

NEWS RELEASE



UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

www.fineartscenter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2007

WHAT: UMass FINE ARTS CENTER presents:

A five day Mobile Residency Project and public performance

WHEN: October 22 – 26, 2007; Public installation on October 26 at 2:30pm

WHERE: Pelham Elementary School

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom/index.html>

(A one-of-a-kind residency that leaves a lasting impression)

The Arts and Education Program of the Fine Arts Center hosts a week-long residency by artist and actor Kevin Reese. His five day Mobile Residency Project will take place within the Pelham Elementary School where students will design and build a permanent kinetic sculpture to be installed on the school grounds. The residency also includes a performance of Mr. Reese's one-man piece entitled *A Perfect Balance*. The performance will be held at Bowker Auditorium on Friday, October 26 at 10am. The performance is open to schools and home school families throughout western Massachusetts.

The Mobile Residency Project started with a pre-residency visit where Kevin met with the school to determine theme, size, and placement of the sculpture. The students created their own drawings of what they thought the sculpture should look like. Incorporating the students' input, Kevin used them as inspiration to create a model which will be brought to the first day of the residency.

Over the five-day period, the students will help to measure, cut, sand, and assemble the mobile. It will then be taken apart in preparation for painting. The students decide together what colors to use and how those colors will be applied to the mobile. On the final day, the students participate in the final assembly and in the unveiling of the mobile for the entire school and community.

The final day of residency also includes his performance of *A Perfect Balance* at the UMass Fine Arts Center, Bowker Auditorium. The performance is an exciting multi-media adventure inspired by the work of American Artist Alexander Calder (the inventor of the mobile). *A Perfect Balance* follows a young artist on his quest to capture his exuberant vision of life. Music animated circus sculpture and projected masterworks of modern art complement the dynamic performance. The show's spectacular conclusion takes shape with a mobile, 17 feet across that suspends into the audience.

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The unveiling of the sculpture will be open to the public. It will happen at Pelham Elementary at 2:30pm on Friday, October 26.

A Perfect Balance will be performed at 10am in Bowker Auditorium, UMass on Friday, October 26. Tickets to the performance are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center at 413-545-2116 or go online to <http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/school/registration.html>

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