

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Shawn Farley or Carolyn Kilmer at 545-3671



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 26, 2005

**WHAT: The Fine Arts Center presents: *BREAK! The Urban Funk Spectacular*
Special 30th Anniversary Event**

WHEN: Friday, October 21 at 7:30pm

WHERE: Concert Hall

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or

go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

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(Break! Offers Thrilling Tribute to the History of American Urban Street Dancing)

In celebration of its 30th Anniversary season, The Fine Arts Center is proud to present ***BREAK! The Urban Funk Spectacular***, on Friday, October 21st at 7:30pm in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. On the preceding night, October 20th at 7pm, members of *BREAK!* will hold a break dancing contest for members of the Five College and local communities. The winner of that contest will perform in the public performance on Friday evening. The break dancing contest will be held at the Student Union Ballroom on the UMass campus and is open to the public for observation. Those wishing to participate in the contest should call 413-545-3671 for more information.

The *BREAK!* performance explores the past 30 years of hip hop dancing, while paying homage to what has become a popular and wide-spreading form of Urban-American art. The cast members' unorthodox creative movements to various types of music including funk, rap, hip hop and soul, demonstrates a distinctive American art form which finds its roots in the inner city streets. The 90-minute program, with a

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percussionist and disc jockey, is made up of 10 segments including “Block Party,” “Popping 9-2-5,” “Times Square” and “Pass da Beat!”

Various dance styles such as break-dance, lock, “electric boogaloo” or “popping,” and power tumbling are displayed throughout the company’s performance. Cast members use many different patterns of footwork, spinning (on heads and hands), and gymnastics to create a vibrant and stunning effect. In addition, several different backdrops, stage designs and props are used to fashion a specific atmosphere and environment for each dance segment.

The cast of *BREAK!* is made up of talented dance specialists who have been featured as solo dancers in performances with such show business legends as P. Diddy, Janet Jackson, Ringo Starr, Whitney Houston and Luther Vandross.

In addition to the public performance on Friday evening and the break dancing contest on Thursday evening, Break will also be presenting two performances at Northampton High School on Thursday and a public school performance (sold-out) at the Concert Hall on Friday morning.

Break will perform at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Friday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30, \$25, and \$15; youth 17 and under are \$10 and Five College Students are \$15, \$10, and \$7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries. This performance is sponsored by Coca Cola, Valley Advocate and WEIB 106.3FM and presented in cooperation with the UMass Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life.

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