

# CONFIDENTIAL

+Tuesday, November 16, 2004 The Courier-Mail



## Bikini tale hits the stage

IN 1979, a Ukrainian beauty clad only in a red bikini made front-page news in both Australia and the Soviet Union. The beautiful 18-year-old **Lillian Gasinskaya**, pictured right, jumped from a Russian ship into Sydney Harbour and was found by a photographer. The media quickly named her the



also made the front pages in the Soviet Union. Now 25 years after the event, a 25-year-old Moscow dancer named **Viktoriya Sokolova** from the Great Red Army

Russian Red Bikini Girl, and she sought, and was granted, asylum in Australia. The story and photos

Choir and Dance Ensemble is paying tribute to Gasinskaya. Sokolova was born the same year as the adventure, and praises Gasinskaya for her courage and appreciates her desire to live in one of the world's most beautiful countries — Australia. Sokolova, above, surrounded by fellow performers Alexei Mazanov, left, and Vitali Osipov. The recreation of the event by the troupe is taking to the stage at QPAC's Concert Hall on Friday, December 3.