they receive their registration.

To obtain their registration, competitors shall provide a photocopy and present the hard copy of valid identity

that **certifies their legal presence in the USA at the time of the Championship**. Furthermore, the identity card and the registration must be produced before each stage of the competition.

To request the registration it is not compulsory for both partners to be present; only one of them may do so as long as he/she is carrying both identity cards. No registrations will be given to third parties.

The Contest

15 - Both categories shall comprise two to three stages and will **have an ideal minimum of 8 couples for Salon and 5 couples for Stage:**

Qualifying Round, Semi-finals, Finals:

16 - In the Tango Sal6n category, in each stage couples shall dance three times at the same time in groups of 8 to 10 couples each, with recorded or live music to be selected by the Judging Panel. This constitutes 1 round. If they pass to the next round they will dance 3 times again.

17- In the Tango Escenario category, each couple shall dance once for each stage, with music selected and provided by the couple in CD format, for a period not exceeding 4 minutes.

Since the Judging Panel shall evaluate the variety of choreographies presented, it is recommended but not necessary to use different choreographies for each Qualifying round of the Regional Championship, although this point is not excluding.

The Judging Panel

18 – The Judging Panel, composed of at least three members, and always made up of an odd number, shall be appointed by **Celebrate Tango**.

19. The Judging Panel shall be entitled to remove participants from the competition in case of: a) noncompliance

with regulatory provisions; b) loss of ethics or improper act that may tarnish the Championship image or cause dislike to the audience.

20 – All decisions by the Judging Panel are un-appealable. It is implicit that participants have agreed to this condition when entering.

21 - In case of doubt or disagreement, the interested party shall not address the Judging Panel directly but shall present the case in writing in English to **Celebrate Tango**.

22 - The Judging Panel together with the Local Producer shall duly solve any inconveniency not contemplated in these regulations and shall provide such clarifications or constructions thereof as they may deem necessary.

23 - In the event of a tie or as the Judging Panel may determine, competitors shall dance as many times as required, for the former to be able to make a final decision; competitors cannot refuse to dance.

24 - Scores of each presentation are drawn from the sum of points allocated by each Judge on a 1- to- 10 point scale according to the format described below.

25 - The Judging Panel shall select a winning couple of each category. Furthermore, they shall award prizes and special mentions for the second and third place and shall be entitled to award other mentions as they deem suitable.

The Contest (Guidelines)

a) Tango Sal6n (Amateurs and Professionals):

26- Once a dancing couple is formed, they shall not separate as long as the music is playing. This means that they cannot break the embrace (*abrazo*), which is considered the tango dance position.

27. For the position to be considered correct, partners must constantly hold each other by means of the embrace. Even though during certain figures the embrace may be flexible, it must never be broken, and this shall continue during the entire piece.

28- All movements shall be performed within the space allowed by the couple embrace.

29 - The Judging Panel is judging 4 different areas: musicality, circulation, walking style and the consistency of the embrace

30 - Within these guidelines, dancers may perform any figures commonly used, including *barridas*, *sacadas* close to the floor, *enrosques*, etc.

31 - *Ganchos*, leaps, *trepadas* (*lifts*) and any other typical tango escenario choreography are absolutely excluded.

32 – Couples shall constantly move counterclockwise, like in the *milongas* (tango dance places), and shall avoid remaining in the same choreographic place in order to avoid interrupting the dancer's circulation.

33 - No dancer may raise his/her foot above the knee line.

b) Tango Stage/Escenario (Amateurs and Professionals):

34 - Participants shall be allowed to express their personal view on the tango dance; this means that they may resort to movements, figures and techniques unrelated to traditional tango.

35 – They may break embrace and use other techniques derived from other dance disciplines, as long as this contribution be appropriated and be done to improve the performance and be part of but not all of the choreography.

36 - Regarding the above clause, it is herein stated that dancers may not use tango music to perform other dancing techniques or choreographies. i.e. dance a completely different style of dance Flamenco or Ballet to tango music.

37 - Judges shall take into account the following criteria:

- **Choreographic effects, posture, techniques, composition (creation or recreation), Use of the stage space, Body and space alignment.**

- **Couple synchronicity & Musical accuracy (relaxation, music-dancer-style).**

- **Interpretation, Preservation of tango essence.**

- **Costumes and make-up.**

Prizes

38 - Each category at the 3rd USA Tango Championship shall have a winner or champion couple.

39 - The first place couples in the Stage & Salon categories shall be awarded a trophy and a cash prize of \$us500 per couple.

40 - Furthermore, special mentions and medals shall be awarded to second and third places.

41 - All competitors shall be given a certificate of participation in the USA Regional Tango Dance Championship.

42 - Stage entries only: If the minimum number (5) of stage entries is not reached Contestants understand that with a minimum of 3 entries an UNOFFICIAL Stage Competition will be held and that the 1st place couple will receive a certificate and a trophy and no cash prize.

43 - The winning couples of each category agree to be available to perform at the milonga of the Finals night and/or any of the events during the 9th NYC Summer Tango & Film Festival. That any performance subsequent to the winning occur no sooner than 7 days after the conclusion of the Festival (July 26th) without the agreement of Celebrate Tango. That the winning couple be reasonably available throughout the year for promotion of the 4th USA Tango Championship and will perform at the Qualifying or Finals night of the same. That all bio or appearance references to their Championship status include acknowledgment of Celebrate Tango, USA Tango Championship and any named Championship sponsors Submission of the signed Official Entry Form of each couple shall signify their knowledge of and agreement to these and the category rules and to the individual category rules by each one of the participants in this Championship.