

Tango Argentino Roadshow – Birmingham

On a sunny autumn morning in Birmingham over 20 people congregated at the Broadway Dance Centre to get the inside track on the wonderful sizzling Tango Argentino. The course was expertly delivered by Antony Bazin and his wife Sniedze, who balanced a high level of technical instruction together with a first-class delivery.

Chairman of the Alternative Rhythms Committee of the National Association of Teachers of Dancing, Phil Meacham explains “as Dance professionals we need to keep up to date with current trends and styles. If we just assume that our extensive knowledge of Ballroom and Latin American is all we ever need, we will be using a very short-sighted approach.” After pausing for a moment, and consuming another “liquorice allsort” from a plate on the table he continued “back in the late 1960’s there was a near riot in our industry when the Cha Cha Cha was first shown, and now it is the mainstay of our work. We must maintain our tradition values, but still be brave enough to cast our eye and peripheral vision on emerging styles. Today they are new to us, tomorrow they may be our bread and butter. Luckily the superbly forward-thinking board of directors at the NATD seem generally happy to support my committee’s ideas and grant our sometime strange and revolutionary requests.”

Phil is referring to the decision to take the emerging “styles” to the teachers rather than expecting the teachers to try and find help.

The other difference seems to be the NATD’s instance that when a style is covered by the committee, which so far includes both Tango Argentino and Salsa, there is a rolling plan of revision. Phil Meacham added “Too often a style is covered by our dance organisations, a book written, and the whole project just left to rot on a shelf rather than being a living and breathing product. Dusty technique on high shelves is most defiantly not the NATD’s style, and in my view hinders professional dance teachers from expanding the great work they do.”

In addition, the association which was formed back in 1906, also offers full ongoing support to participants of the roadshows through the Alternative Rhythms Committee, who are spread right across the country.

The existing program of roadshows still has dates in the diary in Whitby, Reading and in the North Midlands, and is hoping to be in Wales, Scotland and Devon in the coming months.

If you would like the team to visit your area, or to book on to one of the existing Roadshows, please get in touch with the NATD Head Office on 01635 868888 or email info@natd.org.uk.