

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2009

**WHAT: Fine Arts Center Presents Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 PM
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
Tickets available at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at
www.fineartscenter.com.**

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Hubbard Street Dance Chicago to Offer Display of Athletic and Comic Prowess for Fine Arts Center Performance

AMHERST, January 14, 2009 – Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC), under the dynamic leadership of Artistic Director Jim Vincent, is among the most original forces in contemporary dance. On Wednesday, February 4 at 7:30 PM, HSDC will bring its unparalleled expertise to the UMass Amherst Concert Hall for a performance featuring works from their 2009 repertoire including *Strokes Through the Tail*, with choreography by Marguerite Donlon and music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *The Constant Shift of Pulse* with choreography by Doug Varone and music by John Adams and *Minus 16* with choreography by Ohad Naharin and music by various artists. There will be a pre-performance talk by Prof. Constance Valis Hill at 6:45 pm in the Fine Arts Center Lobby.

Donlon's "Strokes Through the Tail," created in 2005 as part of Hubbard Street's collaboration with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is a hilarious meditation on macho conductors in black tailcoats and the ballerina who turns them into white swans who don't know whether they're coming or going. Fluid yet unpredictable movement marks the distinctive choreographic voice of Doug Varone in his new work, *The Constant Shift of Pulse*. This intricate and visually powerful piece illuminates the purity of movement, as its 12 dancers test the boundaries of trust and release. An audience favorite, Israeli

choreographer Ohad Naharin's clever and humorous full-company piece "Minus 16" breaks down the barrier between audience and performer. Set to music ranging from Dean Martin to cha-cha, mambo, techno and traditional Israeli music, the piece's audio track includes interviews with HSDC dancers.

HSDC, under the dynamic leadership of Artistic Director Jim Vincent, is celebrating 30 years as one of the most renowned dance institutions in the world, performing annually for more than 100,000 people. Critically acclaimed for its exuberant, athletic and innovative repertoire, the company features dancers who display unparalleled versatility and virtuosity in performances that inspire, challenge and engage audiences worldwide. Continually expanding its diverse repertoire with work by leading national and international choreographers, the company also contributes to the art form's evolution by developing new choreographic talent and collaborating with artists in music, visual art and theatre.

Tickets are \$40, \$30, and \$15; Five College/GCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15. Tickets are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at www.fineartscenter.com. The appearance of HSDC is sponsored locally by Florence Savings Bank, Prudential Sawicki Real Estate, and The River 93.9 FM. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago is funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the MetLife Foundation.

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