

## Trojans win

Lelly High to face Duluth Northview of Ga. in finals tonight

Sports



## Clash kills 10

Islamic extremists set off bombs and battle with police in Saudi Arabia

3A



## King of pomp

Dallal's photographs capture the grandeur of British pageantry

Neapolitan



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# KING OF POMP

*Dallal's photographs capture the grandeur of British pageantry*

"To horse! To horse!" is not the only theme in photographer Henry Dallal's exhibition, "Pageantry & Performance," at the Naples Museum of Art.

As a handsome addition to "The Grand Tour in Miniature — British Royalty," Dallal has filled the Phil's two west galleries with celebrations of royal pomp as well as a stirring tribute to British soldiers, in the field and at play.

To do this he includes many of his best Cibachrome photographs from some 23,000 slides he has taken. Dallal also has added a 23-minute digital loop of large projected images



**Donald Miller**

in the first floor gallery-within-a-gallery. It is a must-see event last seen in an outdoor court before thousands at Windsor Castle.

Shortly after displaying his still photography and his book, "Pageantry & Performance" at the Weatherburn Gallery here in January, Dallal approached the Naples Museum of Art. It decided his photographs would augment the current "Grand Tour in Miniature." The muse-

um store also offers Dallal's fine book (for \$100).

Dallal will reprise his three-Kodak carousel slide presentation with music and sound, first seen here under a tent at the Weatherburn Gallery and supported by the English Speaking Union chapter. He will speak and perform in the museum's Daniels Pavilion at 10 a.m. on Jan. 13.

If you know how balky slide projectors can be, Dallal's show with three running simultaneously is like seeing him whip a mechanical troika. Kodak has

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## Pomp

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supplied Dallal with some of its last parts since it no longer makes carousel projectors.

Dallal, 49, son of Naim and Loris Dallal of Naples, was born in Iran, where he was a freelance photojournalist during its revolution. After living in Colorado 16 years and attending the University of Denver, Dallal settled in London 11 years ago near the Household Cavalry's Knightsbridge barracks.

He also pursued a business in real estate that has allowed him to climb mountains in the Hindu Kush, Alaska and other places — as well as ride horses, his great passion. He recently photographed the cavalry in Rajasthan and visited the former Portuguese colony of Goa on the west coast of India. He plans seven or eight more visits to photograph the Indian cavalry. In its grandeur it seems as though it is still in the 19th century.

In London, Dallal zips around on a bicycle hunting likely shots. What keeps him there is his enjoyment of London's mix of cultures. He is now well-known, from the soldiers and police to

## If you go

"Pageantry & Performance," Henry Dallal's still and projected Cibachromes

**Where:** Naples Museum of Art, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Through Feb. 6

**Admission:** Adults, \$8; students, \$4; members free

Queen Elizabeth II. Two of his images are being considered for British postage stamps.

Dallal brings to his subjects an intensity that strongly suggests to the viewers that they are there. He has a keen ability to capture panoramic views as well as the telling closeups of a trained eye, such as crowds or Buckingham Palace reflected in horns or ceremonial armor.

As an American citizen he is still dazzled by the pageantry many Britons take for granted, since the Household Cavalry has been in existence since Charles II created it in 1660. But much training and practice go into keeping these 250 black steeds at the peak of perfection.

In discussing his work, Dallal

points out a superb photograph of the queen and Prince Philip going to the opening of Parliament in an ornate Australian coach with its Down Under national crest on the door.

The shot catches the profiles of both royals. Often the door pillar cuts off their noses, he notes. In that photograph, sunshine gleams on the queen's diamond tiara, and it can be seen in the window in the door, which has been cranked down a bit. The queen is also pictured with favorite mounts Lily, Peter Pan and Tinker Bell. Dallal took this portrait for "All the Queen's Horses," a Golden Jubilee tribute in May 2002 at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Dallal says he thinks of himself as an "invisible fly," busily documenting the most formal of events. He loves the attention the royal horsemen pay to their uniforms, as well as their equine equipages. He delights in finding the finest of details in fancy regalia, and the paradox of catching military men walking in tennis shoes as they tote tall, black boots to keep any dust from touching the polish.

But Dallal also loves the dust the horses raise in parades, seen in the brilliant "Left Wheel," marking a parade turn, since it adds to the sense of movement. He also captures the intricacy of

the uniforms, the brocades and embroidery as well as the informal shots of soldiers and their animals.

Dallal emphasizes in this exhibition, his first in a museum, that the horsemen and women are not living relics of past ages but easily participate in fields of battle like Bosnia or Iraq. He includes a number of scenes of conflict.

One of his most unusual sequences in his digitized show is the young soldiers and their mounts playing in the surf off Norfolk on the North Sea. Dallal has caught the men at their ease. He says the horses love this experience. "You should hear them squeal [with delight] when they get out in the deep water" and experience flotation, he says.

Dallal says he is annoyed that Parliament recently outlawed fox hunting, a sport he has photographed for four years. He has no use for the dragged mink-scented bag commonly used in American hunts. "It's the end of a grand tradition," he wails like a country squire. He scoffs at Oscar Wilde's droll definition of fox hunting: "The unspeakable in pursuit of the inedible."

But there may be a Dallal book on the subject someday. Meanwhile, he is at work on a

book on the lord mayor of London, and aspires to another about Vienna's Spanish Riding School. He, and we, will see.

Dallal is grateful to Kodak, Scala and BAE Systems for technical help as well as exhibitions designer Christopher Erikson and the museum staff that quickly fashioned the fine projection space and its built-in velvet-cushioned bench.

*Donald Miller, longtime art critic and author, lives in Naples.*