

*Guardia Nueva* GLIMS 25 GLOMS  
**PIAZZOLLA-NIGHT**

A CELEBRATION OF ARGENTINIAN TANGO MUSIC AND DANCE



**PROGRAM**

# CREDITS

**Choreography:** Tuomo Railo

**Conductor:** Raimo Vertainen

**Lighting Design:** Ville Virtanen

**Costumes:** Sari Suominen (Macchiato 2002), Metti Nordin (Suurperhe 2006), Anna Ruohonen (Omnipotens 2016), Nina Ukkonen

**Sound Engineering:** Mika Paananen ja Mikko Leimu

**Animations:** Kris Keränen ja Tuomo Railo

**Dancers:** Sanni Giordani, Sanna Hento, Kasper Kolehmainen, Taru Koski, Paavali Kärkkäinen, Tuomo Railo ja Jussi Väänänen

**Vocal Soloist:** Simo Heiskanen

**Violins:** Sanna-Maija Erkkilä, Iida-Maria Hanhikoski, Teresa Innanen, Krista Kairaneva, Johanna Knuuttila, Anna Koivisto, Heidi Kumpula, Henna Pakkala

**Accordions/Bandoneon:** Martina Brunell, Anna-Kaisa Heikkilä, Johannes Koivisto, Sonja Vertainen

**Piano:** Teresa Myllykangas

**Double Bass:** Timo Miettinen

**Guitar:** Juha Yli-Kotila

**Percussion:** Timo Roiko-Jokela

**Photographs:** Ari Kauppila



# PIAZZOLLA-NIGHT

An evening dedicated to Argentinian tango music and dance celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Glims & Gloms dance theatre.

Tuomo Railo's choreography for seven dancers blends the captivating dynamics of tango partner dance with the expressive depth of contemporary dance. The 16-piece tango orchestra Guardia Nueva performs Piazzolla's music under the direction of Raimo Vertainen, with Simo Heiskanen as the vocal soloist.

Duration 1 hour 45 minutes, including intermission.

## Songs played in the performance

El Tango (Jorge Luis Borges poems translated into Finnish by Pentti Saaritsa)

Serie del Angel - Introduccion del Angel, Milonga del Angel,  
La Muerte del Angel, Resurreccion del Angel

Milonga Picaresque

Zita

Michelangelo '70

Intermission 25 minutes

Adiós Nonino

Oblivion

Tanguedia

Balada para un Loco (Finnish words Simo Heiskanen)

Chiquilin de Bachin (Finnish words Simo Heiskanen)

Los pájaros perdidos (Finnish words Daniel Katz)

Libertango



## GLIMS & GLOMS

Glims & Gloms is a touring theatre company based in Espoo, founded by choreographers Simo Heiskanen and Tuomo Railo. The theatre's first premiere, *Lankku ja Kirsikkapuu*, was presented in 2000. The name of the theatre refers to the rivers Glims and Gloms, which together form the Espoo River. The theatre's performances are based on dance, speech and music theatre.

Glims & Gloms is known for producing captivating performances of high artistic quality for the whole family. The performances contain touching comedy, surprising humour and elevating dance for viewer of all ages.

## GUARDIA NUEVA

The Guardia Nueva story starts in 2001. The roots go back to 1995, when Raimo Vertainen and Sari Viinikainen moved to Kokkola. Both worked as teachers of accordion at the Central Ostrobothnia Conservatory. The idea came up that there was so much talent in the Kokkola region that a large orchestra could be formed here.

Today The Guardia Nueva orchestra is a success story from Central Ostrobothnia, captivating audiences in Finland, Turkey, and Argentina. The orchestra is constantly collaborating with some of Finland's best-known artists - and with none of them has it been a one-off.



## **Crystallisations of living as a human being**

What is the secret of Astor Piazzolla's music? It is the universality and the presence of the human being, whatever country you come from. Listening to this music, you can experience yourself and feel the music in your body. Piazzolla went through a hard school before the diamond crystallised: playing, experiencing, listening, studying.

Piazzolla has been able to combine many musical messages into the Piazzolla style. You can recognise it immediately from a few bars. Piazzolla himself wanted tango out of the context of dance, but in his music dance is still always present. The soulfulness of Piazzolla's music and its timeless appeal to the emotions allow us to pause in the moment. That is what Astor Piazzolla is.

Raimo Vertainen, Conductor

## **Fusion or fission after all**

As we know from nuclear physics, the fusion reaction is a difficult process to maintain because of the heat required. In the same way, it has been almost impossible to "fuse" contemporary and tango dance. The two dance forms can be mixed and matched and brought on stage simultaneously, but the characteristics of the two dance forms will always remain recognisable. Modern dance in heels is difficult, and tango in socks doesn't feel quite right.

At the same time, our artistic ambition of a dialogue between traditions has been a very inspiring challenge. Since Astor Piazzolla was able to fuse elements of tango, classical and jazz music in his compositions, we have had a stunningly multi-dimensional musical continent to explore. That's why I have chosen to focus on the dialogue between music and dance in Piazzolla-Night.

The only storytelling part is present in the animation at the beginning of the piece, where you move in the abandoned buildings, where people and their gods are gone, the wind creating movement, the timer turning on the lights, hunger waking up the new inhabitants of the suburb.

The costumes on the stage are from various theatre productions over the years.

Tuomo Railo - Choreographer

## Astor Piazzolla

The Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla is one of the most famous tango composers of all time and has revolutionised the entire genre. *Tango Nuevo*, developed by Piazzolla, combines and blends elements of art music and jazz into the Argentine tango. At one time this caused a huge storm in traditional tango circles. No one had ever before combined the formal structures of Western art music with the fiery passion of tango and the free improvisation of jazz. (Wikipedia 2025)

## Argentiinalainen tango

The Argentine tango developed in the 1880s in the dance halls and brothels of Buenos Aires, when Spanish flamenco merged with milonga, a fast and sensual Argentine dance. The tango is also influenced by Cuban habanera and African dances. The world conquest of tango began in the 1910s under *the Guardia Vieja*, the old guard of tango, when tango arrived first in Paris and then in the major cities of Europe and the rest of the world. Tango's success in the world also raised its status in Argentina.

The new guard, *the Guardia Nueva*, began to develop tango music in the 1920s. This laid the foundations for the golden age of tango, from around 1935 to 1955. After this, tango enjoyed a brief period of silence until it experienced a new world revolution in the 1980s, with the success of Astor Piazzolla, among others. (Milonga.fi, 2021; Britannica.com, 2025)





**THANKS TO**

**DANCE HOUSE HELSINKI  
MUSIC CENTER SNELLMAN  
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