



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 27, 2011

- WHAT:** Gallim Dance
WHEN: Wednesday, October 19 at 7:30pm
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressphotos>

AWARD-WINNING GALLIM DANCE TO BREAK THE BOUNDARIES OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Following several successful runs at Jacob's Pillow, New York City-based Gallim Dance debuts at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday, October 19th at 7:30pm with a performance encompassing a wide spectrum of movement and music. The company will present Andrea Miller's *Blush*, a dance of layered intensity that moves from delicate, probing gestures to a full-throttle revolt against the confines of its own space. There will be a post-show talk-back with the company immediately following the performance.

Artistic Director Miller danced with Ohad Naharin's Ensemble Batsheva before forming her own company in 2006. "With space-eating phrases both charmingly awkward and wildly technical," Jen Peters writes in *Dance Magazine*, "Andrea Miller's Gallim Dance has burst onto NYC's downtown scene."

Episodic in structure, *Blush's* chapters are distinguished by a shifting array of movement tones and designs. Dancers shoot intricate, sequential ripples through their joints and in the next moment quake with stutters. Human connections, when found, are fleeting, tender, and complicated. The climax-at full-tilt energy -leads to a frenzied circling of the stage. *Metro New York* says the work "displays an almost painterly

command of movement.” Andrea Miller’s choreographic attention to detail is evident in the score of the work as well as its movement.

Blush is set to a wide assortment of alternately dense and spare tunes, including compositions by M.I.A., Radiohead, Joy Division, Wolf Parade, and Chopin. Roslyn Sulcas of *The New York Times* writes that *Blush* “features a highly physical movement style that buckles torsos and lashes limbs in exhilaratingly illogical fashion.”

Recently, the National Dance Project selected Miller’s “Blush” for a 2011-12 Touring Award, and the company has received active support from organizations such as the American Music Center, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the Jerome Foundation, among others.

Artistic Director and choreographer Andrea Miller studied Humphrey/Weidman technique as a child and often visited Jacob’s Pillow. Her mother’s Spanish heritage and father’s Jewish faith have influenced her work and after graduating from The Juilliard School in New York City, Miller moved to Israel to join Ensemble Batsheva. There she spent two years working under the direction of renowned choreographer Ohad Naharin. She has also danced with The Limón Dance Company, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and Buglisi Dance Theater.

In 2006, Miller established Gallim Dance (“waves” in Hebrew) with dancer Francesca Romo. She is the winner of the Hubbard Street 2 Choreographic Competition, a recipient of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council MCAF Grant, and a former Stella Adler Studio of Acting Artist in Residence. Her dances have been performed in the United States, Canada, and Israel; recent commissions include Zenon Dance Company in Minnesota, Repertory Dance Theater in Utah, and Arts Umbrella in Vancouver. *Dance Magazine* named Miller one of “25 to Watch” in January 2009, and she will serve as Resident Choreographer for North Netherlands Dance in Groningen, Holland from 2009 to 2011. As one of his first acts as Ballet Hispanico’s new Artistic Director, Eduardo Vilario commissioned a new work from Miller. Ballet Hispanico comes to the Fine Arts Center in April 2012.

Tickets for the Gallim Dance are \$35, \$30, and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. The performance is sponsored by the Valley Advocate and The River 93.9FM. This performance of Gallim 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 and additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation, and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/pressphotos>

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or <mailto: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.

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