

## THE ARTS

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# THE ARTS

What's a visit to Buenos Aires without going to a tango extravaganza? There are more shows than you can shake your booty at, from casual and dirt cheap (that is, street buskers) to footloose and fancy. Afterwards, consider keeping those toes on track with a tango class, then head to a *milonga* (tango hall) and put those moves to the test.

Love the theater? Then take in a play – there are dozens of theater companies putting on excellent productions, be it singing, dancing, acting or all three. What about classical music? Yup, there are quite a few venues for that as well. And everyone likes going out to the movies – you'll find both independent films and recent blockbusters screening at classic old theaters or modern multiplexes. When it comes to artsy fun, you can find something to do every day of the week in this town.

To help you get started, see our listings in this chapter. And for current happenings, check [www.whatsupbuenosaires.com](http://www.whatsupbuenosaires.com), [www.argentinaindependent.com](http://www.argentinaindependent.com) or any of the many expat websites. You can also read the local newspapers – most are in Spanish and have entertainment supplements published on Friday; the *Buenos Aires Herald's* 'Get Out' is in English.

## DISCOUNT TICKETS & BOOKING

Major entertainment venues often require booking through **Ticketek** (☎ 5237-7200; [www.ticketek.com.ar](http://www.ticketek.com.ar)). The service charge is about 10% of the ticket price.

**Cartelerías** (discount-ticket offices) along Av Corrientes sell a limited number of heavily discounted tickets for many entertainment events, such as movies, theater and tango shows, with savings of 20% to 50%. Buy tickets as far in advance as possible, but if you want to see a show or movie at short notice – especially at midweek – you can also drop by to check what's available.

**Cartelera Baires** (Map p72; [www.carteleraabaires.com](http://www.carteleraabaires.com);  
Av Corrientes 1382; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon & Tue, to 10pm  
Wed & Thu, to 11pm Fri, to midnight Sat, 2-9pm Sun) In  
Galería Apolo.

**Cartelera Espectáculos** (Map p62; ☎ 4322-4331;  
[www.123info.com.ar](http://www.123info.com.ar); Lavalle 742; ☎ noon-10pm Mon-  
Fri, to 11pm Sat, to 9pm Sun) Right on pedestrian Lavalle.

**Cartelera Veá Más** (Map p72; ☎ 6320-5319; ☎ 10am-  
9pm Mon & Tue, to 10pm Wed-Fri, to 11pm Sat, 2-11pm Sun)  
In the Paseo La Plaza complex at Corrientes 1660, local 2.

## TANGO

Once a furtive dance relegated to the red-light brothels of early 1900s Buenos Aires, tango has experienced great highs and lows throughout its volatile lifespan. These days, however, the sensual dance is back with a vengeance. Everyone from Seattle to Shanghai

seems to be slinking their way down the parquet floor, trying to connect with their partner and memorize those elusive dance steps and rhythm that make the tango so damn hard to perfect. And many of them are jet-setting it to BA, creating their own pilgrimage to the city where the dance first began (speaking of which, keep an eye out for the screen adaptation of *Kiss and Tango*, with Sandra Bullock).

Tango's popularity is booming at both amateur and professional levels, and among all ages and classes. Traditional tango dancers will always be around, and can be seen at classic old *milongas*. There's no stopping evolution, however – nuevo tango, born in the late 1990s, was originally seeded by Ástor Piazzolla in the 1950s when he incorporated jazz and classical beats into traditional tango music. Dancers improvised new moves into their traditional base steps, utilizing a more open embrace and switching leads (among other things). Neo tango, the latest musical step in tango's changing landscape, fuses the dance with electronica for some decidedly nonstodgy beats that have done a superlative job of attracting the younger generation to this astounding dance. For more on tango and its history, see p34.

Also see the boxed text 'More Tango Information', p167.

## SHOWS

If there's one thing Buenos Aires isn't short of, it's tango shows. Dozens of venues cater to this famous Argentine dance, and many of them are expensive, tourist-oriented spectacles that don't come close to what purists