

PointeTango Presents

## ***Tango, to the Pointe***

### **PointeTango heats up the stage with tango...on Pointe!**

*What happens when ballet meets tango? Don't miss this unique performance that will keep you on your toes.*

Award-winning dance company, PointeTango, returns to the stage with a spectacular new show where ballet and tango coalesce. With powerful lifts and fiery footwork, audiences will be mesmerized by PointeTango's sultry duo as they pirouette, leap and bourrée across the stage with the passion of Argentine tango...on Pointe!

"It's flirty. It's funny. It's excellent."

"Smoking hot"

"Wow. Just wow."

-Rachel Levine (Montreal Rampage)

"This piece rises like a phoenix out of the ashes of ballet and the rubble of tango."

-Shuman Zhang (Montreal Rampage)



Photo by Mark Ruddick

Choreographed by Alexander Richardson

Featuring PointeTango dancers Erin Scott-Kafadar and Alexander Richardson

#### PointeTango Dance Company SHOW AWARDS

WINNER Best On-Demand Show ~ Pittsburgh Fringe (*Tango in the Dark: the film*)

WINNER Best of Festival & Best of Venue ~ Saskatoon Fringe (*Into the Tango*)

WINNER Favourite Dance Show & Favourite Duo ~ Victoria Fringe (*Into the Tango & Para Dos*)

WINNER Best Artistry ~ Windsor Fringe (*Into the Tango*)

WINNER Patron's Pick ~ Toronto Fringe (*Into the Tango*)

WINNER TiLee Award ~ London Fringe (*Para Dos*)

WINNER Best of Venue ~ Hamilton Fringe (*Para Dos*)

*'Tango, to the Pointe' is a new work showcasing PointeTango's unique fusion between Argentine tango and classical ballet. As the only company in the world to dance authentic, improvised Argentine tango on pointe shoes, we wanted to create a show that pushes the boundaries of dance by exploring the possibilities and challenges that arise while transitioning from stilettos to pointe shoes. This dynamic show not only showcases the technical prowess of PointeTango dancers Erin and Alexander, but also offers a window into the intricacies of touch as they reevaluate the meaning of connection during a pandemic when human closeness has been restricted.*

John Hirsch Mainstage at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (174 Market Ave, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0P8, CA)

**14 July 3pm / 15 July 6:30pm / 16 July 4:45pm / 19 July 11am /**

**20 July 4:30pm / 21 July 8:15pm / 22 July 10pm / 24 July 3pm**

-show run time: 60 minutes

-Tickets: 12\$ available at <https://www.winnipegfringe.com/performer-detail.aspx?kw=PointeTango>

#### Contact Information

**PointeTango Media Contact: Erin Scott-Kafadar (She/Her, ENGLISH & FRENCH )**

**Press photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/CvahUmVakAQBWLr6>**

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Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @pointetango

Youtube Trailer: <https://youtu.be/6QVN-IDMjWM>

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## About PointeTango Dance Company

PointeTango is a one-of-a-kind dance company combining the passion of Argentine tango with the precision of classical ballet. PointeTango was co-founded in 2016 by choreographers and dancers Erin Scott-Kafadar and artistic director, Alexander Richardson. Their mandate is to create and tour new innovative works showcasing the authenticity of improvised tango and the elegance of classical ballet.

PointeTango emerged from the question: ‘What happens when classical ballet meets Argentine tango?’ Having trained and worked in both disciplines of classical ballet and Argentine tango extensively, Erin and Alexander challenged themselves to develop a new dance vocabulary of “pointetango” that respects the codes and connection of the Argentine tango “abrazo” (embrace) while searching for new solutions and opportunities to the challenges encountered when transitioning from heels to pointe shoes. PointeTango is the only dance company in the world to dance authentic, improvised Argentine tango on pointe shoes.

The company’s work has been performed on cruise ships internationally, featured in theatre festivals and dance film projects and they perform regularly in stage shows and milongas in Buenos Aires and Canada. PointeTango has toured their two original highly acclaimed shows: *Para Dos* and *Into the Tango* across Canada in the summers of 2018 and 2019 respectively to sold-out theatres. Their festival tours have earned them the prestigious *Best of Festival* award in addition to *Favourite Dance Show* and *Favourite Duo*, *Best Artistry* and the *Patron’s Pick* awards to name a few. PointeTango had scheduled an international tour for PointeTango’s newest show *Tango in the Dark* (spring/summer 2020) before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

As an alternative to presenting live shows, PointeTango continued to share their art by creating video projects for digital distribution and, with a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, produced an original short film in collaboration with Toronto’s Payadora Tango Ensemble leading them to create a full-length feature film adapting their stage show to film; *Tango in the Dark: the film*. The film has received rave reviews and recognition since its digital world premiere in February 2021 and was screened at curated digital programs such as Toronto’s Next Stage Festival, the Aurora Cultural Centre, the London Dance Festival and arts festivals in Prague and in Pittsburgh winning the *Best On-Demand* show of the festival.

