

Asian Arts & Culture Program Series



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Sue McFarland, 413-577-2486
aacp@acad.umass.edu

WHAT: The Kite Runner

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21, at 8PM in Bowker Auditorium

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

The Kite Runner: Great literature crosses boundaries to produce great theater!

With continuing wars on two fronts- Afghanistan and Iraq, the importance of understanding Islam, the people and cultures in the Middle East countries remains a priority for the American society. This fall, theatre-goers in the Valley will have the opportunity to see a riveting one-man production of The Kite Runner on Tuesday, **October 21, at 8PM** in UMass Amherst Bowker Auditorium followed by a post-performance question and answer period with this accomplished artist.

Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511.

Based on the bestselling novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini, the script is a verbatim adaptation from the book. The drama portrays the story of Amir, a boy from Kabul haunted by the guilt of betraying his childhood friend during the tumultuous latter years of the 20th century. From the fall of the monarchy in Afghanistan through the Soviet invasion, the mass exodus of refugees to Pakistan and the United States, and the Taliban regime, the Indian-born and New York city-based actor Sorab Wadia transports the audience through time with his masterful storytelling.

###MORE###

Wadia has a long list of theatre credits to his name, especially in New York. More recently, he has garnered rave reviews for his performance of Hussein al-Mansour in Jihad: The Musical at the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In addition to theatrical performances, Wadia has also performed on television's 30 Rock and The Chappelle Show, as well as films, including Suburban Girl and Hiding Divya. Through Wadia's touching performance this brilliantly crafted story of the beauty and anguish of Afghanistan comes alive.

The Literature to Life presentation of *The Kite Runner* is made by special arrangement with The American Place Theater. For over forty years, The American Place has nurtured emerging talent in the dramatic arts and has produced the first plays of important authors such as Sam Shepard and the work of unusual contemporary actor/writers including Eric Bogosian and John Leguizamo. Actors for whom The American Place has been a launching pad feature Ellen Barkin, Michael Douglas, Faye Dunaway, Morgan Freeman, Richard Gere, Joel Grey, Dustin Hoffman, Frank Langella, Ralph Waite, Sam Waterson, and Sigourney Weaver.

Presented in partnership with the UMASS Department of Theater

Please see our website at: www.fineartscenter.com/asian for additional information including a complete schedule of events, locations, times and ticket prices. Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511.

Downloadable high resolution photos and electronic versions of press releases for performance events are available at:

<http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian/press.html>.

End