

SCOPE



Saving *hutong*

Beijing's vanishing *hutong* or alley neighborhoods are preserved in the works of a photographer who started chasing demolition teams 28 years ago. **B3**

B1 **Shanghai Daily**

Hot **tango** nights



TangoGo
founders **Yu Ping** (left)
and **Sergiy Podbolotnyy**

The world's most sensual partner dance, tango, is catching on in Shanghai where tango schools and clubs are springing up and parties are in full swing. The exotic and demanding ballroom dance is a new way to make friends, reports Fei Lai.



Lots of people love tango, famous for its close, romantic embrace, its long sinuous steps and its staccato rhythms, intricate footwork and dramatic music.

So it's not surprising that tango from Argentina and Uruguay (the Rio de la Plata region) has spread worldwide, developed many variations and is now in the midst of a renaissance that has brought it to China.

Tango, dance of mystery and Latin passion, is catching on in China, where close embrace, chest-to-chest style is often seen in dramatic stage performances.

But that's very close indeed and many more conservative Chinese prefer a little less body contact and a more open embrace. There are tango styles for everyone.

Shanghai tango clubs and schools organize dancing parties, festivals and competitions.

Last week, more than 300 tango fans attended the Shanghai International Tango Festival, which drew orchestras, masters and dancers from around the

world. The next big tango event is a "tango marathon" from November 8 to 11, with four consecutive nights of dancing by professionals and amateurs from many countries.

A driving force behind Shanghai's tango community is Vivian Yeh, founder of TangoBang, who has been teaching and organizing Argentine tango classes, workshops and performances since 2008.

It was seven years ago that Yeh got hooked on tango in her hometown Taiwan, learning from various masters and even traveling to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to experience authentic Argentine tango.

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