

LAST DANCE SALOON



**two people,
no longer in the first
flush of youth,
find each other
at a tango retreat
in Buenos Aires**

**"Sensitive, funny,
moving, poignantly
relevant and viscerally
relatable."**

**multi
story**
theatre
company

MARKETING PACK

www.multistorytheatre.co.uk
office@multistorytheatre.co.uk
07974 569849

ABOUT

THE PLAY



This captivating new show stirs thoughts about love, legacy and the future we envision for our grandchildren. Filled with music, dance and laughter, it delivers a deeply moving experience.

Two people, no longer in the first flush of youth, meet at a tango retreat in Buenos Aires. A spark is lit. Tied to their families in Chile and Devon, they navigate the challenges of a long-distance relationship sustained by tango sessions in Argentina that include unexpected flights of the imagination into the realm of local myth.

multi story have spent twenty-four years crafting powerful narratives for intimate spaces, thriving on the close connections fostered in studio theatres and community venues. Their latest production features relatable characters who try to reconcile what's best for themselves, their families and the future. It resonates particularly with the grandparent generation, contemplating their legacy, while also engaging younger audiences in conversations about the world they're inheriting.

The performance is staged 'in the round' to replicate the atmosphere of a Tango milonga (social dance).

THE COMPANY



Inspired by the energy and can-do-culture of the Canadian Fringe circuit, Gill Nathanson and Bill Buffery established **multi story theatre company** in 2000 to create work that reflects the world we live in, often through the lens of older stories. They currently have a repertoire of six plays for adults and eight for younger audiences which they perform in theatres, arts centres, village halls, community centres, schools and colleges both nationally and internationally.

Covid lockdown saw the company focussing more on their home turf in North Devon. They researched and wrote the first draft of a community play for Barnstaple which is now undergoing further development. Post-covid they insitigated Theatre Workhouse to fill in some of the gaps for local early career theatre-makers who had lost out in their final years at drama school or university.

Gill and Bill also inaugurated Barnstaple's **Fringe TheatreFest** back in 2007 which they continue to be heavily involved with.



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PRESS RELEASE

Last Dance Saloon is the latest creation from **multi story theatre company**, who are about to celebrate their quarter-century milestone.

No longer in the first flush of youth, two people meet at a tango school in Buenos Aires. She's a widow from rural Devon, he's an ex-pat living in Chile, both looking for something more out of life. They meet, they dance, they tell stories together, and their lives are irrevocably changed.

"It's fair to say that, like the characters we play, we're no longer in the first flush", admits Gill Nathanson, co-director of the company. "We're celebrating the stage of life we've arrived at but also quizzing ourselves about what we're handing on to our children and grandchildren."

As research for the play, Gill and her fellow actor Bill Buffery joined a tango class in North Devon where they're based. "We watched tango from the sidelines when we were working in South America," says Bill, "but dancing it is something else. We're totally hooked, caught in its grip."

Tango weaves through the play as the relationship develops, driven by the wit and playfulness of the couple and the intensity of one of the most passionate dances in the world. But broader family responsibilities keep them apart. She's a widowed farmer, trying to support her daughter in taking over the farm; he's a retired Comms Exec for a mining-company, supporting his son through divorce. They maintain a long-distance relationship fuelled by occasional tango weeks in Buenos Aires.

multi story theatre company create big stories for (relatively) small spaces. **Last Dance Saloon** moves across continents, up into the heavens and deep into the underworld. It marries contemporary political, social and ecological realities with timeless myths. "The family relationships are instantly recognisable," says Gill. "Mother-daughter, father-son. Whichever side of the generational divide you are, you're likely to empathise with the mix of exasperation and undying love that swills around the two families." Those relationships are amplified by the stories that they make up together; stories that spring from South American myth but which take off in new flights of fancy to reflect the concerns of the tellers.

Audiences have found this a heady mix: "You expressed lots of different threads about what it is to be alive and human at this time of my life, in this age. And you wove those threads into something that for me, expressed a beautiful freedom of the dance of the heart. Thank you both for creating something that could do that... it's very special."

"Not only thought provoking but a delight - sprinkled with humour and held together with snatches of the tango. Very relevant to our time and so much of it touched me being a grandmother myself. The atmosphere of all the different areas from the airport to the dance studio and streets of Buenos Aires, created just with sound effects."

"I loved the gentle humour, tenderness and mild surprise at arriving at a different stage in life and thinking more about your place in it. Thought provoking on every level and great to feel included... like a warm hug on a stormy night. "

Join **multi story** at their Tango Milonga. Let yourself be transported by the show they've prepared for you. If you feel so minded, there will be the opportunity to throw a few shapes yourself at the end of the evening.

BROCHURE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Two people, no longer in the first flush of youth, find each other at a tango retreat in Buenos Aires. A spark is lit and their passion smoulders – this was meant to be. But one has work and family ties in South America, the other in North Devon. They settle into the frustrations of a long-distance relationship fuelled by regular tango sessions in Argentina that include unexpected flights of the imagination into the realm of local myth. Then one of them weighs the ecological consequences.

A multi story weave of music, song, tango and myth around a contemporary romance.

"Like a warm hug on a stormy night."

"The seamless moving between character interaction, narration and story telling was utterly fascinating. And your weaving of human-driven climate change, with the challenges that most people of middle age and beyond face, and with learning to tango, was a master stroke."

"Sensitive, funny, moving, poignantly relevant and viscerally relatable."

"I just loved it! It felt like you expressed lots of different threads about what it is to be alive and human at this time of my life, in this age. And you wove those threads into something that for me, expressed a beautiful freedom of the dance of the heart... it's very special."

running time 75 minutes, no interval but a chance to dance / learn some tango after the show
age advisory 14+

company social media www.facebook.com/multi.story.7 www.instagram.com/multistorytc



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