

# TANQUEROS DELSUR



PRESS KIT

## Natalia Hills Artistic Director & Choreographer

Tango dancer and choreographer **Natalia Hills** comes from three generations of Tango dancers. Hills made her theatrical debut at the young age of 12 in the historic Corrientes theater district in Buenos Aires performing alongside Tango legends: dancer and choreographer Juan Carlos Copes, vocalist Roberto Goyeneche and Atilio Stampone (composer, pianist). Hills later went on to perform as one of the original members of the Broadway and London hit, *Forever Tango* which was nominated for a Tony and Drama Desk awards for best choreography. In 1995, after a successful theater season in London's West End, she was invited to perform at a British Embassy event in honor of Princess Diana Spencer. Over the course of her career, Hills has danced in the most prestigious theaters in the world: the Colón Theater in Buenos Aires, the Hollywood Bowl as a primary dancer accompanied by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and in the Walter Kerr, Marquis, and Shubert Theaters on Broadway. Television appearances include NBC's Today Show, Evening at the Pops on PBS featuring the Boston Pops and hosted by Leslie Caron, and on the National Geographic channel among others. Founding her company in 2009, **Tangueros del Sur** made its US premiere at New York City Center that same year. The company has also performed at Vail International Dance Festival (2010), Jacob's Pillow Dance at Ted Shawn Theater (2011) and at the Israel Dance Festival in Jerusalem (2012). After four years, the company reprised the show "Romper el Piso" (Break the Floor) in August 2016 in the prestigious "Maipo" Theater of Buenos Aires. In September 2017, "Romper el Piso" was performed at the legendary Odeon Atticus Theatre in Athens, Greece.

## Alejandro Aquino / Principal Dancer

Prior to beginning his career as a Tango dancer, **Alejandro Aquino** finished his studies at the Instituto Superior de Arte del Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, where he subsequently became a member of the Corps de Ballet. In 1988 he was a principal dancer in the production of Juan Carlos Copes' *Tango-Tango* with Roberto Goyeneche and Atilio Spampone. Aquino was chosen by Maestro Osvaldo Pugliese composer, orchestra leader and one of the most important figures in Tango music, to be his principal dancer whenever the orchestra toured under his lead.. Among these was the historic concert of Osvaldo Pugliese and Astor Piazzolla at the Royal Carré Theatre in Amsterdam, Holland on June 26, 1989 and in Beijing at the Great Hall of the People, which was the first time the orchestra was invited by the government to perform. In 1991, he performed in the famous Aldwych West End Theater in London with the show *Tango Argentino* with Claudio Segovia and Hector Orezza. He established himself in Europe and created the show *Tangueros* which was sponsored by the Festival International Oriente-Occidente in Trento and Rovereto in Italy. He joined *Romper el Piso* in 2016, performing as a Principal Dancer with Tangueros del Sur at the legendary Teatro Maipo de Buenos Aires, in July-August 2016.

## Patricio Villarejo / Musical Director & Arrangements

An accomplished cellist, composer, arranger, musical director and producer, **Patricio Villarejo** was part of the Historic Concert of Osvaldo Pugliese Orchestra and Astor Piazzolla's Sextet in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in June 26, 1989. Villarejo started his studies in violoncello in Argentina, with Argentine maestro Leo Viola and graduated in Violoncello and Composition from the University of Florida in Gainesville (USA). In 1988 joined the National Symphony of Argentina and is a former member of Osvaldo Pugliese and Horacio Salgan's orchestras. He joined the Broadway-bound production *Forever Tango* from 1996-2007. In November 2011, he performed with Peter Gabriel and the New Blood Orchestra in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has been Musical Director for Tangueros del Sur since 2009. *Romper el Piso* features Villarejos' musical arrangements and original compositions.

## NOW TOURING: FALL 2018

### ***Romper el Piso*** (*Break the Floor*)

Running Time: 1 hr 35 min (intermission is optional)

Choreographer: Natalia Hills

Musical Director and Arrangements: Patricio Villarejo

**Performed with live music**

Last seen in the United States at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, world-renowned Tango dancer and choreographer Natalia Hills, an original member of the Broadway and London hit *Forever Tango*, leads an exquisite 17 member ensemble of Tango artists in *Romper el Piso*. Showcasing the intricate footwork, partnering, sensuality, and drama that comprise this classic Latin dance style, the company transports audiences from tango's Afro-Argentinian roots in the working-class districts of Buenos Aires to its modern ballroom interpretation. Onstage, master musicians on bandoneón, cello, guitar, piano, and percussion perform the rhythms and melodies of composers from Juan D'Arienzo to Astor Piazzolla.

### **Touring Personnel**

Performers: 10 dancers/7 musicians

Artistic/Administrative Staff: 1

Production Staff: 2

## PRESS QUOTES

"Tango superstar and choreographer Natalia Hills has embodied the whole history of this specifically Argentine genre in dance and the music that indelibly informs it."

- Allison Tracy, *The Berkshire Eagle*, July 2011

"They are beautifully matched in many ways: when gliding across the floor, they sometimes give the impression of floating, as a friend remarked, and they both can produce coruscating footwork."

- Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*, September 2009

"There are astounding features to this couple's dancing; at several points, the audience bursts into applause, in awe at some dazzling footwork. But I also adore the most basic ways in which they make the tango extraordinarily sensuous."

- Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*, August 2010

"It's completely overwhelming and crowd-pleasing, with such subtlety and musicality,"

- Damian Woetzel to *Vail Daily News*, August 2010

"It's so sophisticated without being off-putting. They are dance – they're really something."

- Damian Woetzel to *Vail Daily News*, August 2010

"Tango, at its truest"

- *The New York Times*

"In 'Romper el Piso' the conventions of the genre disappear from sight"

- Clarín, *Buenos Aires*, August 2016

"'Romper el Piso' buries itself in the deep heart of tango".

- Clarin, *Buenos Aires*, August 2016

# TANGUEROS DELSUR

## CONTACT

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*Tangueros del Sur has been Declared of Cultural Interest by  
The Secretary of the Nation's Cultural Ministry Argentina  
& The Senate of the Nation Argentina*

