



Passionate 'Tango' is 'Forever' young

Forever Tango at Wilbur Theatre, through April 13

Now that "Forever Tango" has come to town, you can forget any notions of couple dancing as suppressed desire or poetic metaphor.

As these 14 men and women make it very clear, the tango is about lust and male domination, dressed up in the compelling rhythms of music that throbs with longing or plunges the soul into abandon. Not much is left to the imagination as the dancers whip themselves into a sexual frenzy — over and over again.

"Forever Tango" is the latest in the national dance extravaganzas, this time bringing the Argentinean dance form into the theatrical spotlight.

Luis Bravo, creator and director, has assembled a troupe of seven couples, backed by 11 musicians and led by Lisandro Adrover, with singer Carlos Morel. The format alternates between segments of dance, usually one couple at a time, and interludes by the orches-

tra.

Bravo has taken the history of the tango as structure for the evening, beginning among the men on the docks of Buenos Aires, then changing to couples when the prostitutes followed. The tango's discovery by Parisian high society shortly after World War I made the dance

popular again in Argentina; transcending borders when silent film star, Rudolph Valentino,

picked up on its appeal.

Nothing much happens in the tango above the waist, except for the woman sagging against her partner in acquiescence.

The motor runs in the continually swinging hips, and the intricate patterns of the feet that flick and fly up-and-down, in-and-out, between each other's legs.

A change of pace comes with some acrobatics in several of the pieces.

The story that's told here is one of perennial pursuit, the man firmly in command. It's dance that comes out at night, presumably to end in the bedroom after the moon goes down.

While there's not much that's missing in the routines of the exemplary performers, one might wish that the women were not so uniformly beautiful and the men were less than perfectly formed. With one exception, their age is forever young.

The character of the Argentinean dance passion crosses age barriers at home and it might make an interesting contrast to see some variety.

Quibbles aside, the evening is a voyeur's dream, set in ballroom-dance heaven. For these few hours, the world is nothing more than two people, locked together in 4/4 time.

THEATER

by Iris Fanger