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A Pickpocket's History Of Argentine Tango



Synopsis

A Pickpockets History of Argentine Tango explores the rise of Tango in Argentina: its social and political climate, its characters, music, dance, song and poetry. Many fine books have been written on how to dance Tango. This is not one of those. This is a history book whose protagonist is Tango. The Author brings a unique perspective to his reader with a Ph.D. in International Relations and extensive knowledge of world politics and Argentine culture. His incisive acumen as a psychotherapist provides a window into the soul of the Tango world. The psychology of the Tango is found in the poetry of its lyrics: a direct link with the hopes, fears, frustrations, and illusions of their time. The dance when deeply engaged, revealed the human condition: the solitude of all human beings, the ephemeral nature of modern relations and the need for relationship. We are all exiles, refugees from life, uprooted by immigration....Tango was an escape in order to bear the lot of life. The music was a reflection of existence. People were thrilled to hear the sounds of Tango music, and recognize their favorite composers, delighting in the orchestras who gave meaning to their emotions. People were moved to move. All the cultures of the world have their own music and dance. Things that could not be said in words were expressed in music and song. Tango is the same, but with one important difference: the people who created the Tango were from the four corners of the world and had nothing in common except this dance, this poetry, this music. This book explores Tango as a social phenomenon, born in Buenos Aires and spread worldwide. They were Italians and Spaniards, Britons and Jews, poor peasants from Germany, Russia and Poland. Yet in the midst of this life of despair and danger, these men did not fight to the death; they fought for respect. Competition was fierce, but the men devised a method of selection. Dance. Tango, they called it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

VICTOR LEVANT is a Professor of Humanities with a Ph.D. in International Relations and a political commentator for the CBC and Radio-Canada (1973-2007). He was a Media Consultant for the National Film Board of Canada, 1984-1986 and Director of Research and Script Consultant for the television documentary "The World Challenge" with Peter Ustinov and Patrick Watson (1982-1984). He is the author of the books: Quiet Complicity: Canada and the Vietnam War, How to Make a Killing: Canadian Involvement in the Indo-China War (co-author) and How to Buy a Country. He took a break and worked as a restaurant critic for 6 years. His murder mystery in 5 languages Tangomascarada.com has been acclaimed. Victor has been dancing Argentine Tango for 12 years; Salsa, Meringue and Bachata for 15. For the last 18 years he's been working as a Psychotherapist.

There are a few typesetting mistakes not caught by the editors, but overall an informative read. I'm currently researching tango, and Dr. Levant's delivery is factually heavy without being dry.

it is specific, precise, direct to the important points about what we need to know of Argentine tango History and development

This book is simply awesome. Wonderful, concise info on the beginnings and history of the Argentine Tango up to present day. A "must-have" for all Tangueros!

I was very pleased with my purchase of A Pickpocket's History of Argentine Tango. It arrived quite quickly, and I bought it new, so it was in perfect condition.

The frustrating thing about this book is I could have loved it if only the author had bothered to copy edit it. The typos, grammatical errors and segues were so distracting that the enjoyment of reading the book disappeared. It's obvious that the author did a lot of research but the facts were strung together in a very discordant fashion, hence my low rating. I sincerely hope that Mr. Levant goes back to this book, edits it properly and then re-issues it.

Poorly written and badly edited. A smattering of interesting observations but otherwise mostly

unreadable.

Tomas Howlin - Tango Clasico - Tango Clasico Home(...)From Tomas HowlinSent: May 11, 2011 3:46:38AMTo Victor LevantWhen I was a child stores sold this boxed games called "pocketers", they were these compact miraculous containers that by shifting them around or shaking them just the right way one could get a wealth of fun and excitement. Soon they became very addictive and I couldn't wait to have them all.This is very much how I feel about your book. I am extremely proud of the seriousness and dedication you have put into bringing about this collection. It is a recollection of history, documented stories, translated poetry, and citations. A very useful handbook for the tango aficionado.To me, it reads like a compilation, a selection of events and passages captured from many sources you probably researched thoroughly for years.I like how you structured and unveiled the sections and that you included appendices.The long journey paid off.El largo viaje dio sus frutos.Tomas Howlin

A favorite cd.

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