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FLA

Hot, flashy Tango lets dance speak out

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Ah, the tango. Bodies locked in a constant, floating tension of attraction and resistance, in an embrace that is never consummated, an elaborately stylized drama of seduction. You could call it the dance that embodies all the conflicted romance of Western desire; you can want, but you will never have.

DANCE REVIEW

Along with the latest wave of interest in Argentina's most famous import, with Julio Iglesias's tango album and *Evita*, comes *Forever Tango*, a spectacularly hot and flashy show currently playing at Palm Beach's Poinciana Playhouse, which will come for a week to Miami Beach's Jackie Gleason Theater before heading to New York City. It has already had successful runs in San Francisco (where it played for 18 months), Toronto, London, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Created and directed by classi-

PLEASE SEE TANGO, 3C



REFLECTIVE: *Forever Tango*

Catching Tango fever Performance is a must-see

TANGO, FROM 1C

cal cellist Luis Bravo, *Forever Tango* gives us the dance at its showiest. It supposedly traces the history of the tango from its origins in late 19th Century Buenos Aires brothels to the present, primarily through some extremely florid program notes. But the elaborate psychological scenarios in the program are extraneous; the dancing speaks for itself.

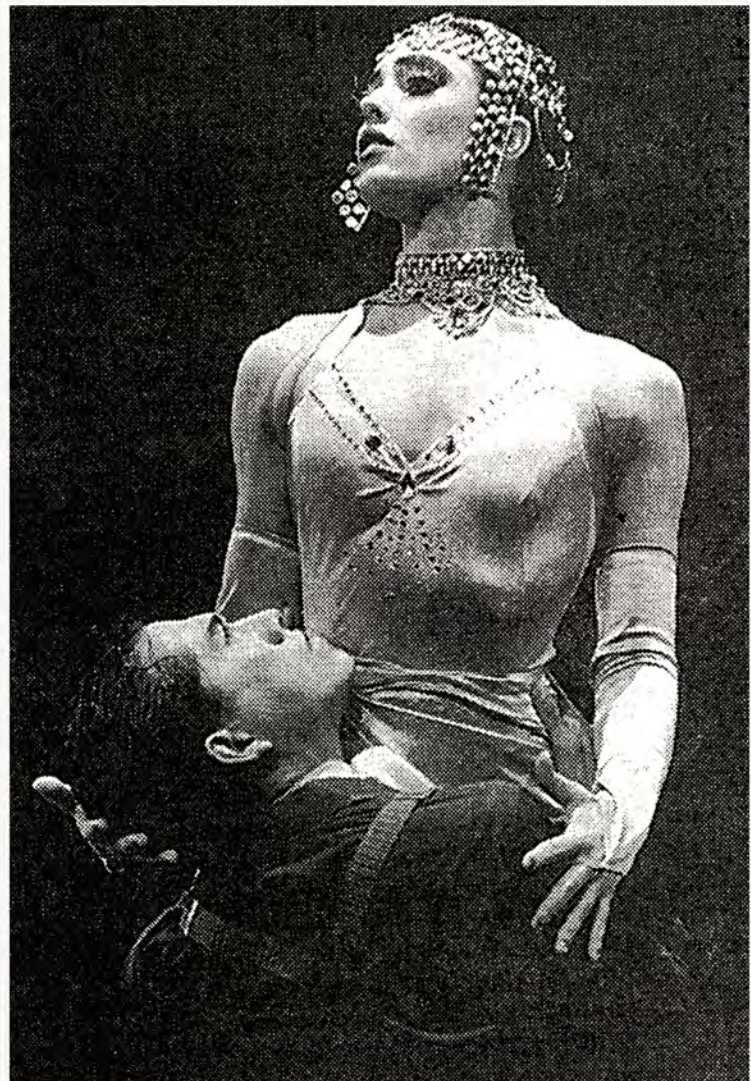
Intricately connected

It is spectacular. The 14 dancers are virtuosos, and their fierce, intricately connected partnering tells you all you need to know about the tango. This is the dance as physical and sexual melodrama, showy and stylized in the extreme, and as far from everyday human expression as a classical pas de deux.

The dancers float smoothly, suspended in an inexorably linked lockstep, tension bursting in small explosions of flicking legs and twisting hips, or building in taut poses. The dance's basic rhythms and actions are expanded; a twist in the woman's back becomes a floor-skimming backbend, her flicking leg flies up to wrap around her partner's waist, a whipping return becomes a series of spins. It's outrageously extravagant, but as with melodrama, once you decide to go with it, delicious.

Duo performances

Particularly outstanding were Carlos Vera and Laura Marcarie, with their hypnotic, graceful self-absorption. Knife-faced Carlos Gavito and blonde ice queen Marcela Duran were tremendously engaging in smiling displays of blinding footwork and in slower, intensely sensual moments. Claudia Mendoza and Luis Castro were the comic couple, exaggerating the dance's mannerisms in a way that is pos-



POWER GAME: Miriam Larici and Fabio Narvaez dance a stunningly athletic and erotic duet in *Forever Tango*.

IF YOU GO

Forever Tango plays through February 23 at the Poinciana Playhouse, 70 Royal Poinciana Plaza, Palm Beach. Shows at 8 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday, and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$29.50-\$45 through Ticketmaster (305-358-5885 in Dade,

954-523-3309 in Broward). The show will also run March 4-9 at the Jackie Gleason Theater, 1700 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach. Shows at 8 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$19-\$35 through Ticketmaster.

sible only with complete mastery. The climax was Miriam Larici and Fabio Narvaez in a stunningly athletic and erotic duet — dance as sexual and acrobatic power game.

The 11-piece orchestra, with four bandoneons, played beauti-

fully. Singer Carlos Morel, who does several ballads, seems over-the-top even for this show. Argemira Affonso's costumes were appropriately glamorous. If you want a dose of extravagant showmanship and sensuality, *Forever Tango* is a must-see.