

'Flamenco' dazzles at Secret Theatre

Yes, they are dazzling and impeccably professional. The fiery singers, dancers and musicians of the American Bolero Dance Company have delivered another electrifying performance. Their venue this June is the Secret Theatre in Long Island City. The powerful, passionate, irrepressible "Flamenco" is the artistic vehicle for the evening.

The troupe's 20th anniversary season continues with incomparable interpretations that delight enthusiastic crowds. Their director, choreographer, production/costume designer and lead dancer is stunning Gabriela Granados. Her first act "Zapateado," "Cuadro Antiguo," and second act "Tango," "Tientos" and "Granada" are breathtaking.

The unmistakable, all-consuming emotions that fill the performers are mesmerizing. They surge, unchecked, from the stage to the audience. First, the pounding of their feet again and again. Then, the click, click, click of the castanets. Throughout the presentation, the shouts of "olé" and "ale" reverberate from every corner of the theater. Truly, an evening with "Flamenco" is a contract with your most intense, instinctive reactions. Bravo!

Violinist Hojin Kim's instrumentals sing with clarity. Pianist William Hobbs' "Malaguena" is wonderful and reassuring. Guitarists Basilio Georges and Christian Puig, along with percussionist Guillermo Barron, are indeed the

show's musical backbone. Baritone Peter Castaldi, mezzo-soprano Darcy Dunn and singer/"palma" Aurora Reyes prove that nothing is more precious than their combined decades of experience.

Beautiful, bright-colored dresses with abundant ruffles (costumes by Marie Jeanne Dusseck) dare to outline every movement by dancers Debra Anich, Adriana Jacinto and Ms. Granados. Their hair is pulled back in a bun with a rose at its top. They sweep across the stage with seductive grace. This is, indeed, the hallmark of "Flamenco." But nothing is more powerful, riveting and hypnotic than Jose Moreno in "Solea." Translated as loneliness,

his dance solo reveals his anguished search for fulfillment. Dressed entirely in black, his boots pound the floor mercilessly. His fingers click. His body unleashes a powerful combination of anger and hope that challeng-

es the audience's own reactions. Well done!

With a complicated Spanish heritage that spans three centuries, "Flamenco" has deep roots. As one of its finest active representatives, the American Bolero Dance Company enjoys worldwide recognition for its expertise and passion. For detailed information on this and future productions, visit www.ambolero.com, call 718-392-8888 or the Secret Theatre at 718-392-0722. As always, save me a seat on the aisle.



A VIEW FROM THE CLIFF

BY CLIFF KASDEN

