

***Tanguera*, a return to the past in order to build the future of the genre**

MARIANA NORANDI - FEATURE

The Argentinian musical comedy *Tanguera* makes its debut tonight at Teatro de los Insurgentes. The Argentinian theatrical critics have hailed this show as "the most daring and the most provocative musical ever in the history of tango." During a press conference, its director Omar Pacheco explains, "It is daring for two reasons: the first one is that it breaks away from all the traditional elements of a tango musical comedy. You are not just watching a few couples dancing on stage, but rather the revived choreography and cinematographic sets are narrating a story. The second reason is that the dancers are scantily dressed."

Following Pacheco's explanation, Diego Romay, the producer of this show, adds, "*Tanguera* is an atypical tango show. I know that in Mexico there is a long tradition related to tango spectacles, but you'll see something different here. There are no independent tango dances, or couples on a stage, or an orchestra, rather this is a story with a beginning, a development, and an end."

Through the use of body language, the spectacle narrates the story of a young French girl called Giselle (Mora Godoy) who arrives at the port of Buenos Aires at the beginning of the 20th century to go ahead with a marriage promise. Based on a true story -quite usual in those years-, the girl becomes a lady of the night under Laurencio's thumb, the same man who had promised her love and happiness (Antonio Cervila Jr.). But then Lorenzo (Esteban Domenichini), a dreamer from the city, a witness and a participant in the birth of tango, falls in love with Giselle and he decides to learn the evil rules of those violent people to liberate her from the villain's subjugation and gain her love.

The montage includes 25 artists on stage and the length of the play is one hour and a half. It opened in Buenos Aires two years ago and it has received many accolades, among them: Best Musical Comedy of the Year in Shanghai, China, and Best Argentinian Musical awarded by the Buenos Aires newspaper *Clarín*.

First dancer Mora Godoy says, "Besides these awards, this is the first time that a show has been on stage for one full year in Buenos Aires. The only reason we finished our run there was to begin the tour. Also, *Tanguera* was accepted by both the traditional tango fans as well as by young folks." This spectacle has been in many different countries such as China, Spain and Chile, and there is a long tour through the United States planned for next year.

According to the producer, as innovative as the spectacle is, it still maintains the essence of traditional tango. "What we have accomplished is to get our feet in the past in order to build the future of tango. We are not reacting against the history of this genre, but rather we are building from its own history. In that sense, *Tanguera* keeps the tango's identity, a romantic, seductive, nostalgic genre which is closely connected to the Argentinians, but also delves deeply into universal matters such as love."

Tanguera: Teatro de los Insurgentes: Av. Insurgentes Sur 1587. Performances from June 16 through June 27. Time: Tuesday through Friday at 8:00 pm, Saturday at 5:00 pm and 8:30 pm, Sunday 6:00 pm. Ticket prices: 390 and 490 pesos.