

Teachers Biography

Oscar Benavidez

Oscar Benavidez was born in *Lomas de Zamora* (a barrio of *Buenos Aires*) from an Italian family. In *Buenos Aires*, he studied choreography and dance (Folklore & Tango). During his dance career Oscar has collaborated with some of the most prestigious tango artists in *Buenos Aires*, most of whom were also close friends: *Anibal Troilo, Mariano Mores, Astor Piazzolla, Tito Luciaro, Hugo del Carril, Virginia Luque, Libertad Lamarque, Julio Sosa, Nestor Marconi, Henrique Francini, 'El Polaco' Goyeneche and Nestor Fabian.*

He joined *Juan Carlos Copes's* dance company and was the main dancer with them on many world tours. As a dancer and choreographer he traveled through Latin America, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Germany, France, UK, Hungary, Holland, Italy, USA, Canada, Japan, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey and Iran.

..Such was his popularity that the French asked him to dance on the Eiffel Tower and broadcast the dance on the national French TV!

In 1987 he appeared in a worldwide broadcast show performing for the Pope during his visit in *Buenos Aires*.

Oscar´s participation in films and musicals in Argentina includes: *Paula cautiva, Buenas*

noches Buenos Aires, Escándalo en la familia, La sonrisa de mama.

He can also boast numerous TV appearances abroad (*Bolivia, France, Brazil, Puertorico, Curaçao, Aruba*).

He currently lives in Italy where he co-directs the Tango & Folklore company 'Le Tango' with Laura Francia.

His recent collaborations includes choreography work for musicians such as: *Ulises Passarella (soundtrack for Il Postino), Silvio Zalambani, Mario Marzi, Hugo Aisemberg, Philharmonic Orchestra of Istanbul.*

Oscar also keeps teaching tango all around the globe, always faithful to the popular soul of tango and its ability to communicate emotions in different cultures.

Laura Francia

Laura Francia is Italian, from Teramo. She is the director of the association *Tango Ideal-Benavidez Tango* and co-director of the dance company *Le Tango*. After the extensive training in ballet and folk dances, she developed a strong interest in Argentine culture, music and dance. She has been teaching and performing with Oscar since 2005.

She combines a profound knowledge of tango dynamics and body movement with natural sensuality and elegance.



Oscar with Mariano Montes and Hugo Carril before a Folklore show, Teatro Astral, Buenos Aires



A very young Oscar on the set of the film 'Buenas Noches Buenos Aires' with Virginia Luque



Oscar with Juan Carlos Copes and Maria Nieves in the theatre show, Buenos Aires



Cachito Ben Ben, Anibal Troilo and Oscar



Oscar and partner during an outdoor tango show, Buenos Aires



Oscar and Alejandro Fasanini dancing in a recent Folklore show, Buenos Aires