



COURTESY PHOTO

HAILING FROM THE CITY of the dance's origin, Tango Buenos Aires will seduce Lincoln audiences tonight at the Lied Center.

Tango set to seduce Lied

By LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

The tango has often been compared to sex.

With its closely held bodies, staccato beat and ardent lunges, the dance has become a metaphor for the passion between a man and a woman.

And because of its overt sexuality, the tango developed a seedy reputation in its early stages.

Tonight, Tango Buenos Aires explores the history of the tango and its many styles. During a performance at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, the company of dancers and musicians will trace the history of the tango from 1905 to the present.

The company, founded in the mid-'80s, began by performing at the

Michelangelo cabaret in Buenos Aires. Led by Argentinian composer and tango director Osvaldo Requena, the dancers and musicians have been taking the tango around the world.

The tango originated in the cabarets and dance halls of Argentina. In the beginning, only men danced the tango, using it to symbolize their virility and courage. Eventually, women paired up, emphasizing the catlike moves of the dance. Finally, men and women danced together, transforming the tango into a celebration of passion.

Though the dance began with an unsavory reputation, eventually even the aristocracy caught on to it. They took the tango out of the dance halls and put it into their high-class ballrooms, refining the rough edges of the dance.

A little less than a century later, the once-notorious dance has become the

Lied Center The Facts

What: Tango Buenos Aires
Where: Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th and R streets
When: Tonight at 8 p.m.
Cost: \$29, \$25 and \$21, half-price for students
The Skinny: Argentinean troupe of dancers and musicians brings sexy tango to stage

symbol of the city of Buenos Aires. And thanks to movies such as "True Lies" and "Scent of a Woman," the dance has witnessed a rebirth in America.

Tonight's performance by Tango Buenos Aires should provide an authentic taste of this historic, once-scandalous dance.

'Nature' fails to make sparks

By SAM MCKEON
Senior editor

"Forces of Nature" is a movie destined to get mixed reviews. Some will love it. Others will hate it. And it all comes down to one thing: chemistry.

Ben Affleck and Sandra Bullock are the principal elements of chemistry here, as two wayward travelers trying to get from New York to Savannah. Ben (that's his name in the movie, too) is going to get married. Sarah (Bullock) makes up a bunch of stories, but she's basically there to get some money and see a family member.

They get stuck together after their plane crashes and they're forced to drive, ride trains and brave a hurricane. Sarah's a winsome free spirit, Ben's a conservative straight man. It's a road-trip film.

Generally, this movie is a slight play on "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles." But first things first. "Forces of Nature" is not that funny. Not even in the same ballpark as "Planes." Affleck's no Steve Martin and Bullock isn't John Candy.

But you'll immediately notice the movie takes on many of the personalities in "Planes." Bullock has real problems, a la Candy. There's a fire they both laugh at even though it's utterly depressing. There's even a rental car scene.

And while Ben is worried about being late to his own wedding to Bridget (Maura Tierney in a thankless role), he finds himself falling in love with Sarah.

Here's the chemistry thing. Some will really feel it, as Bullock virtually wills Affleck to notice her. There are some real scenes here, with some real acting, especially by Bullock. A hotel scene especially stands out as one of the better (although physically a little unflattering) moments in her movie



COURTESY PHOTO

SARAH (SANDRA BULLOCK) and **Ben (Ben Affleck)** pass themselves off as a young married couple to get a ride with a busload of senior citizens in the romantic comedy "Forces of Nature."

career.

If there's a lack of chemistry, it's Affleck's fault. He doesn't give up the smugness ingrained in his acting easily, and here it shows. The looks on his face never seem to match his emotions.

And a movie like this depends so much on that spark. If it works, and for some, it will, the contrivances wash away into a series of funny yet romantically tense moments. If it doesn't, "Forces" turns into a long, boring film.

This is illustrated by the end of the film, which raises serious questions about the point of the movie.

Most, if not all, that has been established in terms of Affleck's and Bullock's relationship throughout the film is brought tumbling down.

So much goes into those final scenes as to whether or not the chemistry works or not. And the ending seems to validate that it did not. For others, it might have completely validated it. As said before, mixed reviews.

It might not have mattered had the

Film Review The Facts

Title: "Forces of Nature"
Stars: Sandra Bullock, Ben Affleck
Director: Bronwen Hughes
Rating: PG-13 (adult language)
Grade: C-
Five Words: Forced chemistry in the film

film been drag-out funny. But it's not, nor is it played up to be. Director Bronwen Hughes is more equipped to do drama than humor. Scenes that could have been funny aren't, simply because there's too much editing and too many angles.

There's good material here, albeit not all that funny. Ultimately, "Forces" betrays the romance it had going for it throughout the movie, but especially at the end. Even if the chemistry was there, it wasn't enough.

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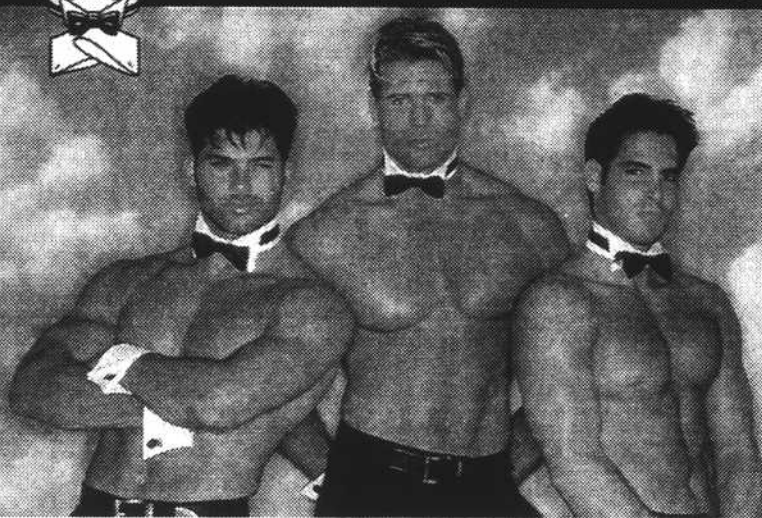
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