

SHOWBIZ BUZZ

> by Robert Cabell

SWAN-NEE!

It seems **Cameron Mackintosh**, the producer who helped bring us *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, and *Cats*, has another mega-hit on his hands. *Swan Lake*—boldly going where no ballet has gone before—will shatter the age-old concept of female swans in tutus with a dazzling new interpretation by choreographer **Matthew Bourne**. The show, featuring an all-male corps de ballet, doesn't open till October but ticket demands are so phenomenal at the **Neil Simon Theatre** that Mackintosh is considering extending the 16-week engagement. During *Swan Lake*'s 1996 six-month West End run in London, thunderous ovations were the norm and audiences returned again and again. The production wowed the critics and took home an Olivier Award. Don't miss the boat to this lake!

THE 19 AMIGOS

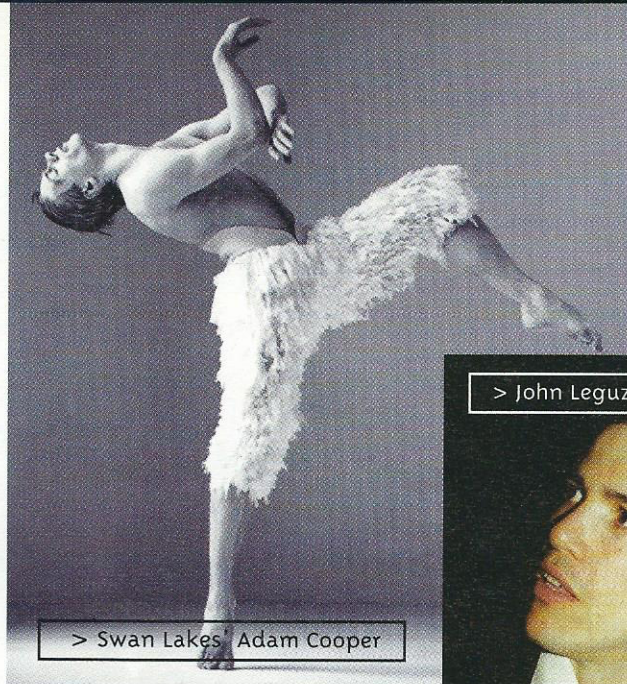
The producers of *Rent* know a sure-fire hit when they see one. They've joined forces with off-Broadway entrepreneur **Daryl Roth** to bring innovative entertainment to New York theatre. *Villa Villa*, the high-flying production by the 19-member troupe from Buenos Aires, De La Guarda, has audiences on their feet—literally! There are no seats for the 70-minute show, held at the brand-spanking-new **Daryl Roth Theatre** on Union Square. To say the show—a melange of carnival, dance, theatre, and rock—has audiences in a frenzy, would be an understatement.

WHO GETS THE LAST LAUGH?

Jerry Seinfeld and **John Leguizamo** are heading to cable! Leguizamo's Tony-nominated one-man show, *Freak: A Semi-Demi-Quasi-Pseudo Autobiography*, will follow in the footsteps of his past solo projects, *Mambo Mouth* and *Spic-o-rama*, by airing on HBO this fall. You'll see more of Leguizamo in **Spike Lee**'s next film, *The Summer of Sam*. HBO will also premiere the very final episode of *Seinfeld* on August 9, when it broadcasts the comic's sold-out stand-up gig at the **Broadhurst Theatre**.

PULLING A LUCCI

For the third time, third season, third show in a row, **Frank Wildhorn** has been passed over, ignored, and snubbed by the American Theatre Wing by not even being nominated for his score of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Somebody up there doesn't like him, but the ticket buying public keeps flocking to his shows. Next up on his plate? The CD of his next Broadway-bound musical, *Civil War*, is predicted to be a hit when it's released in July. The CD includes performances by **Patti LaBelle**, **Trisha Yearwood**, **Hootie & The Blowfish**, **Dr. John**, **Linda Eder**, **Travis Tritt**, **Amy Grant**, **Betty Buckley**, and **Bebe Winans**—just to name a few—and is narrated by **James Garner**, **Charlie Daniels**, and **Ellen Burstyn**. As he



> Swan Lakes Adam Cooper

> John Leguzamo



heads to the millenium's end with two other musicals, *Havana* and *Svengali*, how much longer can the Tony committee deny him his due?

HYPNOTICALLY SPEAKING

Cicely Tyson was shopping in Barnes & Noble Bookstore on 82nd and Broadway recently, but she wasn't buying books. She purchased three audio cassette tapes, *Pillars of Fire*, *The Art of Small Business*, and *Self Hypnosis*. It seems that Ms. Tyson, whose performances have hypnotized audiences for generations, is taking this ability to another level.

A JEWEL FROM THE NILE

A new **Elton John** collaboration with Disney, slated to open January 1999, is now in labor. The musical version of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Oasis, *Aida*, goes into rehearsal this August for its premiere in Atlanta at the **Alliance Theatre**. The current working title, taken from a song title in the second act, is *Elaborate Lives*. Disney has passed over several stars for the lead roles, hoping to create a show that will last longer than the pyramids. If Disney succeeds with another mega hit, Broadway will be nicknamed "The Great Mouse Way."

GET SHORTY GETS DOWN

Downtown at the Mercury Lounge, we found **Elmore Leonard** touring the country with a rock/blues/country punk-metal trio called the **Stone Coyotes**. Just goes to show that a family that plays together, stays together. Dad plays bass; mom, lead guitar; and son bangs on the drums. Mr. Leonard used their music as inspiration for his new *Get Shorty* sequel, *Be Cool*. The further adventures of Chili Palmer begin as he returns to Miami to become a music producer—after souring on Hollywood—and finds a new maiden to rescue. Trouble comes packaged in the form of a bodacious blonde who's trapped in a five-year contract with a rapper-producer-pimp. Meanwhile, back at the Mercury Lounge... when asked what it was like touring with Leonard, Coyote lead singer Mom replied, "It's nice for Elmore to be able to travel around the country with us. Maybe we can help him get his career off the ground." ★