



MELINGO

Maldito Tango

release date: march 31st

**Live At The Royal Festival Hall, Friday April 4th 2008, 7.30pm, £25-£15
(double bill with Bajonfondo Tango Club as part of La Linea)**

Daniel 'Melingo' is one of a new wave of tango stars that aren't afraid to tear the music apart and put it back together in new and unexpected ways. Signed to **Mañana**, Eduardo Makaroff's groundbreaking label (Gotan Project's Argentinean member): his tango is refreshing new but drinks deeply from the well of tradition. Take a pinch of *Roberto Goyeneche*, the passionate tango singer known as "El polaco", for some true tango roots, mix him up with a bit of *Nick Cave*, some *Tom Waits*, add a little *Gainsbourg*, and all these growling, throaty voices and lived-in faces will give you some idea of the devilish Melingo, an old rascal who isn't actually that old, though he's infinitely roguish and whose finely balanced, hugely theatrical live shows are fast becoming the stuff of legend.

The art of tango is a balancing act: you have to sway and bend without falling over and Melingo distorts the codes of tango; he perverts and subverts them: breathing new life into *tango-cancion*. He breathes in the air of Buenos Aires, conjuring up a gallery of characters on whom life has taken its toll: the pick-pocket on the bus, the weeping prostitute, the tramp working his way through the rubbish bins, the day worker who dances the night away, the kid dying of loneliness, the Argentinean of Montmartre, the lovers with their cautious and guarded secrecy, the loaded old playboy dying in the arms of the whores, the police raiding a bar and, of course (tango has always had a soft spot for losers) the guy who's been abandoned.

His accomplices are *lunfardo* (tango slang) experts as well as a troupe of adventurous musicians, what you could call a gang of rogues who like to party. Instrumental interludes are peppered with a wall of sound from a clarinet here, the undulating rhythms of a musical saw there, all to the beat of the *Cajon*. **Maldito Tango** has been constructed, broken apart and constructed once again over six months. Nothing like a jazz album — or a tango album! This is a flamboyant and rare piece of work that breaks the rules of tango by stirring up the mix (*Julepe en la Tierra*), beating time with haunting images that border on the new wave (*Pequeño paria*) and jamming in a psyched-out litany (*Eco il Mondo*).

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