



DAILY NEWS  
**Entertainment**

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## Bravo! 'Tango' still dazzles

### **FOREVER TANGO**

*A revue created and directed by Luis Bravo. At the Shubert. Tickets: \$25-\$85. (212) 239-6200.*

'Forever Tango,' which debuted on Broadway seven years ago and has made a triumphant return, raises an interesting question: Why, of all dances, is the tango so well-suited to the stage?

As you watch the splendid troupe — assembled, directed (and lit) by Luis Bravo — go through their dazzling paces, you're aware of the many contradictions inherent in the tango.

Its origins — in the bars and brothels of Buenos Aires — could not be more base.

Yet, unlike contemporary dances, which make the body seem disjointed and broken, the tango demands a bearing that can only be called aristocratic.

And though the tango and the music it has inspired over the decades are passionately sensuous, its erotic impulses are not expressed in languid or loose movements, but rather in steps of rigorous precision.

Perhaps these paradoxes are at the heart of why the tango is so intensely dramatic.

Onstage is a small orchestra that includes strings, keyboards, percussion and four bandoneóns, the accordion-like instrument associated with tango.

They keep the intensity high as seven pairs of dancers and a few singles go through their demanding but exhilarating paces.

One of the impressive things about the evening is that the dancers work within a simple vocabulary but manage to make the steps endlessly fascinating and involving.

At one point, Jorge Torres and Guillermina Quiroga do a number to canned music that approaches the balletic. But for the most part the choreographic language the dancers speak is entirely "colloquial" rather than highfalutin.

Bravo's lighting enhances the dramatic aura considerably. But so do the erotic glances of the dancers. Even Marcelo Bernadaz and Veronica Gardella, who satirize the erotic component in comic dances, fill their gazes with longing.

As has always been the case with tango shows, most of the dancers are older. Part of the pleasure of the dance is that age seems to only deepen its fascination.

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