

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or jlq@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2010

WHAT: Lar Lubovitch Dance Company
WHEN: Tuesday, November 2 at 7:30 PM
WHERE: UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.umasstix.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>

(LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY BRINGS LUSH AND SOPHISTICATED CHOREOGRAPHY TO UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER)

Hailed as “one of the ten best choreographers in the world” by *The New York Times*, Lar Lubovitch creates dances that are renowned for their musicality, rhapsodic style and sophisticated formal structures. Dance enthusiasts throughout the world have praised his radiant choreography and deeply humanistic voice. The New York-based Lar Lubovitch Dance Company appears at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 PM, performing recent works, as well as classic pieces from Lubovitch’s repertory, including "North Star."

Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* remarks on the classic "North Star": "this extraordinary company performs... a beautiful and mysterious piece set to Philip Glass’ work of the same name. The dance explores the full kinetic potential of Glass’ experimental score, in constantly flowing, shifting patterns of movement."

In addition, the company will perform the duet excerpted from Lubovitch's longer piece entitled "Meadow."

The troupe also performs the one of Lubovitch’s newest works, “Coltrane’s Favorite Things,” set to John Coltrane’s 1963 “Live in Copenhagen” interpretation of Richard Rodgers’ “My Favorite Things” and performed in front of a rendering of Jackson Pollock’s painting “Autumn Rhythm (No. 30).” The *Village Voice* praised the piece: “Lubovitch may dance to a different drummer, stylistically speaking, but his choreography has found the heartbeat in Coltrane’s music and many of the spatial high jinks in Pollock’s painting.”

Born in Chicago, Lubovitch studied dance at the University of Iowa and the Juilliard School, where his instructors included Antony Tudor, José Limón, Anna Sokolow and Martha Graham. After graduation, he performed with numerous ballet, jazz and ethnic dance companies before forming the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in 1968. In addition to choreographing more than 100 dances for his own company, Lubovitch has created dances for numerous professional ensembles throughout the world, including the New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Paris Opera Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the White Oak Dance Project, among others. Lubovitch also created the musical staging for the 1987 Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine musical, "Into the Woods," for which he received a Tony nomination, and in 1993, he choreographed the Broadway show, "The Red Shoes," for which he received the 1993-94 Astaire Award from the Theater Development Fund. Subsequent work included the musical staging for "The King and I" and Walt Disney's stage version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

In addition to his work for stage, screen and television, Lubovitch has also created ice dances for Olympic gold medalists John Curry, Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill, and a full-length ice-dancing version of "The Sleeping Beauty" for Olympic medalists Robin Cousins and Rosalynn Sumners. In 2007, Lubovitch founded the Chicago Dancing Company, a nonprofit organization with a mission of presenting a wide variety of quality dance and building audiences in his native Chicago. As a part of the effort, the Chicago Dancing Festival was launched in collaboration with Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art and the City of Chicago. The festival's official premiere was a free one-night-only dance concert in Millennium Park that was attended by more than 8,000 people and featured dancers from seven leading American dance companies.

Described as a "national treasure" by *Variety*, the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company is one of the world's foremost modern dance ensembles, and has performed in virtually every state and more than 30 countries since it was formed more than 40 years ago. In recognition of its work, the company has received numerous grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

"North Star" was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces: Dance initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Tickets for Lar Lubovitch Dance Company are \$35, \$30, and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC and youth 17 and under are \$10. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or on the secure Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umasstix.com/>. This performance is sponsored by *The Rainbow Times*

with additional support coming from the New England Foundation of the Arts. For more information about the Lar Lubovitch dance Company including video and interviews with the choreographers, visit <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download:

<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom/index.html>

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or

<mailto:sfarley@admin.umass.edu>

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

-END-