

The Honolulu Advertiser

Thursday • MARCH 30, 2000

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'Forever Tango' entertains with polished performances

Every dance reveals something about the society that engendered it.

"Forever Tango," created and directed by Luis Bravo, gives Honolulu audiences the opportunity to be dazzled by the tango, a dance that speaks vividly about romantic relationships in Argentine culture.

The show opens theatrically with a slow, sensuous bordello scene where women are passed around from customer to customer, thighs caress thighs and curvaceous body parts display themselves proudly. This tells us where the tango got its start and sets a mood for the fast-paced dancing that follows.

Throughout the evening, eight sleek and superbly polished dancing couples perform more than a dozen duets and several company dances.

All of the couples dance an intense story of attraction and seduction. Each dance is packed with fiery emotion, sexual tension and a push/pull that is sometimes tender, sometimes violent. "I want you, I don't, leave me, come back," these icy hot lovers seem to say.

What keeps this dance of swivel hips, flashy kicks and long black gloves from becoming redundant as it is performed again and again, is the individuality of the performers, who transform themselves into characters telling a story.

One couple adds comedy by depicting a kind of lively bickering. Like a long-wed couple who can't quite resolve their differences, they alternately squabble and love.

'Forever Tango'

► 7:30 p.m. today, 8 p.m. tomorrow, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday

► Hawaii Theatre

► \$30-\$55

► 528-0506



Marty Sohl/"Forever Tango"

Claudia Mendoza and Luis Castro make up one of the eight couples who are bringing "Forever Tango" to life at the Hawaii Theatre.

DANCE REVIEW

QUALA-LYNN YOUNG

Another couple slows the tempo but not the heat, so that we feel the chemistry of their struggle as it hangs thick in the air.

Miriam Larici and Cesar Coelho are young, strong and daring performers. They take the tango to the present day, dazzling the audience with surprise acrobatics, spectacular lifts and complicated maneu-

vers. The company dances intrigue us and highlight the tango's latitude for individual interpretation by showing seven couples, all performing the tango but each one looking different.

Just as exciting as the dancing is the live orchestra that plays on stage throughout. It features four bandoneon players, of which there are only 200 in the world. Carlos Morel sings in Spanish.

"Forever Tango" is a refreshing dance experience, far from the usual fare.