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# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2006**

**WHAT: Center Series presents: Momix: Lunar Sea  
Pre-show Dinner at 5pm at the University Club  
Post-performance talk-balk**

**WHEN: Thursday, November 16 at 7:30pm, 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](http://www.fineartscenter.com/tickets)**

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**(momix's lunar sea brings the audience on a magical, joyous trip to the moon)**

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX brings its audience on a gravity defying trip to the moon in LUNAR SEA, Thursday, November 16 at 7:30pm in the Concert Hall. MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. Pendleton has been one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers and directors for over 30 years. One of the founding members of the ground-breaking Pilobolus Dance Theater in 1971, he formed his own company, MOMIX, in the early 80's and has been its Artistic Director since 1984. Mr. Pendleton has also worked extensively in film, TV, and opera and as a choreographer for ballet companies and special events.

LUNAR SEA conjures up another world where the laws of gravity and limitations of form no longer exists. When asked about the creative process behind LUNAR SEA, Mr. Pendleton told Kathryn Shattuck of the New York Times, "I was basically trying to devise a ballet as if you were witnessing it on the Moon with one-sixth of the Earth's gravity by using various tricks and techniques to elevate the body." LUNAR SEA is a mesmerizing and beautiful 90 minute, intermission less work, performed in 2 parts. In the first half, titled "Sea of Tranquility", Phosphorescent sea creatures seem to emerge from the darkness" and "bodies seem to float in

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mid-air" with the help of a black lighting technique that only allows the eye to see certain parts of the dancer's bodies. The stage is transformed into a moonscape and the audience is



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hypnotized as exotic life forms seem to spring to life unbidden. "Bay of Seething," the second half of LUNAR SEA, is a more upbeat section, with music from the likes of Hans Zimmer and angel-like puppets created by Michael Curry that float hauntingly through the air. Marilyn Jackson of The Philadelphia Inquirer described the performance as "a gently erotic, lightly humorous, videographic masterpiece – a life aquatic for the stage."

For 20 years, MOMIX has been celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body. In addition to stage performances world-wide, the company has frequently worked on special projects and in film and television. MOMIX has made five Italian RAI television features broadcast to 55 countries (including the USSR and China) and has performed on Antenne II in France. MOMIX was also featured in PBS's "Dance in America" series. The company participated in the "homage a Picasso" in Paris and was selected to represent the US at the European Cultural Center at Delphi. MOMIX has performed throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe and Asia. The company is based in Washington, Connecticut.

**Sup the Light Fantastic** at a prix fixe dinner prior to the show at the University Club. A special menu has been created in keeping with the theme of Lunar Sea. Choose from an orange dusted salmon filet with brightly colored lime, mango and red pepper relish or the vegetarian choice of squash filled raviolis with the chef's special electric sauce. Dinner is \$25 and reservations can be made by calling the box office at 545-2511. Seating begins at 5pm.

Tickets are \$40, \$30, \$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](http://www.fineartscenter.com). Funding provided in part by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) as part of the NEA Regional Touring Program. NEFA receives major support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with additional support from the state arts agencies of New England. Sponsored by: WGBY 57, PeoplesBank and 93.9 The River.

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