

A moving experience

Brazil's Augusto Soledade finds his artistic voice in U.S.

It's a long journey from the port of Bahia, Brazil, to Smith College. Augusto Soledade, the 38-year-old Brazilian-born founder and artistic director of Brazz Dance Theater, says he traveled for years in search of a home, finally deciding Western Massachusetts was really the best place for him to start his dance company.

Well-known in the Northampton area, Brazz Dance Theater (comprising 13 dancers and four

Dance

THEODORE BALE

drummers) makes its Boston-area debut tonight at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. The program includes original pieces inspired by the Afro-Brazilian tradition as well as the idiosyncrasies of American contemporary dance. There will be plenty of live drumming, but there will also be some Mozart, Brazilian pop and even a solo performed in silence.

Soledade, a full-time visiting assistant professor in dance at Smith College, is both poetic and straightforward when describing his work.

"One thing I want people to understand is that fusion is not new," said Soledade, a choreographer and writer with an undergraduate degree in

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Teen violinist Kutik embraces Pops culture

By KEITH POWERS

When he steps onstage with the Boston Pops on Sunday, Yevgeny Kutik will fulfill the dream of every high school classical musician in Massachusetts.

The 18-year-old Pittsfield High School senior won this year's Boston Symphony Orchestra concerto competition in February, and first prize means a date on the Symphony Hall stage with the Pops orchestra and maestro

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to win the competition.

"I thought I might have a chance this year," Kutik said. "In 2001, I played a lot worse and finished third. I know I'm playing lots better now. But you never know what someone else is doing, so I wasn't counting on a win. I just

Keith Lockhart. Kutik will perform the first movement of the Sibelius concerto, which he played

wanted to play my best and see what happened."

Kutik, born in Minsk, Belarus, moved to Massachusetts when he was 5. He began playing violin at an early age, but admits, "I just battled with my mom all the time. It wasn't until I was 11 or 12 that I began to practice by myself."

His mother, Pittsfield High School orchestra director and violinist Alla Zernitskaya, was his first teacher, but he began coming regularly to Boston for lessons when he was 10. He

studies now with the venerable nonagenarian Roman Totenberg, who also is the main reason Kutik has decided to attend Boston University this fall.

"I thought of going to a conservatory, but I decided not to," Kutik said. "I've attended pre-college at New England Conservatory and at Juilliard, so I knew what I would be getting into. I wanted a broader education, and BU

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