



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2013

- WHAT:** KYLE ABRAHAM / ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION PAVEMENT
WHEN: Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Chamber Seating
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
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CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY KYLE ABRAHAM/ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION
TO PERFORM THOUGHT-PROVOKING WORK PAVEMENT

EVENING-LENGTH WORK FUSES URBAN AND CLASSICAL INFLUENCES

Amherst, MA -- Pittsburgh native, **Kyle Abraham**, brings his company **Abraham.in.Motion (A/I/M)** to the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m. for a special evening of dance showcasing his latest work, **Pavement**, a work that expresses changes taking place in Pittsburgh's historically black neighborhoods. A gripping contemporary work layered with urban and classical dance influences that shows "great subtlety and beauty" (Andrew Boynton, *The New Yorker*). Immediately following the performance there will be a talk back with Kyle Abraham and moderator Jodie Falk, Five College Dance Professor.

Abraham's choreography features early hip-hop musicians, like Kriss Kross, that offer some comic relief, and challenges the progress made over the past twenty years among African American communities. A/I/M dancers have varied backgrounds, bringing their unique styles into the composition such as ballet, hip-hop, and African dance. **Pavement** is performed to a diverse score of opera, rhythm & blues, soul, country, essays from W.E.B. DuBois' *The Soul of Black Folk*, and excerpts from the 1991 film by John Singleton, *Boyz n the Hood*, all mixed with sounds of the city bringing this powerful dance to life.

2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient and 2012 USA Ford Fellow, Abraham began his training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, Abraham moved to New York City and received his BFA from SUNY Purchase and MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. In 2009 *Dance Magazine* named Kyle Abraham one of the "25 to watch." In 2011, *OUT Magazine* labeled Abraham the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama." Abraham received a

prestigious Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in The Radio Show, and a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2010. Steve Sucato of *City Paper* wrote, "Whether he's talking on social issues or making even bigger splashes on the local and national scenes, the sense that Abraham is on the verge of breakthrough looms primarily because his talent is just too big to ignore." In *Pavement*, Abraham uses these talents to express his view of the current social stigmas of African Americans.

Kyle Abraham/Abraham.in.Motion was founded in 2006 with the mission to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Abraham was born into hip-hop culture in the late 1970s and grounded into an artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts. The goal of Abraham's movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history. The work of A/I/M intertwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on sound, human behavior, and all things visual in an effort to create an avenue for personal investigation and exposure on stage. A/I/M is a representation of dancers from various disciplines and diverse personal backgrounds that when combined together, create movement that is manipulated and molded into something fresh and unique.

Tickets for the Kyle Abraham/Abraham.in.Motion 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 Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England with additional event support coming from Coca Cola and the Valley Advocate.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/article/Images>.

PRESS PASSES

A limited number of 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.

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