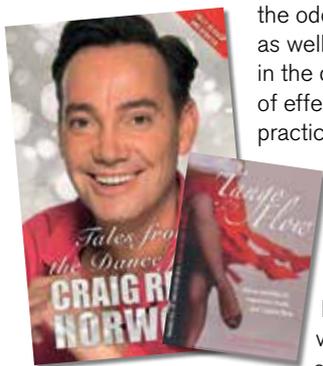


GANCHOS AND GOSSIP

Marianka Swain casts her eagle eye over new guide *Tango Flow* and Craig Revel Horwood's *Tales from the Dance Floor*

Have you ever sat on the sidelines at a milonga, transfixed by a couple lost in their own little world and effortlessly embodying the music? Coach, adjudicator and IDTA examiner Youlie Mouzafiarova provides the key to achieving that level of greatness in her new instructional book, which efficiently analyses not just tango technique, but also methods of maintaining fluidity while improvising, developing style and communicating with a partner.

Tango Flow contains a comprehensive guide to frame, posture, steps and lines, and its detailed index



and glossary means it works well as a manual for either students or teachers to dip in and out of whenever they want to check an element or explore it further.

Youlie's instructions are easy to follow, with step-by-step explanations and notes on counts, and she offers useful variations and developments. More visual learners may struggle, as the small pictures offer little elucidation and

there are no foot-pattern diagrams.

This is an excellent guide for beginner or intermediate students, and more experienced tango dancers may find the odd useful tip as well, particularly in the discussion of effective solo practice and creating

highlight poses. The emphasis on connecting steps and building variations will also make it

a good reference for choreographers – perhaps we'll see a few *Strictly* pros clutching a copy...

Speaking of our favourite sequin-strewn ballroom, outspoken judge Craig Revel Horwood's latest saga is now out in paperback, detailing his life and work from 2009 to 2013. Those in search of *Strictly* scandal will come away happy, with Craig dishing

the dirt on everything from the judging panel's revolving door to the Anton/Laila race row, and there are also numerous luvvie anecdotes about his time in panto and helping the *Strictly* stage shows.

Craig balances gossip and jazz hands with remarkably frank personal disclosures, particularly his struggles with injury and weight gain. While there's nothing to rival the "sugar daddy" revelation of his more explosive first volume, *All Balls and Glitter*, this is still a fab-u-lous read for super-fans. ●

Tango Flow
by Youlie
Mouzafiarova
with David
Pullinger, Gibson
Publishing, £30.
*Tales from the
Dance Floor*
by Craig Revel
Horwood,
Michael O'Mara
Books, £7.99.