

Mistresses of the night

"The Birdcage," Music and Dance Review
Russell House Ball Room, 10 p.m.

managing editor **SARA LADENHEIM**

Discouraging bigotry and learning from the differences in other people are two key phrases incorporated into the Carolinian Creed. To further this message of tolerance and education, the USC Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association is sponsoring "The Birdcage," a review in drag.

Co-sponsored by Carolina Productions and the Student Judicial Board, the show will feature four local up-and-coming drag performers.

"It is almost like improv entertainment," said BGLA secretary Brian Quick. "It is entertaining but with an educational message oriented toward college students."

Drag is something many people haven't seen before, and Quick hopes it will lead to tolerance where there might otherwise be ignorance. "We hope to reduce ignorance and answer questions that will [dispel] many stereotypes that surround the gay community," he said.

BGLA graduate assistant Pat Patterson hopes the use of the Creed to promote tolerance and acceptance will lead to more students being less

homophobic than they were before they saw the show.

Misinformation and ignorance surrounds the homosexual (or transgendered to be politically correct) community. Not all drag queens, or performers

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Brian Quick
secretary, BGLA

are homosexuals. In fact, according to Patterson, 70-80 percent of all drag queens are heterosexual.

"I hope the activities of this coming week make one less [derogatory] homosexual remark heard, one person's laugh at a homosexual joke silent or

perhaps even one less hate crime occur," Patterson said. "To me that would be wonderful."

Many progressive motions toward accepting alternative lifestyles have been incorporated into the USC community this year. For the first time the University 101 textbook, The Freshman Experience, includes the BGLA experience.

"BGLA wants to be present and visible as a support and educational part of society," Patterson said. "We are open to all students regardless of sexual orientation. We welcome all allies."

Tonight's show will feature local star Samantha Hunter, whose costumes and generosity have made this show possible.

"Samantha was willing to participate without any questions asked. Her appearance fees were waived, too," Patterson said. "Since we [BGLA] are on a strict budget, performers who'd donate their time and energy so selflessly were thoroughly appreciated."



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK
Male performers dressed as women, or "in drag," will be the spotlight of tonight's performance.

EVENTS

- Swing Shift Big Band, 7:30 p.m., April 22, USC School of Music recital hall.
- Concert Choir, University Chorus and Columbia Choral Society with the USC Symphony, April 23. Public, \$13; students, \$7. Tickets are available at the Coliseum box office or by calling 251-2222.
- "King David," 7:30 p.m., April 23, Koger Center. Public, \$13; students, \$7. Tickets are available at the Coliseum box office or by calling 251-2222.
- USC Symphony with the USC Concert Choir and USC University Chorus, 7:30 p.m., April 23, Koger Center. Public, \$13; students, \$4. 251-2222.
- "I made this jar..." The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-American Potter Dave" opening reception, 6-8 p.m., April 24, McKissick Museum. Free.

CONCERTS

- Eric Clapton, 8 p.m., April 22, Charlotte Coliseum. Tickets are available at the Coliseum Box Office or at Ticketmaster outlets. To charge, call 679-9333.
- Loch Ness Johnny, April 22, Sundance Grill
- Two Skinnee J's, April 22, Elbow Room Music Hall
- Fastball, April 23, The Library
- Harold Burrell Jazz Ensemble, April 23, Beulah's Bar & Grill
- Sheldon w/ Sub 4, April 23, The New Brookland Tavern
- Shogun 3:16, April 23, Pizza Bistro

LIGHTS! CAMERA! REACTION!

PRACTICAL MAGIC
(out of five stars)

"Practical Magic" is the story of two sisters, Sally and Gillian. But they aren't average sisters -- they're the descendants of a long line of witches. This is the story of what happens when they break the law by murdering Gillian's boyfriend. They aren't in trouble only with the law; they're also in trouble with the spirit world.

Starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman. Directed by Griffin Dunne. Written by Robin Swicord, Akna Goldsman, and Adam Brooks. Based on the book by Alice Hoffman.

gamecock critic **JAMIE BOWMAN** ★★½

"Do you believe in magic?" ...the spell that only "falling in love" can cast. If not, "Practical Magic" may give you the little nudge that you need.

This movie is very touching and light-hearted enough to be very uplifting and enjoyable. Bullock and Kidman play off one another's characters beautifully—almost convincing the audience that they could really be sisters.

"Practical Magic" opens with a woman being hanged because she's a witch, and the infamous "Owens curse" has struck again. The curse denotes that any man who falls in love with an Owens woman will inevitably die shortly thereafter. Sally and her sister Gillian move in with their two aunts after their father passes away on account of the dreaded love curse, which is signified by the sound of a beetle. Therefore propelling a young Sally Owens to make-up her own love spell for a man that couldn't possibly exist—he must be able



Jimmy Hawkins (Goran Visnjic) with Gillian Owens (Nicole Kidman)

to flip pancakes, ride a pony backwards, and have one green eye and one blue.

