

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 13, 2010

- WHAT:** Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet
WHEN: Saturday, October 2 at 8 PM
WHERE: UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to
<http://www.umasstix.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go
online to
<http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>

(SLEEK, EDGY AND TECHNICALLY FIERCE: CEDAR LAKE CONTEMPORARY BALLET OPENS UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER'S SEASON)

The Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet will perform at the Fine Arts Center's Concert Hall on the UMass Amherst campus on Saturday, October 2nd at 8 PM marking the beginning of Center's 2010-2011 season. Under the Artistic Direction of Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Cedar Lake has quickly become known in America for innovation and excellence in contemporary dance. Through their daring, athletic movement and integration of ballet into contemporary and popular forms, the dancers of Cedar Lake take audiences on a choreographic journey that explores up-to-the-minute physicality and cutting-edge multimedia technology. There will be a pre-performance discussion with the Artistic Director Benoit-Swan Pouffer at 7:15 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall.

The Manhattan-based company's repertoire includes both national and international works by choreographers such as Alexander Ekman, Crystal Pite, Jacopo Godani, Stijn Celis, Angelin Preljocaj, Ohad Naharin, Didy Veldman, Jo Strømgren, Luca Veggetti and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. The Fine Arts Center's program will include the work of three of these choreographers: Joe Strømgren, Jacopo Godani and Didy Veldman.

Exploiting the company's talents, Joe Strømgren's *Sunday Again* weaves abstract movement patterns with baroque musical ornamentation from Johann Sebastian Bach to tell the simple story of a couple taxed by the quirks of cohabitation. In Godani's *Unit Reaction* the dancers are pushed until they release themselves from the cerebral and are totally immersed in the purely physical qualities of dance. There is a

geometric architecture to this piece that is alive and explores our place in a world of mass communication and sensory overload. Tinged with irony and humor and set to a varied score, acclaimed Dutch choreographer Didy Veldman's piece *frame of view* investigates how emotion can energize and overtake the body.

Founded in 2003 by Nancy Laurie, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet has distinguished itself through both its exceptionally talented corps of fifteen dancers and its concurrent emphasis on acquiring and commissioning new works by the world's most sought-after emerging choreographers., Described by New-York Times writer Roslyn Sulcas as, "a team of wonderful performers, adept at picking up different styles," Cedar Lake is, "always impressive in their articulation and intensity."

Tickets for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet are \$35, \$30, and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC and youth 17 and under are \$10. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or on the Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umasstix.com/>. This performance is sponsored by The Rainbow Times and the UMass Alumni Association. For more information about the Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet including video and interviews with the choreographers, visit www.fineartscenter.com.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download:

<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom/index.html>

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.