

# Asian Arts & Culture Program



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**What:** home land security

**When:** November 4, 2005 at 8PM

**Where:** Bowker Auditorium UMASS

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

Press release text and press-quality images are also available on our website at [www.fineartscenter.com/press](http://www.fineartscenter.com/press)

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## **World premiere of new theater work about New England communities in the aftermath of 9/11**

The Asian Arts & Culture Program announces the world premiere performance of **home land security**, a new play by Obie award-winning playwright/director Marty Pottenger. This performance, commissioned in 2004 by the Center for Cultural Exchange in Portland, Maine, involves a broad cross section of people – members of local ethnic communities, homeless people, civic leaders such as Portland Mayor Jill Duson, the media – in an examination of the consequences of the “war on terror” in the lives of ordinary people. The performance is on November 4, 2005 at 8PM at Bowker Auditorium at UMass in Amherst.

A rich creative collaboration spins out of this community activism. Original music is to be premiered live in the performance with Peruvian guitar player Juan Corderi of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra in a first time collaboration with French Canadian fiddle player Greg

Boardman and Somali drummer Harun Sheekey. The music is a testament to the power of collaborative engagement, whether musical, personal or political.

*“What kind of community do we want? What are we willing to accept in the name of security?”* – Fred LaMontagne, Fire Chief, Portland.

**home land security** was created by Marty Pottenger through an extended series of artist residencies, interviews with all strata of the Portland community, from street people to the governor, a series of story circles, and civic dialogues that have fostered a citywide conversation about issues raised by September 11. What does “home” mean to you? What makes you feel “secure?” **home land security** takes as a point of departure the US Border Patrol’s raid on Portland’s Latino and Somali markets, which revealed some of the impact of the “war on terror” in the lives of ordinary people in our community. The rationale for, and civic reaction to this raid, was explored in discussions with the entire spectrum of local opinion – from refugees and homeless people to city and state officials, radical activists to conservative columnists. From these discussions, Marty Pottenger has crafted a script that explores the substance of community, and the commitment, resiliency and humor that are reflected in our civic forum. The actors and musicians who perform in **home land security** are themselves the participants who experienced these events – their participation is immediate, visceral and deeply personal.

**home land security on Friday, November 4 at 8PM. in Bowker Auditorium**  
**Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$7 for students.**

**Call the FAC Box Office 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS**

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