

A Night of Buenos Eros

Scratch 'Cats' and put Argentina's sexy 'Tango' on your No. 1 dance card

FOREVER TANGO. Created and directed by Luis Bravo. With Miriam Larici, Diego DiFalco, Carlos Morel and others. Costumes by Argemira Affonso. Musical direction and arrangements by Lisandro Adrover. At the Walter Kerr.

I F YOU DON'T THINK THAT TANGO music is intoxicating, perhaps you should read no further. Go to "Cats." Go directly to "Cats." Do not pass Go. Do not collect \$200.

If, however, you share my feeling that no music enters the bloodstream more swiftly



**HOWARD
KISSEL**

and bewitchingly than tangos, you must see Luis Bravo's "Forever Tango."

Fifteen years have passed since "Tango Argentino" reawakened interest in the dance born in the bars and brothels of Buenos Aires a century ago. The earlier show was exciting because much of its cast brought maturity and experience to steps

that are sensual but elegant, erotically charged but rigidly precise.

The cast of "Forever Tango" is much younger. If the earlier show conveyed the melancholy and worldliness of tango, the younger dancers project its galvanizing electricity.

The dances in the first act provide, in effect, a history of the tango, but you don't need annotation to respond to the torrid climate of the music and the stunning way the dancers perform steps of dizzying intricacy.

Interestingly, as in "Tango Argentino," the most emotionally riveting dancing is done by an older man, Carlos Gavito. The intensity of feeling between him and his sultry young partner, Marcela Duran, is extraordinary.

If some of the dancing lacks this emotional component, it all has great libidinal sizzle. Sometimes the steps seem repetitive, but the execution is invariably dazzling.

Much of the excitement comes from the music itself, much of it by that genius who spent many years here largely unbeknownst to us, Astor Piazzola. An onstage



THE RIGHT MOVES: Luis Bravo's "Forever Tango"

orchestra of four men, on bandoneon (the Argentine accordion), strings, keyboard and a superb pianist, plays the music exhilaratingly.

Stunningly costumed and lit, "Forever" is an evening of sheer pleasure.