NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center
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WHAT: Fine Arts Center Presents Paul Taylor Dance Company
Thursday, November 13, 7:30 PM
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

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Paul Taylor Dance Company to Perform at the
Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts

World-Renowned Troupe Brings Iconic Style and Breathtaking Performance to Amherst For Extremely Limited Engagement

AMHERST – October 22, 2008 – The Paul Taylor Dance Company, the iconic, world-renowned leader and innovator of modern dance, is appearing in Amherst at the Fine Art Center at the University of Massachusetts on Thursday, November 13th. The performance will be at 7:30 P.M. at the FAC Concert Hall. This performance is part of the Arts Give Back campaign where audience members are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Items will be collected in the lobby.

The Company is known as a global leader in dancing creativity, artistry and expression. Revered as a pioneer of modern dance, Mr. Taylor is as skilled at choreographing across a variety of dance styles as he is at developing new forms of his own. His dances have been applauded for their cultural relevancy, artistic beauty and physical grace. The Paul Taylor Dance Company has performed around the world and is excited to be performing in Amherst.

“The dances we’re performing in Amherst showcase a variety of dance styles and themes,” explained John Tomlinson, General Manager of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. “Paul’s dances achieve a balance that makes them not only enjoyable to watch but personally and culturally meaningful as well.”

The program will include performances of three dances from the Paul Taylor repertoire: Arden Court, Eventide and Le Sacre de Printemps (the rehearsal). Arden Court (1981) is a showcase for Taylor dancers’ astonishing athleticism with music by William Boyce, set and costumes by Gene Moore and lighting by Jennifer Tipton. Eventide (1997) with music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, set and costumes by Santo Loquasto and lighting by Ms. Tipton. While the
commissioned score was being completed, Taylor set part of the dance to Stravinsky’s “The Rite of Spring.” It is fitting, therefore, that *Le Sacre du Printemps* (the rehearsal) is returning to the repertoire, which uses the piano version of that score. *Sacre*, a 1980 work in which a dance company rehearses a Runyonesque whodunit, has sets and costumes by John Rawlings and lighting by Ms. Tipton.

Established over 50 years ago, the world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company sets the global standard for contemporary dance excellence. Since the company’s founding in 1954, Mr. Taylor has choreographed 128 dances, many of which have become iconic fixtures of dance, celebrated throughout the world. The Paul Taylor Dance Company has performed in more than 520 cities and 62 countries. Mr. Taylor continues to choreograph for his own 16-member Company as well as the six-member Taylor 2. Mr. Taylor published his autobiography, *Private Domain*, in 1987 and was the subject of the documentary film *Dancemaker*, nominated for an Academy Award in 1999. Mr. Taylor has achieved countless industry accolades including the Kennedy Center Honors, one of the nation’s highest artistic distinctions, and the National Medal of Arts.

In conjunction with the performance, the University Club & Restaurant is offering a pre-performance dinner of sophisticated tastes and textures. Please join us for Seared Sea Scallops with Asiago Vegetable Risotto or Creamy Asiago Vegetable Risotto. Dinner also includes tossed baby greens with dressing, warm rolls, special selection of deserts, and coffee or tea. All for the prix fixe of $25. The University Club & Restaurant is an easy walk from the Concert Hall. Reservations for the Global Gourmet dinner may be made through the FAC Box Office.

The appearance of the Paul Taylor Dance Company is sponsored by Silverscape Designs, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and The River 93.9 FM. Tickets are $40, $30, and $15; Five College/GCC students and youth 17 and under are $15. Tickets are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at www.fineartscenter.com.

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