

whose very name, meaning "big," translates locally as superior. Judging from the sold-out houses for the troupe's previous appearances, and for those of other groups somehow claiming kinship, this is how Honolulu likes its ballet — traditional and acrobatically inclined. So, unshamed, the program of popular tours de force remains the same.

A lot else is different, however, as the "new" qualifier suggests. Since the company's 1993 visit, Yuri Grigorovich has been depicted as czar-director, a position reporting directly to Boris Yeltsin, and led out along with him was his wife Natalia Bessmertnova, the prima ballerina assoluta who elevated us to a state of grace with her exquisite *Dying Swan*. Others have also been lost, often to higher pay and cushier lifestyles outside of Russia.

The new blood can't duplicate the perfection those veterans long ago staked out as their signature pieces, nor, for that matter, the drop-dead gorgeousness of the Joffrey Ballet that filled the Blaisdell with its more contemporary, made-in-the-U.S.A. splendor last July. But the Bolshoi can still trade on its hurtling male strength, lushious feminine line, legendary heritage and the dark mystique of having been, pre-glasnost, what *The New Yorker's* Luke Jennings calls "the beautiful face of the enemy." Those being the elements of its glamour, the company will bash out its familiar repertoire and, once again, electricity.

—Paula Durbin  
*The Blaisdell Concert*



Theater: *The Belle of Amherst*

othing succeeds like success, Diana Carter

Anderson, co-founder of ASATD theater, reprises her P.O. Okelah award-winning performance as Emily Dickinson for three shows this week. Her one-actor show, *The Belle of Amherst*, by William Luce, reveals a dynamic, confronting herself in such meditative, professional honesty that it persuades you to

coop-erate; it's a theatrical prayer.

Emily Dickinson certainly presents an ideal candidate for the solitary format of this play. She never really left her home in Amherst, never married, never really pursued a career — rather, she simply stood alone. Thus, standing still, life proved rich enough right beneath her feet to produce a universe of poetry.

The show simply presents us with Emily, surprised at our arrival, forced to relate the consequences of her life. Emily measures reality in words, the music in their echoing mean-

ings, so

brilliantly sculpted by director Edna Lee Murray, lovingly



Dance: New Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet

accepts the limitations of this reality, her delicacy, her confusion, her endless need to play with words. The experience is like sitting with an old beloved aunt who slowly drifts away in her reverie as you nestle together against the rain. You'll find Emily's personal doubts and revelations come for you in ways that simply reading her poems or a biography would never do. You'll feel

Whatever's: DIs Against AIDS III

quiet, confidential, loved, honored and even a little better about your own life. Like a quiet prayer, a moment alone, *The Belle of Amherst* may bring you back to yourself.

—Leroy Thomson

Honolulu Academy of Arts  
Theater, 900 S. Beretania  
St.: TH 11/28 & Sat

11/29, 7:30 p.m.;  
Sun 11/30, 4  
p.m. \$10  
-\$15.  
532-8768

Whatever's

Memorial Days

I wasn't so long ago — two decades! — that this thing called AIDS seemed to be nothing more than a dark rumor. Now an entire generation has grown up under the pandemic's specter, and few can say we've been unaffected by the disease.

December 1 is World AIDS Day. Ten years ago in San Francisco, the AIDS Memorial

Quilt was begun as a means of remembering and honoring those who have died. Now at over 43,000 homemade panels (each panel being 3 by 6 feet), the quilt has become the world's largest community art project — so large that the entire quilt can no longer be exhibited in one place. This week, Waianae High School becomes the first high school in Hawaii to display part of the quilt —

only fitting, considering that one in four people infected by the AIDS virus in the United States are under the age of 20.

If you've yet to see any part of the quilt (32 panels will be displayed here), you'll find it's not something easily forgotten: At times mournful, at times celebratory, sometimes even humorous, the overall feeling one gets is still one of undeniable, heart-wrenching loss. Take your lover, take your children, take yourself ... just see it.

Opening ceremonies take place Dec. 1 from 7 - 9 p.m. and are open to the community. For the rest of the week, visits will be by reservation only.

Waianae High School, 85-251 Farrington Hwy.; Mon 12/1 - Fri 12/5. Call for viewing information — 697-7056

Memorable Night

Those looking for another way to mark World AIDS Day might choose to shake their funny bones when DIs Against AIDS III spins into town. As always, the entire night is a fund-raiser for the Life Foundation and Student Educators Against AIDS.

The night features a stable of 33 volunteer DIs, including G-Spot (the event's co-organizer), Weg, Slye, Ikon, D. Marsz, Pac-Man, Mario, 4est, KSM, HIV's very own Mark C. and too many more to mention.

It's a good time and a good cause (last May's DIs Against AIDS II raised more than \$3,000.) Be there.

*The Wave Waititi*, 1877 Kalakaua Ave.; The 122, 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. \$8-\$10. 956-9958