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Presents

Maria Nieves and Juan Carlos Copes

Divided by life, united by Tango



OUR LAST TANGO

A documentary film by German Kral

DCP- HD- 85 min- Germany, Argentina - 2015

Produced by Nils Dünker, Dieter Horres, German Kral

***Executive Producers Wim Wenders, Rodrigo Furth,
Jakob Abrahamsson***

WIDE HOUSE
9, rue Bleue – 75009 Paris
Tel : +33 1 53 95 4 64
www.widehouse.org
infos@widehouse.org

Synopsis

Our Last Tango“ is above all a love story. A story of love between the two most famous dancers in tango’s history. And the story of their tremendous love of tango.



María Nieves Rego (80) and Juan Carlos Copes (83) met when they were 14 and 17, and they danced together for nearly fifty years. In all those years they loved and hated each other and went through several painful separations but always got back together. No other man danced like Juan and no other woman danced like María! Eventually, he left her for good for a woman 20 years younger with whom he fathered two children.

Now, at the end of their lives, Juan and María are willing to open up about their love, their hatred, and their passion. In „Our Last Tango“ Juan and María tell their story to a group of young tango dancers and choreographers from Buenos Aires, who transform the most beautiful, moving and dramatic moments of Juan and Maria’s lives into incredible tango-choreographies.

These beautifully-shot choreographies compliment the soul-searching interviews and documentary moments of the film to make this an unforgettable journey into the heart of the tang





While telling Juan and Maria's story, "Our Last Tango" also traces the history of the tango and the profound influence the couple had on the dance in the past 50 years. Juan and María were the first to take the tango out of the clubs of Buenos Aires and bring the dance on to the world's theatre stages.

Born during the tango's golden age, when the dance was the "diversion of the poor people", they gave up everything to devote their lives to it. But, then came rock 'n' roll and, with it, the decline of this passionate dance from Argentina.

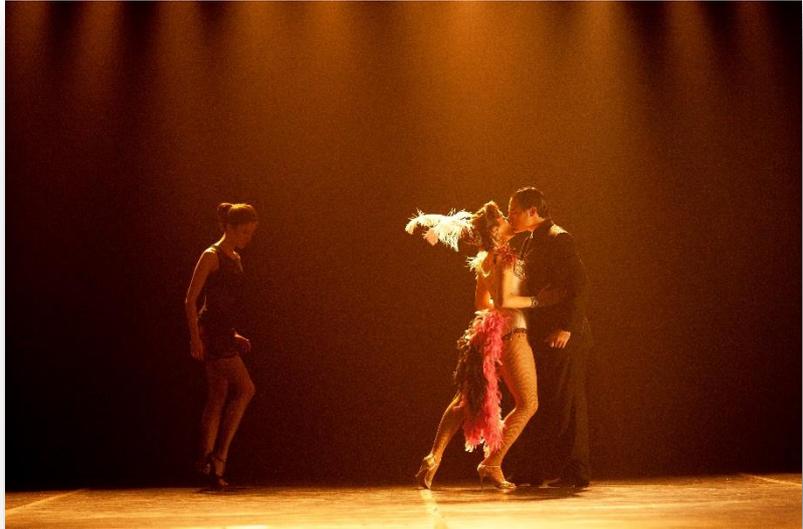
But, María and Juan and their companions never gave up. No one was more obsessive and determined than Juan, who created the first tango-stage-show, which carried the tango out into the world.

His determination paid off: soon they were touring Latin America and later even performed in New York. Those were not only wonderful times, but also extremely difficult ones. Tango was absolutely unknown in the US. They didn't have money and struggled to make ends meet. Until one day Juan had the crazy idea to dance on a table. A show that from then on became their trademark and with which they went on stage all over the world. María felt homesick and wanted to return to Argentina. All that really mattered to her at this point was Juan. But, all he cared about was the tango.

At Maria's insistence, Juan married her in Las Vegas. They returned to Buenos Aires, but then Juan left on a world tour, without María. She was completely devastated, until she fell in love with a man she met at a milonga. Juan missed his tango-partner and returned to Buenos Aires after two years to look for María - who was now with another man.



