

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center www.fineartscenter.com

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**WHAT: Fine Arts Center Presents Tomáš Kubínek:
Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible
Friday, February 13 at 7 PM**

**WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets
Check Tomáš Kubínek out on YouTube by [clicking here](#)**

**IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online
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KUBINEK'S PERFORMANCE IS THE PERFECT REMEDY FOR THE WINTER BLUES!

Take years off your life with a healthy dose of the joyfully impossible, brilliantly unusual and delightfully mad world of Tomáš Kubínek, a self-described fool, clown, visual poet, solo performance artist, multi-talented vaudevillian, and comic genius! **Tomáš Kubínek** (toh-mawsh koo-bee-neck) will take the stage at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Friday, February 13 at a special time for families: 7PM. Kubínek is celebrated by both audiences and critics. This modern renaissance performer has sold out Broadway and has delighted, dazzled and charmed crowds throughout the world. There will be a free Family Fun reception prior to performance in the lobby starting at 6PM. An annual affair, the staff of FamilyFun Magazine will provide free hands-on craft activities, Baystate Health's Bandy Bear will be there, as well as complimentary healthy snacks for all while they last. Kubínek will also be offering a private mini-performance for children at the Baystate Children's Hospital the next day.

Imagine one part Monty Python, one part absurd acrobatics, one part inventor of all things charmingly useless, one part quack magician—combine it with the creative

genius of an amazing performer... and watch him fly... literally! *The New York Times* has lauded his work as “absolutely expert and consistently charming,” while the *Santa Fe Reporter* says his show is “Masterfully played comedy.... That secret mixture of daring, talent and utter foolishness....”

Tomáš Kubínek was born in Prague and at the age of three was smuggled out of the country by his parents to escape the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. After two months in a refugee camp in Austria, the Kubínek family was granted asylum in Canada and it was there, in St. Catharines, Ontario, that Tomas, age 5, witnessed his first circus.

He became passionately interested in clowns, circus, theater and magic and his perplexed yet well-adjusted parents took him to see every show that passed through town. At age 9 he presented his first performance before a circle of elderly magicians. By age 13 he had an agent. He performed in coffee-houses between folk-music acts and while still in his teens, he made his circus debut with a Brazilian clown duo as the rear half of a two-person horse. There was no turning back...

Kubínek studied with some of the world's greatest teachers of theatre including; Monika Pagneaux, Pierre Byland, Jaques Lecoq and Boleslav Polivka. These studies, combined with his own tireless experiments in the art of live performance, led to the creation of his award-winning solo stage shows which play to capacity crowds at theaters, international arts festivals, and in television broadcasts throughout the world.

Kubínek is the recipient of numerous international awards including; The Moers Comedy Prize from The International Comedy Arts Festival in Germany, The Schneestern Award from the International Festival of Humor in Arosa, Switzerland, and The Samuel Beckett Theatre Award from The Dublin Theater Festival in Ireland. Perhaps his most illustrious award is "The Gold Fly-Swatter". He was proclaimed International Grand Champion of Housefly-Catching at the Moucheville Open in Moravia, beating competitors from twelve other nations.

Tickets for Tomáš Kubínek are \$30, \$25 and \$15. Youth 17 and under and Five College/GCC students are \$15. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511, 800-999-UMAS, or online at www.fineartscenter.com. This performance is sponsored by Baystate Medical Practices, Family Fun Magazine, and 93.9 The River.

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