

Asian Arts & Culture Program Series



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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WHAT: Asian Arts & Culture Season Preview

WHEN: Season 2009/2010

TICKETS: Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS

We give you a reason to love the Arts!

The Asian Arts & Culture Program (AACP) at the University of Massachusetts opens its 2009-2010 season with an exceptional line-up of shows and cultural events. Join us for our wonderful inspiring season of unique events, from travel tours to free weekly films to sensational performances and outstanding lectures, there is so much for every age to joyfully experience as we embrace the cultures of Asia and beyond.

Starting **September 9 through December 2**, New Asia Cinema 2009 focuses on East, South, Southeast, and Central Asia, and the Middle East, celebrating the music and poetry of everyday life in local languages with screenings of new and recent films, plus inventive and inspired cinematic showcases, remixes, and happenings. **All screenings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted and held on Wednesdays at 7pm at the UMass Isenberg School of Management Flavin Family Auditorium Room 137.**

See a complete listing of films at our website: www.fineartscenter.com/asian.

Tours galore! We are offering two escorted bus tours to the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Travel to view the exceptional exhibit **Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul** on **Saturday, September 12** and

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The Art of the Samurai: a first comprehensive exhibition devoted to the arts of the Samurai on **Saturday, November 21.**

October days are filled with fabulous events that heal the mind and invigorate body and soul. By popular demand, we are once again presenting **Healing in Tibetan Buddhism**, a three-day seminar **October 16-18 at the Florence Civic Center, 90 Park Street, Florence.** Revered Buddhist teacher **Khen Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Tsetan**, Professor David Gardiner and Dr. Phuntsog Wangmo will focus on **Avalokitesvara**, the Bodhisattva of Great Compassion. By addressing the topic **Awakening to Happiness: Cultivating Compassion**, Rinpoche and the two scholars will offer practical Tibetan Buddhist techniques for experiencing joy in daily life through analysis, meditation, deity yoga & mantra.

Our **Spirit & Soul** performance weekend October 24 and 25 presents two outstanding concerts. Join us on Saturday, **October 24 at 8PM in Bowker Auditorium** to relish **Mita Nag's** powerful rendering of classical Indian ragas. She leaves the audience breathless as the melody and resonance of the Sitar strings ripple through her supple fingers. Mita is accompanied by the great drummer **Pandit Samir Chatterjee** on tabla. On **Sunday, October 25 at 3 PM in the First Churches, Northampton**, we join the community in remembering our late friend Sufi Bashir Ahamed with a special performance of **Rumi: Poetic Readings by Peter Rogen with Music by Amir Vahab.** The poetry of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, recognized for its loving spirituality, has spread throughout the world, and has made him one of the greatest literary and spiritual figures of all time.

Love Bollywood music? **Kehkashaan**, Washington DC's hottest Bollywood band, with a repertoire ranging from oldies to the current sizzling hits from popular Hindi movies will perform on **Saturday, November 7 at 8PM in the Concert Hall.** Moving and grooving with the **UMass Fusion Dance team** you are sure to have a rollicking good time!

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A testament to the resiliency of the Cambodian people who survived the genocide and have re-established their traditions of arts & culture, we bring the Massachusetts based **Angkor Dance company** in concert and screen the film **Monkey Dance** in an afternoon event titled, **Cambodia Remembered** on **November 15 at 3PM in Bowker Auditorium**. There will be a post show discussion.

Spring 2010

Traditional Balinese Gamelan & Robots- what's that? Come experience **Galak Tika** America's most innovative Balinese gamelan performing traditional and contemporary music and dance for Balinese gamelan, electric guitars, electronics, and **Ensemble Robot's Heliphon**, a robotic glockenspiel. This musical hybrid promises to "expand the horizons of both music and humanity's relation to machines." See it **Friday, March 5 at 8PM in Bowker Auditorium**.

A riveting concert for all seasons as the fabulous and virtuosic Zakir Hussain presents his **Masters of Percussion** ensemble on **Saturday, March 27 at 8PM in the Concert Hall**. Featuring Zakir Hussain and musicians from India, the ensemble plays on percussion instruments as well as the stringed sitar and sarangi. In a performance featuring long stretches and different configurations, folk and classical music, the emphasis is always on rhythmic dexterity. Zakir Hussain is a star drummer. By using every surface of the tabla, and every surface of the palms and heels of his hands, the sides of his fingers and fingertips, Zakir is able to get an incredible range of music from his instrument.

The excitement and novelty of new and unique work continues in an extraordinary dance concert by the Japanese hip-hop artist **Kenichi Ebina** and his company on **Thursday, April 8 at 7:30PM in the Concert Hall**. Fusing Freestyle Hip Hop with Poppin', Lockin', Mime, House, Jazz, Contemporary and Ethnic dance styles, as well as martial arts, comedy and visual illusion, Kenichi & Company's unique dance show, "New Moves," is complete with sound and

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lighting effects. A performance sure to appeal to audiences with interests ranging from dance to athletics.

In a historic collaboration between Art and Environment groups in the Pioneer Valley, we are thrilled to present the leading environmentalist and National Geographic speaker Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, dubbed as “the Queen of Trees” in a free public talk **Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections with Trees** on **Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30PM** in **Bowker Auditorium**. Additionally, Dr. Nadkarni will teach and participate in numerous activities in the Five Colleges. Drawing from her 2008 book of the same name, Nadkarni’s talk will present a rich tapestry of personal stories celebrating profound connections we have with trees: the dazzling array of goods and services they provide, their role in commerce and medicine, and the powerful lessons they hold for us.

Savoring the best for the last, **Discover Turkey** in a special escorted tour **June 18-28, 2010**. Organized and presented by The Turkish Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts in partnership with the Asian Arts & Culture Program at UMass, enjoy the history and beauty of the renowned cities of Istanbul and Ankara. Turkey is home to famous monuments such as the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia Museum and Topkapi palace. It’s a land where you can breathe in the spices of the “souks”-markets that entice shopping or spend an evening strolling along the Bosphorous. Travel into the heartland to Cappadocia, Pamukkale, and Anatalya, see wonders and enjoy the hospitality of local people. We encourage you to apply early to participate in this tour offered at a special all inclusive cost by going on our website www.fineartscenter.com/asian for details.

The Asian Arts and Culture Program at the University of Massachusetts endeavors to broaden the awareness and knowledge of the artistic and cultural heritage of Asia and the Middle East through performing arts and educational events by traditional and contemporary artists and scholars. We encourage you to take advantage of enjoying each event this season.

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