

# THEATER

## 'Forever Tango' depicts more than lavish dance

By **ELOISE MARIE VALADEZ**  
Staff Writer

Musician Luis Bravo has long loved the music and art forms of the tango. And he is eager to share

### PREVIEW

his passion with Chicago audiences.

Bravo will start doing that when he brings the lush, passionate movements and music of the South American dance to the stage of Chicago's Arie Crown Theatre in "Forever Tango: The Eternal Dance" April 23 through April 28.

Those who have watched and enjoyed tango know it's a sensual, emotional dance with gliding steps and powerful upper body movements. Those who have danced it know of its ability to convey messages that go beyond the beauty of the dance itself.

And that's just what Bravo wants to communicate.

"It's a big mixture of styles, and it's evolved through the years of social, political and economic changes in Argentina," said Bravo, founder and artistic director of "Forever Tango."

He said that the dance is "a genuine art form and a creative one."

It's also something that's "cultural and natural" at the same time, he said.

Bravo created "Forever Tango" in 1990 and followed it with "Forever Tango: The Eternal Dance" in 1994. He said the dance seems to be enjoying a revival today.



Miriam and Fabio are pictured in a scene from "Forever Tango: The Eternal Dance."

Audiences from the West Coast to the East Coast have embraced the tango performances, and the tango continues to show up as part of ballroom dance repertoire across the country.

Bravo explained that tango grew out of the Argentine slums of the late 1800s and later entered the ballrooms of the elite classes.

"It really started on the dark side of society," he said, noting that the dance was also influenced by European and African immigrants who frequented the bars, bordellos and dance halls of Buenos Aires.

### Forever Tango: The Eternal Dance

**When:** April 23-28

**Where:** Arie Crown Theatre,  
McCormick Place, Chicago

**Times:** 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; 7:30 p.m. Sunday

**Tickets:** \$19-\$45

**Phone:** (312) 902-1500

In "Forever Tango," Bravo presents a series of dances that depict the variations of the tango and showcase lush music.

As a professional cellist, Bravo said, he wanted to highlight more of the music that's associated with the tango. And he didn't want to just focus on the dance itself.

"It's really a show made from a musician's standpoint."

Bravo said there's a little bit of everything displayed in the production, from lavish movements and intricate dancing to dramatic interpretations of the music and even the vocals of singer Carlos Morel.

"Forever Tango" also features an 11-piece orchestra made up of strings, pianos and the bandoneon, the signature accordion-like instrument of tango. Starring in the show are seven couples who are leaders in the dance form.

The dances featured in the show display the many sides of tango, from the nitty gritty beginnings to the lavish, elite days of the dance.

Each of the dancing couples has a distinctive style, from flowing, ballet-like movements to intense character dance styles.