



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Emily Everett at 413-545-4482 or [emilyeverett@admin.umass.edu](mailto:emilyeverett@admin.umass.edu)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 26, 2015

**WHAT: GRUPO CORPO**

**WHEN: Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 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>**

### **BRAZILIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY GRUPO CORPO COMES TO UMASS FAC**

The electrifying Brazilian contemporary dance company [Grupo Corpo](#) comes to the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall to perform two acclaimed works on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. This modern company combines the sensuality of Afro-Brazilian dance forms, the liquid swing of jazz, and the technical prowess of ballet, with energy to burn. Grupo Corpo is renowned for its stunning physicality, dynamic ability, and rich visual finesse. Audience members are invited to stay for a post-performance talk with the company, moderated by Amherst College Spanish Professor Lucia Suarez, immediately following the show.

Grupo Corpo's program for the Fine Arts Center will include one of the company's most celebrated works, *Sem Mim*, inspired by the sea and the songs of medieval Galician-Portuguese troubadours. In all Grupo Corpo performances, sets, lighting and costumes are essential elements in the artistic production, and *Sem Mim* is no exception. Mimicking the rhythmic rocking of waves, the piece explores the alternation between calm and fury in the ocean, and the dual role it plays in taking away and bringing back loved ones. *Sem Mim* is danced to an original score written by composers Carlos Núñez and José Miguel Wisnik, inspired by the only surviving sheet music from the Galician-Portuguese medieval secular songbook.

After intermission, Grupo Corpo will perform *Onçotô*, a work written to celebrate 30 years since the company's formation. *Onçotô* is a piece about human perplexity and pettiness in the vast landscape of the universe. The choreography by Rodrigo Pederneiras contrasts and juxtaposes verticality and horizontality, chaos and order, roughness and tenderness, volume and sparseness, moving along and sometimes going against the score, unveiling underlying meanings, melody, and rhythms. The original score was composed by Caetano Veloso and José Miguel Wisnik, and highlights the push-and-pull struggle within humanity, and its futility in the larger universe.

Grupo Corpo's distinctive features and personality were chiefly molded by founder Paulo Pederneiras – the man responsible for sets, lighting, and artistic direction – and the dancer Rodrigo Pederneiras, who left the stage in 1981 to assume the role of full-time choreographer. In 1985 Grupo Corpo entered a new phase, establishing its own unique theatrical language and choreography. Starting with an erudite repertoire featuring the works of Richard Strauss, Heitor Villa-Lobos and Edward Elgar, among others, the company began combining classical technique with a contemporary re-reading of popular Brazilian dance forms. This would become the group's trademark.

More recently, the partnership of Grupo Corpo with contemporary composers has been such a success that scores composed especially for the company have become the norm. Today, having created 35 choreographies and more than 2,300 pieces, the Brazilian dance company maintains ten ballets in its repertoire and gives 80 performances a year in places as distinctive as Iceland and South Korea, the United States and Lebanon, Canada, Italy, Singapore, the Netherlands, Israel, France, Japan and Mexico.

Tickets for Grupo Corpo are \$42, \$38 and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15, \$12, \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com). The Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England, with additional event support coming from El Sol Latino.

-END-

## **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](mailto:sfarley@admin.umass.edu).

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

UMass Fine Arts Center presents:

## **GRUPO CORPO**

**Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall**

The electrifying Brazilian contemporary dance company [Grupo Corpo](#) combines the sensuality of Afro-Brazilian dance forms, the liquid swing of jazz, and the technical prowess of ballet, with energy to burn. The company is renowned for its stunning physicality, dynamic ability, and rich visual finesse. The program will include one of the company's most celebrated works, *Sem Mim*, inspired by the sea and the songs of medieval Galician-Portuguese troubadours.

**\$42, \$38, \$15; Five College, GCC and 17 & under \$15, \$12, \$10**

**Audience members are invited to stay for a post-performance talk with the company, moderated by Amherst College Spanish Professor Lucia Suarez, immediately following the performance.**

Season Sponsors: Baystate Health/Health New England. Event Sponsor: El Sol Latino