They tried to dance and live together once more, but Juan's excessive lifestyle wore María down. Juan drank and continued to see other women. This self-destructive behaviour nearly cost him his life. But then he met his present-day wife and soon they were expecting their first child. This was a huge shock for María.



A time of open hatred began. Even if Juan and María didn't talk to each other anymore, they continued to dance together for almost twenty years like real gods. When the internationally acclaimed "Tango Argentino" broke everyone's expectations to become one of the most successful Broadway shows ever to be staged, Juan and María were the lead dancers of the show.

But, after a tour in Japan, Juan stopped inviting María to be his dance partner. María, now over 60 years old, nearly went to pieces. She got severely depressed, lost all her pride and self-confidence. A few years were to pass before she gathered the courage to dance again, experiencing the longed-for and cherished applause of the audience. Now, without her life-long companion, she comes back to life as a woman and an artist.



Director's Bio



German Kral was born in 1968 in Buenos Aires and moved to Germany in 1991 to study film at the Munich Film School. He has a son and is based in Munich and Buenos Aires. Between 1993 and 1996 he worked with Wim Wenders on the feature film "A Trick of the Light". His diploma film "Images of the Absence", was nominated for the German Grimme Prize and awarded the First Prize at the Yamagata Film Festival in Japan, as well as receiving the Young Bavarian Documentary Film Award. His film "Música Cubana" (2004), executive produced by Wim Wenders, had its international premiere at the Venice Film Festival and has been sold all over the world. His film "The Last Applause" (2008), a German, Argentinean, Japanese co-production, received the "FFF Talent Award" at the DOK.FEST Munich and the "Starter Film Prize" of the City of Munich.

Director's Filmography

- 2015 - "UN TANGO MÁS" ("Our Last Tango"). Colour. 90 Min. (Germany - Argentina)
- 2008 - "EL ÚLTIMO APLAUSO" („The Last Applause“) - 35mm. Colour. 88 Min. (Germany - Argentine - Japan)
- 2004 - "MÚSICA CUBANA" - 88 Min. 35mm. Colour. (Germany)
- 2002 - "SO IST DAS LEBEN - LA VIDA ES ASÍ" („That's life“) - 72 min. (Germany)
- 2000 - "BERND EICHINGER, WHEN LIFE BECOMES FILM" - Colour & B/W. 100 Min. (Germany)
- 1998 - "Imágenes DE LA AUSENCIA" ("Images of the Absence") - 16mm. B/W & Color. 89 Min. (Germany-Argentina)
- 1996 - "TANGO BERLIN" - 5:30min. 35mm. B/W. (Germany)

AWARDS:

- "FFF Talent Award" - DOK.Fest Munich, 2009
- "STARTER PRIZE" - City of Munich, 2009
- "Grand Prize" - Yamagata Int. Documentary Film Festival 1999
- "The Young Lion" - Bavarian Documentary Film Award 2000
- Nominated for the German „Grimme Preis 2001

Production notes:

Screenwriter: German Kral

Producers: Nils Dünker, Dieter Horres, German Kral

Co-producers: Birgit Rothörl, Josef Brandmaier

Executive Producers: Wim Wenders, Rodrigo Furth, Jakob Abrahamsson

Director of Photography: Jo Heim BVK, Félix Monti ADF

Costumes designer: Giselle Peisojovich, Cecilia Belsito

Production designer: Matías Martínez

Sound: Celeste Palma

Sound designer: Jörg Elsner

Music composer: Luis Borda, Sexteto Mayor

Editor: Ulrike Tortora

Cast: María Nieves Rego, Juan Carlos Copes

Pablo Verón (Juan Carlos Copes - adult)

Alejandra Gutty (María Nieves - adult)

Juan Malizia (Juan Carlos Copes - young)

Ayelen Álvarez Miño (María Nieves - young)

Pancho Martínez Pey (Turco José)

Johana Copes (Guest Dancer)



Technical Infos:

Year	2015
Duration	Aprox. 85 Min.
Color	
Original language	Spanish
Shooting Format	2K
Shooting Camera	Alexa
Computer Platform	Windows
Editing software	AVID
Screening format	DCP
Screen ratio	1:1,85
Frame	24 F/S
Sound	5.1. Sorround
Start of shooting	June 2014
End of shooting	December 2014
Date of completion	May 2015
Year of completion	2015

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