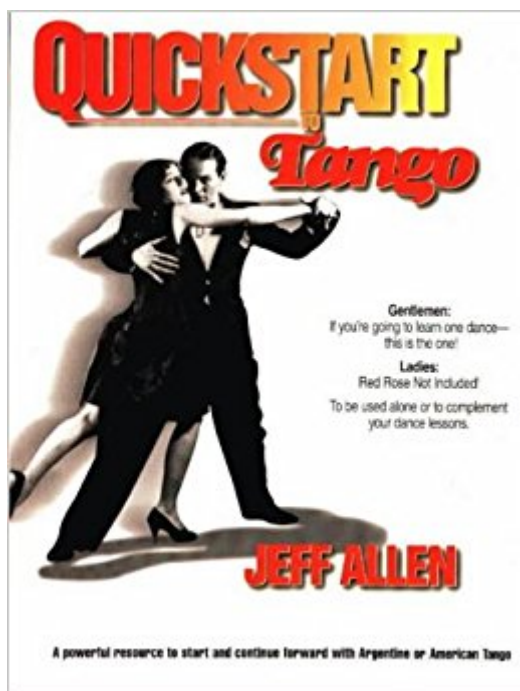


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Quickstart To Tango



Synopsis

Quickstart to Tango is the only book in print that contains the technique and development of either style of Tango. The book is packed with 60,000 words devoted to Tango. It fills the educational void for Tango dancers that are increasing daily in numbers. Additionally, there are histories of Tango's development and a conversation with Mr. Carlos Gavito the star of the Broadway Show Forever Tango and one of the most famous Tango dancers since Tango's Golden Age. 1.Second in the Quickstart Dance series from the author of America's number one selling dance book. 2.Covers the basic choreography in both the Social-American Ballroom and Argentine Tango. 3.This text is presented in a logical and cumulative format that includes all the basic skills necessary for the successful learning, partnering, and teaching both styles of Tango. 4.Exclusive interview with Carlos Gavito from the Broadway cast of the smash hit Forever Tango. Also included are the history, myth, and lore of both styles of Tango. 5.An approach to Tango from a kinesiological point of view with an approach to mental and physical attitudes and philosophies.

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Customer Reviews

Jeff Allen is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island. He holds Membership credentials with the North American Dance Teachers Association, Inc. and the Pan American Teachers Association. He has competed in National and International competitions and turned professional in 1984 after winning the Gold closed level at the North American Championships. Mr. Allen's greatest pride is in the more than 30 Top teacher awards he has won keeping his position consistently in the list of top

75 teachers in North America.

I became interested in Tango about 4 years ago after a visit to South America. When I returned home I went to a dance studio to begin lessons and to learn more of this fascinating dance. Two years ago my teacher recommended I get a copy of Quickstart To Tango and read it. "Do not read it like a dime store novel, and do not look for footprints on the floor to follow - this book is more than that" he told me. And he was right! I appreciate the fact that Mr. Allen does not treat his audience like a kindergarten class - he assumes his reader is intelligent. And also when that reader buys a book - that reader must read it. If you are looking for a 'coffee table book' or a syllabus with charted figures, amounts of turn, specific foot placements of each partner, etc. then buy that type of book - there are a lot of them out there. Quickstart To Tango contains exceptional explanation of the technique used in this dance - both American and Argentine. In fact the technique contained here is applicable to any dance. And the figure descriptions are quite accurate - but again you must be willing to read them! It is, as the cover states, a wonderful complement to dance lessons and I have used mine as such. But this book is also very helpful to beginners who have never taken a dance lesson. Quickstart To Tango is like the books we used in school - it is meant to be looked at more than once and, as you progress and learn more, the parts you re-read take on more meaning. I enjoyed the interesting historical background on the Tango, and was very entertained by the interview with the great Carlos Gavito. What a pleasure to read an informative book that I can continue to refer to and learn from. It was also a pleasant surprise to find that Mr. Allen is accessible by email happy to discuss Tango, answer questions, or provide help with anything he has written. Bravo, Mr. Allen and thank you.

"Quickstart To Tango" is an easy to read, informative, and entertaining 'How To' book for any Tango aficionado. Jeff Allen gives an excellent, and easy to understand presentation of the basic fundamentals required to dance both the Argentine and American style Tango. This book provides the beginner dancer with a clear understanding of the proper technique needed to successfully execute this fun, sexy, and eccentric dance! The basics of the Tango, "the Walks", are described in wonderful detail and have suggested practice exercises that are both useful and enjoyable! For those who are more adventurous or more 'educated' in dance, Mr. Allen provides additional choreography with very detailed descriptions. What I found particularly helpful is that throughout the step descriptions Mr. Allen clearly points out 'common errors' that occur and gives the remedy for each. This book has a lot to offer to dancers of all skill levels and contains excellent information

regarding dance technique in general. The reader will return to this wonderful resource over and over again, I highly recommend you pick up a copy and 'Tango On'!

This review was written by Feature Writer Michael Ditkoff for the publication La Voz Del Tango: A few months ago, I read a recommendation for this book and decided to purchase it. I am glad I did! Quickstart To Tango is a comprehensive book that covers both the American and the Argentine Tangos. For this review I will limit my comments to the general dance and Argentine Tango sections. This book is more than a picture book that describes figures and whether or not a step is quick or slow. That is a review of Paul Bottomer's "Tango Argentino" book. Mr. Allen's book includes tango's social development - collaborating with well-known teacher Daniel Trenner. A sample of the chapters and salient point of each are: What is a dance step? - "Moving the body to new vertical position with all of your weight over the next foot" Learning timing - "If you can hear the knocking on a door, then you can certainly hear the beats in the music while you are learning to dance" Using Good Foot Contact - "The ball of the foot carries the weight in the Argentine style." Rotation in Tango - "Both of these figures - Fans in the Ballroom style and Ochos in the Argentine style - are initiated by one of the partners and concentrate heavily around the established center of rotation of their partner." The Basic Dance Positions and Body Framing - "A major difference in the Argentine style is that the weight of the body is poised over the balls of the feet while being compressed through the knees." Attitudes and Priorities : Mental and Physical - "Be very kind to your partner and remember you are learning too." There is a thorough discussion of contra body motion. Dancers should be "split at the waist" so that the top half and the bottom half can rotate in different directions. For example, in leading the woman to the cross. The man's hips face the left after the second step, but the chest should face the woman. Contra body motion has been rarely discussed in the group classes I've attended. There are black and white photographs of dancers illustrating various figures, e.g. Salida, the Walk to the Cross, and Grapevine. The woman wore brightly colored shoes so her movements show clearly. The man wore traditional black shoes which don't show up as well. This book is an excellent reference and belongs in your library.

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