

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 27, 2010

- WHAT:** Hugh Masekela to Perform at Bowker
WHEN: Wednesday, October 13 at 7:30 PM
WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
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/>

LEGENDARY SOUTH AFRICAN TRUMPETER HUGH MASEKELA TO PERFORM AT UMASS

On Wednesday, October 13th at 7:30 PM celebrated trumpeter and composer Hugh Masekela brings his signature sound—jazz and pop blended with the music of his South African roots—to the intimate Bowker Auditorium stage at UMass. Over the course of his 50-year career, Masekela has journeyed from apartheid South Africa to the forefront of the world music scene, and he has been heralded for his innovation in both the jazz and world music genres. He has released over 25 records and collaborated with artists throughout the US, Africa, and Europe including Miriam Makeba, Fela Kuti, Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte, and Herb Albert.

In addition to headlining his own ensembles, Masekela is well known for his integral role backing Paul Simon's tour for the classic album *Graceland*. His Grammy Award-winning hit *Grazing in the Grass* sold over 4 million copies, and brought him international recognition. His music was selected by renowned choreographer Alvin Ailey to underscore a dance piece entitled *Masekela Language* for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which explores oppression by drawing parallels between the era of South African apartheid and the race-induced violence in Chicago during the 1960s. The multitalented artist also co-created the Broadway hit musical *Sarafina* which introduced the sounds and passion of South African music to theater audiences worldwide.

Hugh Masekela's work as an activist raised international awareness of the South African government's restrictive apartheid policies, and his hit song *Bring Him Back Home* became an anthem for the Free Nelson Mandela movement in the 1980s.

Masekela continues to conduct educational residencies and maintains an extensive touring schedule.

Tickets for Hugh Masekela are \$30 and \$20; 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 Pioneer Valley Periodontics, The Valley Advocate, and WFCR 88.5 FM.

In addition to the concert, there will be several opportunities to gain a more intimate understanding of Hugh Masekela and his music through film and conversation. On October 12th at 6:30 PM in Augusta Savage Gallery, there will be a screening of "Umlando—Through My Father's Eye." The film takes Masekela and his American-born son Salema, an ESPN reporter for FIFA World Cup, on a journey together as they explore the people, culture and inspiring landscape of South African history. This 10-part series was featured during 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Then, on October 13th at Bowker Auditorium, WFCR's Kari Njiiri will host a public conversation with legendary South African musician Hugh Masekela and his son, ESPN and "E" entertainment reporter Sal Masekela. Hugh Masekela has been a defining force in world music and the struggle for human rights both in Africa and around the world. This dialogue will explore a variety of topics including US and South African civil rights movement, South African music and the evolution of world music, the exportation of sport, music and culture, international awareness of Apartheid, as well as "The New Africa" and South Africa's recent hosting of World Cup 2010.

Both events are free and open to the public. Visit fineartscenter.com for more information.

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.

FILM SCREENING

Tuesday, October 12, 6:30 PM, Augusta Savage Gallery, New Africa House, UMass Amherst Campus

"Umlando—Through My Father's Eye" featuring legendary South African musician Hugh Masekela and his American-born son Salema, an ESPN reporter for FIFA World Cup. Together they explore the people, culture and inspiring landscape of South African and the nation's history. This 10 part series was featured during 2010 FIFA World Cup. 45 minutes.

Co-sponsored by UMass Fine Arts Center, The Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Department of Sports Management. Free and open to the public.

ARTIST TALK

Wednesday, October 13, 1:30 – 2:45 PM, Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst Campus

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