After basically giving up on the idea of ever finding true love and living a "normal" life, someone comes into her life (with the help of her aunts). What seems to be utter bliss is short-lived as the unavoidable sound of the beetle carries with it news of the curse. Also it shows how confusing love can be as what brings two people together is often baffling. In the case of "Practical Magic," murder is the culprit. While feeling a massive amount of self-pity for herself, Sally writes a heart-wrenching letter to Gillian, which she never receives. Rather it is read by an investigator tracking the disappearance of Gillian's boyfriend. With love being the central theme, "Practical Magic" explores the idea of believing in yourself and your own "magical powers." It shows that if love is true, it will prevail. This movie is heartwarming, to say the least, with bits of humor and sadness intertwined around a solid cast

and a vivid imagination. You'll leave the theatre smiling, guaranteed!

gamecock critic **EMILY STREYER** ★★★

Sally Owens and her sister Gillian, born into a long line of witches, attempt to get out of the mess they create when they violate the laws of both the spirit world and the United States by killing (twice) in self-defense Gillian's abusive boyfriend, all the while battling a family curse, superstitious townspeople, and two-dimensional PTA moms. The entertaining plot weaves into a sappy, unbelievable love story, which, quite fortunately, receives far less treatment than is suggested by the trailers.

Nicole Kidman gives a surprisingly good performance, as do Stockard Channing and Dianne Wiest as the maiden aunts, although top-billed Sandra Bullock is not in top form.

As with most books adapted to the film (this one based on a novel by Alice Hoffman), there is simply too much to

cover in two hours. The characters obviously experience emotional dynamics, but the audience is left out by the film's rapid clip.

The production values are as seductive as the Owens women—a large Victorian house, a charming coastal New England town, and amazing foliage and gardens, especially for a film crediting only two greenspeople. The Owens women also seem to know a spell for phenomenal hair. The cinematography was also interesting, although a lesser goal seemed to be showing Nicole Kidman's legs as often as possible.

The action moves along to a feel-good cheesy acoustic guitar soundtrack (apologies to Stevie Nicks fans), and the computer graphics effects are quite worthy of a look.

There are many things to do on a night at the cinema that are worse than seeing this film. If you don't ask this film for more than it offers, which is an entertaining story and a bit of eye candy, you won't be let down.

Unique jazz band coming to Columbia

encore editor **RUTH NETTLES**

Those few college students who could pick a mandolin out of a group of unfamiliar instruments might expect to hear some kind of bluegrass music played on it. But the Jazz Mandolin Project has something different in mind. Composer Jamie Masefield's latest version of the Project is making its Columbia debut with an eclectic blend of sounds.

Masefield is currently on tour with the constantly evolving Jazz Mandolin Project. The blend includes classical, Latin, tango, and rock. The trio from Vermont plays to a series of frequently sold-out gigs at colleges, clubs, theaters, and festivals. Since 1993, the Jazz Mandolin Project has attracted a group of young jazz fans to concerts unlike the nightclub scene they may be used to. The sounds they are likely to hear transform from funk to blues, to bluegrass and soundtracks. The show is ever-changing and largely original.

Masefield was originally from New York and graduated from the University of Vermont with degrees in environmental studies and geography. His grandfather was a bassist in the well-known Tommy Dorsey band. That inspiration led him to his musical journey which began at the young age of eleven. He learned to play Dixieland jazz on a tenor banjo. Shortly thereafter, he took on the similarly-tuned mandolin as his primary means of musical expression and composition.

He has created the Jazz Mandolin Project and uses the name as a working title for a career always in progress. It is the name of a show, a real project, because it is never the same twice. Masefield is accompanied by Chris Dahlgren and Scott Neumann. Dahlgren and his voice joined earlier this year. He also plays on the up-right bass. He has accompanied jazz legends such as Joe Lovano, Red Rodney, and Herb Ellis.

Scott Neumann joins Masefield on the drums as a percussionist and also works as a composer. The Oklahoman is the newest addition to the group. He has recorded and performed with a wide variety of artists.

The Jazz Mandolin Project will make its appearance in Columbia on Monday, Oct. 26 at The Elbow Room. They will come to USC that same day to participate in a course here. Professor Jack Jacob's course "Geography of Modern Music" will be open to the public that day. The class takes place at 1:15 in room 015 of Calcott.

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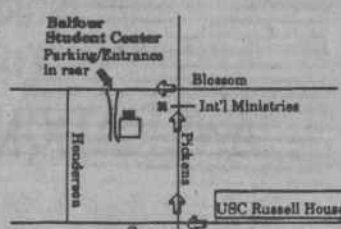
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"WOULD YOU GET AN A IN CHEATING 101?"

Find Out at the 1998 FALL FORUM
sponsored by **OMICRON DELTA KAPPA** and **MORTAR BOARD**

WHAT? The 1998 Fall Forum centers around academic integrity, one of the tenets of the Carolinian Creed. "Would You Get an A in Cheating 101" addresses the ins and outs of academic ethics. Issues that will be highlighted include resume padding, what professors consider cheating, and examples of academic integrity.

WHO? The Forum will consist of four spokespeople: **Scott Lewis** (Judicial Affairs/Student Discipline), **Jean Ann Linney** (Chairperson, Dept. of Psychology), **Dennis Pruitt** (Director of Student Life), **Lisa Weaver** (1998 Homecoming Queen) In addition, a student moderator will guide the discussion and debate among the participants.

WHEN? Thursday, October 22, 1998 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

WHERE? Russell House 315 (The Omicron Delta Kappa/ Mortar Board Room)