

International Ballet Company Graces UNLV

BY JAMES KIM
STAFF WRITER

World renowned ballet dancers Julio Bocca and Eleonora Cassano performed at the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall on Friday.

They were joined by their ballet company, **Ballet Argentino**, in this, the second installment of the Charles Vanda Master Series. Dubbed as "an evening of ballet and tango," the performance gave the audience an opportunity to witness a visually stunning spectacle in which beautifully delicate ballerinas pranced around the stage while their male counterparts jumped and ran about in tights.

The evening opened with *Carmen*, a love story which tells of the turbulent relationship between soldier Don Jose and Carmen, a cigarette vendor.

The story begins when Don Jose hopelessly falls in love with Carmen, who later abandons him for Escamillo, a bullfighter. Don Jose's passion for Carmen is too strong and he is thus unable to endure this situation.

When he begs the free-spirited Carmen to come back to him, she flatly rejects his request, refusing to be controlled by anyone. This sets up the final scenes in which Destiny, an ambiguous character who takes on the shape of a bull, foreshadows the tragic end to this love story.

Following *Carmen*, the troupe performed *Tangos*, a work which encompassed the best Argentinian tangos and milongas, which include the *Pas de Deux*, *Piazzolla en Concierto*, and *El Dia Que me Quieras*. A musical picture of Argentina was drawn in this ballet and indeed, it revealed the passion and substance of the

music from Buenos Aires.

The rest of the evening was devoted to the suite from the ballet *Don Quixote*. The suite consisted of many pieces, all of which were excerpts from the first act of the four act, eight scene ballet that was created in Moscow in 1869.

The focus was on the relationship between the young barber Basil and Kitri, the innkeeper's daughter. In addition to the love adventures of Basil and Kitri, the folk dances of the town's people and the flirtation of a street woman with a bullfighter were also on display.

Near the end, the *Grand Pas de Deux* showcased the technical and artistic abilities of Bocca and Cassano.

Bocca is an internationally respected classical and contemporary dancer with many honors and awards to his credit. In 1985, he competed in Moscow's 5th Inter-

national Contest and won the gold medal for his category. He is also a principal dancer for the American Ballet Theater in New York, and was honored by the *New York Times* as dancer of the year. Bocca performs every season at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and makes tours throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Cassano is an accomplished dancer from the Buenos Aires Colon Theater Superior Institute of Arts. In 1987, she won first prize in the women's category at the New York International Ballet Festival. Since then, Cassano has won many more awards and has performed numerous times throughout Europe.

The next event in the Charles Vanda Master Series is scheduled for Nov. 17, and will feature the **Guarneri String Quartet**. For information call 895-3801.

The Getaway



PHOTO BY STEVE SCHROEDER

A couple of hours outside of Anchorage, Alaska lays the beautiful Matanuska Glacier.

Alaska—Not Just Any Getaway

BY STEVE SCHROEDER
STAFF WRITER

This week I thought I'd shoot big.

It's not that I think this weekend you're going to make it to Alaska, but an adventure like this requires a great deal of preparation and self-contemplation.

There are many ways to get there. If you fly, you can be there in a day. If you have a layover in Seattle, take full advantage of it.

If you drive, it is 3,333 miles to Anchorage, Alaska, from Las Vegas; that is, from my front porch here in town to my friend and fishing-guide's front porch, near downtown Anchorage.

It is 1,050 miles to Seattle. It is nearly another 2,000 miles through the ALCAN Highway, which was built to mobilize troops in World War II, to Fairbanks, Alaska.

An alternative route, the Cassiar Highway, is 100 miles of dirt road on a 400 mile stretch, passing lake after lake, mountains, bears, which finally connects you back to the ALCAN, taking you through the Yukon Territories and on into Alaska.

If you drive, or god forbid, hitchhike, you should have at least \$500 cash or credit card on you, for crossing the Canadian border and such. Buses are also available.

But why go to Alaska anyway?



PHOTO BY STEVE SCHROEDER

Driving to Alaska provides the chance to travel on the scenic, but unpaved Cassiar Highway in British Columbia, Canada.

From glaciers to the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights), to world class salmon fishing and the midnight sun, to the Eskimo and the Aleut Indians, to wildlife viewing and some of the most spectacular landscapes a camera could ever hope to capture,

Alaska has something for everyone.

One could also work at a fishing cannery, make a little money, and will no doubt get an unforgettable experience

Please see Alaska—12

Woody Allen Hits the Bullseye with 'Bullets'

Woody Allen hits the screen with the same slice of life situations and witty dialogue that has made him famous.

Bullets Over Broadway centers around young playwright/director David (John Cusack). He is struggling to get one of his plays off the ground and onto the stage.

David has had less than wonderful luck getting any financing. He gets a backer, but there is one catch. The backer is a big time mobster, and he wants his girlfriend to be in the play. This shouldn't be a big deal, but she wants a big speaking part, and she can't act. She also has an incredibly irritating voice.

Allen also employs some incredible characters. Cheech (Chazz Palminteri) is the girlfriend's bodyguard, who consistently criticizes David's writing. David finally confronts Cheech, and realizes that she has some very good ideas, much better than his own.

David rewrites the play under the guidance of Cheech. Cheech becomes more and more involved in the production as it gains success. This twist allows for some very interesting turns.

Cheech is not the only character that deserves recognition. The entire cast of the play has small story lines of their own. The situations are so realistic that you are able to relate very well. When the audience can relate, the film becomes much more enjoyable.

I have never been a Woody



BY TODD RODGERS

Bullets Over Broadway
(1994, 120 minutes)

Cast

John Cusack
Dianne Wiest

Rob Reiner

Directed by Woody Allen

(out of 10 possible)

Art Direction/Cinematography: 8

Acting/Character Development: 9

Soundtrack & Sound Effects: 8

Overall Rating (Not Averaged): 9

"The Ticket Price": \$7.00

Allen fan, but this film made me laugh. It's witty, interesting, and funny. Excellent characters with great dialogue make this film a must see. It is due for release in November, so if you're a Woody Allen fan see it. If you're not a Woody Allen fan, give it a chance. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

—"The Ticket Price" is based on what we, Rebel Yell movie reviewers, would consider paying for admission if the price of the ticket was open.

Ooh, Scary?



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD

The Student Alumni Association was the only contestant in the funniest pumpkin category—who of course won.