PointeTango will be touring their new show *Tango, to the Pointe* across Canada in the spring/summer of 2022 to theatres in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Regina, Halifax, Vancouver and London (ON). PointeTango was awarded a residency at the National Ballet of Canada to work on the creation of *Tango, to the Pointe* through the support of the NBC’s Open Space Programme.

The company has recently been awarded a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts to produce a feature-length film for dance entitled *In Search of the Abrazo (In Search of the Embrace)*. And they have also received a grant to produce live presentations of *Tango in the Dark* in London, Ontario and funding to travel to Victoria, BC where they have been invited to perform at the 2022 World Accordion and Tango Festival.

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## Alexander Richardson *Director, choreographer & principal dancer of PointeTango*

Originally from London, Ontario, Alexander discovered a passion for music and dance with his involvement with the London Youth Symphony, high school theatre and musical productions and dance classes in ballet and modern dance at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. The drive to create led him to Montreal where he completed a three-year degree in classical ballet at Ballet Divertimento and a separate three year Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts, music composition and contemporary dance at Concordia University.

PointeTango, emerged from the question: What happens when classical ballet meets Argentine Tango? To answer this, Alexander left Montreal in 2010 for Buenos Aires and began researching and living the life of tango. Alexander is also the author of the online multimedia book; *Tango Scales: How to practice and learn Argentine tango*.



After teaching and performing in Buenos Aires, at international tango festivals, on cruise ships in the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Pacific, and in television and film, Alexander created a new dance company with his partner Erin Scott-Kafadar. Their goal: to highlight the richness of Argentine tango along with a new dance vocabulary inspired by dancing tango on pointe. He is currently the principal dancer and artistic director of PointeTango Dance Company for which he has choreographed and starred in award-winning shows *Para Dos* (2018) and *Into the Tango* (2019) and he had scheduled an international tour for PointeTango's newest show *Tango in the Dark* (spring/summer 2020) before the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. Alexander continues to develop his skills as a choreographer and dancer as he learns to adapt his craft to the challenges of creating, editing and directing dance for film. He has recently directed, starred in and edited the feature film *Tango in the Dark* made in collaboration with the Payadora Tango Ensemble.

During the pandemic, Alexander took the opportunity to perfect his photography skills and has since launched his career as a photographer and graphic designer.

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## Erin Scott-Kafadar *Principal dancer & choreographer of PointeTango*

Erin Scott-Kafadar grew up in a house full of art and dance. Whether she was dancing in the studio during her mother's ballet class or joining the circle of Turkish folk dancing at her father's restaurant in Turkey, dance and music were always a big part of Erin's life. She was born in Montreal, Canada where she completed a ten-year professional degree in Classical Ballet at L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec during which she started her professional career as a ballet dancer in 2010, touring with Le Jeune Ballet du Québec and with Ballet Ovest de Montreal's production of 'The Nutcracker'. Directly after graduating from L'ESBQ, she joined the Ballet Eddy Toussaint dance company and was quickly promoted to Principal Dancer to tour with the company internationally for four years.

In 2016, Erin embarked on a new artistic path with her long time partner in life and on stage, Alexander Richardson, and dove into the world of Argentine tango. She began her training in Buenos Aires, where she studied with maestros Francisco Forquera, Gabriel Missé, "Los Totis", Natalia Hills, Hugo Mastrolorenzo, Facundo Piñero y Vanessa Villalba and many others. She is currently the principal dancer of PointeTango which has led her to perform on stages and dance floors with her partner Alexander Richardson in Buenos Aires, on cruise ships internationally and in festivals and events across Canada. She has starred in award-winning stage shows *Para Dos* (2018) and *Into the Tango* (2019) and was scheduled to perform in an international tour of PointeTango's newest show *Tango in the Dark* (spring/ summer 2020) before the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. While the theatres remained closed, Erin continued to perfect her craft and immersed herself in the challenges of adapting her art for film projects. She has recently starred in the feature film *Tango in the Dark* made in collaboration with the Payadora Tango Ensemble.

Erin has also successfully launched her career as a grant writer for PointeTango, winning the company grants from the Canada Council for the Arts to create a feature-length film for dance, to produce live shows in London, ON and a travel grant to participate in Vitoria's World Accordion and Tango Festival this fall.

