

FIRST NIGHT

## Dance review: Tanguera at Sadler's Wells, EC1

Sensational tango moves dovetail neatly with the melodrama and strong singing in this dark yet entertaining musical

Donald Hutera

Friday July 21 2017, 12.01am BST,  
The Times



Tanguera is a dark yet entertaining tale of budding love  
JANE HOBSON/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

★★★★☆

This narrative-based tango dance production is in good shape, especially when you consider that it premiered in Argentina 15 years ago. Directed by Omar Pacheco, and not seen in London since 2010, *Tanguera* is a dark yet entertaining tale of budding love defeated by sexual exploitation in old Buenos Aires. Live accompaniment from an experienced sextet, plus strong, punctuating vocals (all delivered in untranslated Spanish) by the singer-actress Marianella, help to turn the whole slick package into something resembling a musical. The dancing, meanwhile, is pretty sensational. Choreographed by Mora Godoy, it tends to erupt in short, sharp bursts that dovetail neatly with the mechanics of a plot cooked up by Diego Romay and Dolores Espeja.

It's a sordid melodrama of innocence quickly lost

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