

**Asian Arts & Culture Program at the Fine Arts Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst**

For Immediate Release

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WHAT: **The American Place Theatre's Stage Presentation of
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien**

WHEN: **Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30PM**

WHERE: **Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst**

TICKETS: **Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS
www.umasstix.com**

"On the Same Page and on the stage--Great literature crosses boundaries to produce great theater!"

Theatre-goers in the Valley will have the opportunity to see a riveting one-man production of **The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien** on **Wednesday, November 2, at 7:30PM** in UMass Amherst Bowker Auditorium followed by a post-performance question and answer period. Presented by the UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program, the performance is an exciting follow up to the On the Same Page Northampton community wide read of the book, *The Things They Carried*. This masterwork of contemporary literature is a collection of short pieces about the character, Tim O'Brien, and his experiences surrounding the Vietnam War. He presents a blurred line between truth and reality, fact and fiction that makes his journey unforgettable. Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511.

The performance of *The Things They Carried* is part of the American Place Theatre's Literature to Life series. Adapted for the stage in 2004, it features sixty minutes of verbatim performance from this unique and important piece of American Literature. Having been developed and premiered at Playhouse Square in Cleveland in collaboration with Mr. O'Brien, the actor leads us through

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five of the short stories from the book including *The Rainy River* and *The Man I Killed*. With music student David Casali-- the principal bassist for the UMass University Orchestra, playing an underscore-- the audience lays witness to the complex issues of war and the universal struggle of the soldier.

Actor Billy Lyons, New York, NY, is a graduate of Ithaca College (B.F.A. Acting). Credits include *The Things They Carried* (dir. Wynn Handman, The American Place Theatre, NYC). *The Laramie Project*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Cherry Orchard* (Ithaca College), *The American Dream* (Icarus Theatre Ensemble, Ithaca, NY) Billy currently studies at the Wynn Handman Studio and is Mr. Handman's studio assistant.

The Literature to Life presentation of *The Things They Carried* is made by special arrangement with The American Place Theater. For over forty years, American Place Theatre has nurtured emerging talent in the dramatic arts and has produced the first plays of important authors such as Sam Shepard and the work of unusual contemporary actor/writers including Eric Bogosian and John Leguizamo. Actors for whom The American Place has been a launching pad feature Ellen Barkin, Michael Douglas, Faye Dunaway, Morgan Freeman, Richard Gere, Joel Grey, Dustin Hoffman, Frank Langella, Ralph Waite, Sam Waterson, and Sigourney Weaver.

The Things They Carried performance is part of the UMass Amherst War Veterans: A Commemoration through Art, Theater, Literature and Film event. For more information about supporting events please go to www.fineartscenter.com.

The Things They Carried is sponsored by The Daily Hampshire Gazette, Baystate Medical Practices, New England Public Radio, the Veterans Education Project and On the Same Page Northampton.

Please see our website at www.fineartscenter.com/asian for additional information. Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511. Downloadable high resolution

photos and electronic versions of press releases for performance events
are available at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac>

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