



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12, 2014

- WHAT:** Erth's DINOSAUR ZOO Live™
- WHEN:** Sunday, April 13, 4 p.m.
- 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 <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

"It's a rare and pleasurable work that manages technical brilliance, cultural insight and enchantment all in one go." - *Sydney Morning Herald*

ERTH'S DINOSAUR ZOO LIVE™ BRINGS AUSTRALIA'S DINOSAURS TO LIFE ON FAC STAGE

Amherst MA – In a show for families and children ages 6 and up, Erth's DINOSAUR ZOO Live™ takes audiences on a tour through prehistoric Australia, bringing an eye-popping array of ancient creatures to life on stage. Audiences will observe these extraordinarily lifelike creatures, just like those that inhabited the Southern Hemisphere millions of years ago. Performed by Erth-Visual & Physical Inc., this theatrical family performance comes to the UMass Fine Arts Center's Concert Hall at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 13th. Ticket-holders are also invited to Family Fest, a free pre-show party in the lobby from 3 to 4 p.m.

Erth's DINOSAUR ZOO Live™ is a unique interactive theater performance that stimulates the imagination in a way that connects children to paleontology in a fun and

informative setting. On stage a menagerie of insects, mammals and dinosaurs inhabit an ancient environment in this highly imaginative, entertaining and educational live show – from the sweetly curious baby *Dryosaur*, to the peaceful hulk *Titanosaur*, and even the teeth-gnashing *T-rex*.

The show features sixteen dinosaurs, along with their human wranglers, and host Aimee Louisanne. Erth's large-scale puppets were developed in consultation with paleontologists, based on current science and interpretations of fossil evidence. Employing sophisticated design and electronics, these giants are brought to life by skilled performers and puppeteers, made all the more real through the magic of theater.

Erth has been creating original live theater at the forefront of the new performance practice since its beginnings in 1990. The production company uses giant puppetry, inflatable environments, aerial and flying creatures, and skilled and entertaining performers to provide audiences with an experience unlike other theatrical and educational productions. Erth's productions have toured extensively, and visited events and festivals in their native Australia, as well as around the world.

The current 2014 tour is hot off a successful UK tour which included a summer residency in Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and a Christmas residency in London's West End. The show has even been invited to be a part of Edinburgh's legendary international theater festival this August.

Ticket holders are invited to a pre-show Family Fest full of activities and information about prehistoric dinosaur habitats in the Pioneer Valley. The Beneski Museum of Natural History, Amherst College has information about its own *Dryosaur* fossil (featured as the baby puppet in the Erth performance!) on display at the museum. The Trustees of Reservations hosts craft activities, and information about the dinosaur footprints located on their Holyoke property. Audience members can speak with a state level geologist from the USDA about the Jurassic Road Show, a consortium of organizations that provide opportunities to connect with dinosaurs up and down the Connecticut River Valley!

Tickets for Erth's DINOSAUR ZOO Live™ are \$20; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. Save ten dollars by buying a Family Pack (2 adult tickets and 2 youth tickets) for \$50 (available only by phone). 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 WRSI 93.9FM, Easthampton Savings Bank, Valley Kids, Pioneer Valley Hotel Group and WGBY.

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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