

@THE FAC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or jlq@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17th, 2011

- WHAT:** PHILADANCO Dance Company
WHEN: Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 PM & Thursday, March 10 at 10:00 AM
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 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/>

(PHILADANCO DANCE COMPANY: CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE @THE FAC)

On Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 PM, the UMass Fine Arts Center will present a performance by the Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco). This year marks the illustrious troupe's 40th anniversary of exceptional dance performances for the public and training for diverse communities throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The evening's program for Philadanco's FAC Concert Hall performance includes the cutting-edge work "By Way of the Funk," choreographed by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and set to the music of Parliament and the Funkadelics. Also on the bill are "Bolero Too," a full-company piece set to a powerful musical score by Ravel; "Elegy," which smoothly blends the techniques of classical ballet and modern dance; and "Enemy Behind the Gates," set to the music of Steve Reich.

In addition to the 7:30 PM performance, the Fine Arts Center has opened a 10:00 AM show, originally reserved for public school students, to the general public. This performance is one hour in length and showcases "Rosa," which is based on the story of Rosa Parks. The performance is at the Concert Hall; tickets are only \$10 for the general public, and may be purchased through the FAC Box Office by calling 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS. School groups can arrange discounted admission to the 10:00 AM show by calling 413-545-4157.

The original mission of Philadanco, "to present the highest quality of professional dance performance, and to provide exceptional training for the improvement of skills for emerging professional dancers and choreographers in a nurturing environment while increasing the appreciation of dance among its many communities" has withstood the test of time, budget cuts, and the passage of 40 eventful years.

Since its founding in 1970, Philadanco has had a significant impact on the dance world. Its artistic direction and renowned national and international guest choreographers have developed a reputation of producing a dance repertory with passion, power, skill and diversity. Over the years, a stellar faculty has trained over 4,500 dancers in a comprehensive program that achieves high levels of technical skills in dance and performance. The unique blend of dance styles of Philadanco, and its roster of 50–60 concert performances and 45 residencies annually has made it one of the most sought after modern companies in the United States. Performances regularly sell out and audiences eagerly anticipate the company's performance season each year.

Philadanco is a Global Gourmet event. Reservations for a pre-curtain dinner at the University Club may be made by calling the FAC Box Office.

Philadanco is sponsored by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association, *The Rainbow Times*, 93.9 FM The River, PeoplesBank, and UnityFirst. Tickets for the 7:30 PM show are \$35, \$25, and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or on the secure Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umasstix.com/>. Tickets to the 10:00 AM show are \$10 for the general public and are available through the Box Office; school groups may arrange for discounted admission by calling 413-545-4157.

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PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download:

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

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.

CALENDAR LISTING

The UMass Fine Arts Center presents @ THE FAC

Philadanco Dance Company

Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 PM

Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

A Fusion of Ballet, Modern, Jazz & Ethnic Dance

Tickets: \$35, \$25, \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC students and youth 17 and under: \$10. Call 545-2511, 800-999-UMAS or purchase online at <http://www.umasstix.com>.

10:00 AM Performance

Tickets: \$10 for the general public, through the FAC Box Office. Discounted admission for school groups is available by calling 413-545-4157.