



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 22, 2013

WHAT: PARSONS DANCE

WHEN: Saturday, November 23, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

**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>**

“Every year, I get to experience the pure joy that is Parsons Dance. Parsons is one of the seminal figures on the contemporary dance scene.” - Edge

“Parsons’ dancers are young, hot and incredibly athletic. Gorgeous daredevils, they keep people gaping...” - The Washington Post

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED PARSONS DANCE RETURNS TO FAC WITH FAMED BLEND OF ENERGETIC CHOREOGRAPHY AND ATHLETICISM.

Amherst MA – Valley favorite Parsons Dance returns to the Fine Arts Center on November 23rd at 8 p.m., bringing the vigorous energy and contemporary choreography that have together made the troupe one of the world’s most acclaimed. Parsons Dance will perform works that span choreographer David Parsons’ entire career, ranging from the early 1980s to the present, and dancing to music from classical and modern composers alike.

Parsons Dance is well known for performing to a wide variety of music, and the program on November 23rd is no exception. It will showcase David Parsons’ choreography set to compositions by classical composer Rossini, jazz great Miles Davis, and experimental English guitarist Robert Fripp, among others. Also on the evening’s program is an audience favorite, Parsons’ ground-breaking 1982 piece “Caught” featuring a solo dancer performing more than 100 incredibly difficult leaps in succession, with a strobe light effect that gives the appearance of flight. The program concludes with a commissioned piece created in collaboration with renowned Brazilian singer-songwriter Milton Nascimento.

Immediately following the performance, UMass Dance Professor Paul Dennis will moderate a Talk-Back with the company, open to all ticket holders. Parsons Dance is committed to outreach, education and audience engagement, so post-show discussions and open company classes are an important part of the troupe's schedule, beyond their engaging choreography and performances.

Parsons Dance uses lively and contemporary choreography to achieve their mission of bringing positive, affirming and life-enriching experiences to their audience through dance and movement. Through collaboration with the industry's best and brightest musicians, visual artists and other contributors, Parsons Dance brings not only their famous physicality but a fresh and creative perspective to dance, which critics worldwide continue to praise effusively. Robert Johnson of *The Star-Ledger* describes the rich experience for audiences of Parsons Dance, writing "David Parson's creativity overflows. His dancers, as always, are powerhouses who leap and glide their way through an evening packed with athletic challenges. Audiences marvel at the rich physicality of the dancers."

Parsons Dance was founded in 1985 by artistic director and choreographer David Parsons, with lighting designer Howell Binkley. The troupe maintains a repertory of more than 80 works choreographed by David Parsons, commissioned by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, American Dance Festival, and the New York City Ballet, among many others. The company tours an average of 32 weeks a year, and has performed in over 350 cities in 35 countries, across 5 continents. Beyond extensive touring, Parsons Dance has reached millions through television appearances on PBS, Bravo, A&E and the Discovery Channel.

Tickets for Parsons Dance are \$42, \$38 and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15, \$12 and \$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 season sponsors Baystate Health and Health New England, with additional event support from Florence Savings Bank and WRSI 93.9FM.

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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