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**Nomad Tango presents**

***Malena: Between Freedom and the Embrace***

**Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

**at the Lobero Theatre**

*Santa Barbara, August 18, 2025* – Nomad Tango presents **Malena: Between Freedom and the Embrace on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM**. The idea for *Malena* was born last year, when Nomad Tango presented *Tango Meets Classical* at SOhO. The successful show could be described as *Tango Meets Ballet at the Nightclub*. On one side sat the tango audience, on the other the ballet crowd, and in the middle a space emerged — the perfect place to co-create a shared experience.

“We knew we were onto something and needed to explore this format further” explained Alejandra Folguera, Founder of Nomad Tango. She went on to say that “the ‘Tango-Show,’ as a dance language, rivals ballet, contemporary, and other classical disciplines — just as tango music can hold its own in any classical concert hall (think Piazzolla).” Currently, she is working on a Tango Musical to be staged as an opera. Tango’s time has come to take its place in the Pantheon of the Classics.

But tango also has a different voice. Its popular roots make it the perfect language for the ailments of the modern urban soul — isolation, loss, heartbreak. With that in mind, *Malena* was created: an original, bold production that brings together two choreographers and two dance companies — **Fernanda Ghi** (Tango, East Coast) and **Meredith Ventura** (Contemporary, West Coast). The work explores the frustration of feeling constrained by social constructs and the deep human need for connection and belonging.

*Malena* is dance-theatre in three acts:

- **Act I** – Malena dances an old-style tango, feeling confined and constrained. She longs for freedom.
- **Act II** – She breaks from convention, dancing freestyle, alone.
- **Act III** – Realizing that “Nobody can save themselves alone” (*El Eternauta*), she returns to the embrace — but now dances a new kind of tango, one that allows both freedom and connection.

The piece is built by two major voices in modern dance: tango legend **Fernanda Ghi** from Boston and rising star of contemporary dance **Meredith Ventura** from California’s Central Coast. It is presented by **Nomad Tango**, a nonprofit founded by **Alejandra Folguera** to promote and organize Argentine Tango. Alejandra believes in the power of art and community to transform lives and is passionate about passing on the fire of tango to new generations. *Malena* is co-produced by **Rodney Gustafson**, founder of State Street Ballet, who led the company for thirty years, creating original works and training thousands of young dancers. Now retired from ballet, Rodney brings his expertise and vision to the world of Argentine Tango. The team is excited to bring groundbreaking productions to Santa Barbara and beyond in the years to come.

Tickets for **Malena: Between Freedom and the Embrace** are on sale now at [Lobero.org](http://Lobero.org) and at the Lobero Box Office 805.963.0761. \$65 - VIP Admission, \$55 - Section A, \$35 - Section B, 10% discount for Seniors 65+, \$24 - Students w/ID & Children. (*Ticket prices include a per ticket Lobero Facility Fee; other fees may also apply.*) Tickets purchased online or by phone are subject to a web/phone order fee of \$3.00 per ticket. To avoid this fee, tickets can be purchased in person at the box office.

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Calendar Editors, please note:  
Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM

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***Malena: Between Freedom and the Embrace***  
at the Lobero Theatre

East Coast meets West Coast as tango legend Fernanda Ghi joins rising star choreographer Meredith Ventura to create *Malena* — an adventure in dance storytelling about rebellion, freedom, and connection. Told in three acts, *Malena* moves from the intimate embrace of traditional tango to the raw rebellion of dancing alone in freestyle, and finally to a return — transformed — to a new kind of tango. A bold, genre-defying original production, born in Santa Barbara, blending the passion of Argentine tango with contemporary dance. <https://www.lobero.org/events/malena/>

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Lobero Theatre | 33 East Canon Perdido Street | Santa Barbara, CA 93101 | Lobero.org