



UMass Amherst
FINE ARTS CENTER
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2006

WHAT: Center Series presents: LUMA Theater

WHEN: Friday, October 27 at 8pm, 2006

**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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(PRE-HALLOWEEN FUN ON TAP AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER WHEN LUMA BRINGS ITS ONE-OF-KIND LIGHT SHOW TO THE STAGE)

The Center Series presents LUMA, a surreal world of light, color and motion where thinking stops and astonishment begins to the UMass Concert Hall Friday, October 27 at 8pm. What better way to get in the Halloween spirit than by being entertained in the dark? The show, part of the Family Fun Series, begins in the darkened theatre, where all house and stage lights are shut off. Soon bright, three-dimensional beams of light jump, bend, vibrate, dance, dazzle and crawl to the strains of musical classics such as "Hungarian Rhapsody." Iridescent trapeze artists perform aerial feats as fireflies dance, fireworks gently explode and dazzling stars shoot across the sky. Audiences are treated to artistic depictions of carnival rides, twirling DNA strands, computer screen savers, EKG graphs and multiplication on a cellular level.

Luma was born out of the mind of founder Michael Marlin who now goes by the single name, Marlin. After a colorful past which included running away with the circus, tending to 18 elephants and working as a professional juggler and comic, Marlin left the entertainment "biz" for the peace and solitude of the Big Island in Hawaii. He lived in an "off the grid" tree house of his own making. The contrast to his previous existence in LA was astounding. The lights at night came not from street lights and neon but only from the stars, the moon or the glowing volcano illuminating the horizon. Standing on a lava flow on the "edge of the earth", Marlin had an epiphany that all life is drawn to light like deer in the headlights, a moth to a flame and a seed to the sun. Who doesn't remember playing with a flashlight under the covers or catching mysterious fireflies on a late summer night as a child?

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Marlin's first work was a piece that spoke to the loss of the night sky through the overuse of artificial lighting. Luma, nothing like the old laser light shows to a Pink Floyd soundtrack, uses dark as a canvas and light as the brush to paint a story of how light occurs to humanity. Luma's work contains many elements of science and physics, sparking interest from the engineering industry. Luma has recently performed at events that showcase new technologies, including General Motors launch of Cadillac's Night Vision, the University of Wisconsin Engineering Expo, the 1999 Inventor's Hall of Fame induction ceremonies and the Internet release party for the Sci Fi Channel.

Luma's light has bounced from one end of the earth to another. With performances from Florida to Japan; from Scotland to India, Marlin's fantastic light trip reignites the childlike wonder of the night sky in us all. The Chicago Tribune raves, "Figuratively and literally illuminating. It never fails to amaze!" Great entertainment for the entire family; the Fine Arts Center offers reduced prices for students and youth 17 and under. Performances Plus! will offer a matinee performance of Luma for schools on October 27 at 10am. Members of the troupe will also offer a juggling master class to the UMass Juggling Club later that day. A post-performance talk will be held immediately following the evening show that will focus on the technical aspects of the show's creation.

Tickets are \$35, \$25, \$15; Youth 17 and under are \$12; 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 tickets may be safely purchased online at www.fineartscenter.com. This performance is sponsored by the Daily Hampshire Gazette and 93.9 The River.

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