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Shall we dance: Vincent and Flavia in rehearsal for The Last Tango which opens in MK next week

Chance to dance with tango stars Vincent & Flavia

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If you can walk, you can Tango. So say the famous dance duo Vincent Simone and Flavia Caccia. As you'd expect, there is no stopping me – I'm on my feet quicker than you can say tango when I met the couple in rehearsals ahead of their final tour which visits MK Theatre next week.

The pair's passionate professional partnership on Strictly Come Dancing endeared them to the nation and, since leaving the ballroom behind, a foray into musical theatre has seen their fancy footwork thrill audiences in venues nationwide. Now, hot on the heels of the success of 'Midnight Tango' and 'Dance 'Til Dawn', comes the dynamic duo's third production, 'The Last Tango'. Vincent explains that the slow, controlled and intense style of the Tango lends itself well to even the most rhythmically challenged beginner because the dancers are free to set their own tempo. We practice the 'slow, slow, quick, quick, slow' sequence on our own a few times. However, as everyone knows, it takes two to Tango. So, next, Vincent instructs us to pair up with the pros. Falling into step with cast member Grant Thresh, I attempt to adopt the upright posture and pliable torso required for the Tango walk (the cami-



It takes two to tango: Georgina is put her her paces by Vincent

nata). Apologising profusely for his post-rehearsal sweatiness, Grant leads me through a sequence of steps and pivots which make a figure of eight pattern on the floor (the ocho) and, together, we mark through the short segment of dance.

The Tango originated in Buenos Aires in the 1890s as an improvisational social dance based on walking. After watching Flavia and Vincent's display of tantalising Tango I am eager to learn as much as possible. I share Grant's feeling of fortune when Vincent bounds over. He is full of effusive enthusiasm and praise for our performance and keen to whirl me around the dance floor himself. Obviously, my arms are carefully placed in appropriate abrazo (dance hold) so pinching myself is not an option – but I really am dancing with Vincent Simone! He and Flavia describe how the

movements I execute can be embellished with "leg play" (all of those flirtatious flicks, and exhilarating kicks, hooks and sweeps that Flavia's legs fly through when the dream team dance).

The couple guarantee that 'The Last Tango' is brimming with enduring heart and emotion, resulting in such engaging storytelling that audiences will be crying, laughing and totally swept away by breathtaking dance. The show arrives at MK Theatre next week giving fans one last chance to see them perform live on stage in a full-length piece. The World Argentine Tango champions have been dancing together for 20 years and now it is time for them to pause, reflect upon their successes and consider new projects – but not before saying goodbye to theatre in style.

●● See Go! for preview.