



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2015

- WHAT:** STEPHEN PETRONIO COMPANY
 LOCOMOTOR / NON LOCOMOTOR
- WHEN:** Thursday, April 16, 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>

ACCLAIMED NYC CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY PERFORMS TWO NEW WORKS AT UMASS FAC

The New York Times writes, "There is a visceral thrill to Stephen Petronio's choreography that is unlike anything offered by other contemporary choreographers." Hampshire College alum Stephen Petronio returns to Amherst as both a dancer and choreographer in a one-night performance at UMass. The performance at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. will include a full-company work, and a solo piece danced by Petronio himself. Ticket-holders are invited to a pre-show talk by Five College Dance professor Constance Valis Hill at the UMCA (lower level of FAC) at 6:30 p.m., and to stay for a post-show talk with Stephen Petronio immediately following the performance.

On Tuesday, April 14th at 7 p.m., Stephen Petronio will read from his recently published memoir, [Confessions of a Motion Addict](#), at [R.Michelson Galleries](#) in downtown Northampton. The reading is free and open to the public.

The company's performance will consist of two new works. First choreographer Stephen Petronio will dance a solo piece called Big Daddy, originally commissioned by the American Dance festival in 2014, and scored by Son Lux. The work combines movement and speech, as

improvisational movement studies are accompanied by spoken memories of Petronio's father from the choreographer's memoir.

For the second half of the program, the full company will perform a two-part work, *Locomotor / Non Locomotor* (2015). This piece is a meditation on the contrast between hurling energy through space, and moving energy that is contained within the body. *Locomotor* explores extreme locomotive states, casting Petronio's virtuoso company in a careening mix of action forward and backward through time and space, while *Non Locomotor* begins from the spine and its ability to initiate torque and torsion, sending movement surging throughout the body. The music for *Locomotor / Non Locomotor* is an original score by electronic hip-hop pioneer Clams Casino.

For 30 years, Artistic Director and Choreographer Stephen Petronio has honed a unique language of movement that speaks to the intuitive and complex possibilities of the body within the shifting sphere of our current time. He continues to create a haven for dancers with a keen interest in history and an appetite for the unknown.

Petronio received a BA from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, where he began his early training in improvisation and dance technique. He was greatly influenced by working with Steve Paxton as well as the dancing of Rudolph Nureyev, and was the first male dancer of the Trisha Brown Company (1979 to 1986). He has gone on to build a unique career, receiving numerous accolades, including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, awards from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, an American Choreographer Award, and a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award.

Founded in 1984, Stephen Petronio Company has performed in 26 countries throughout the world, including over 35 New York City engagements with 17 seasons at The Joyce Theater. The Company has been commissioned by Dance Umbrella Festival/London, Hebbel Theater/Berlin, Theater Scene National de Sceaux/France, Festival d'Automne a Paris, CNDC Angers/France, The Holland Festival, Festival International Montpellier-Danse, Danceworks UK Ltd, International Cannes Danse Festival, and in the US by San Francisco Performances, The Joyce Theater, UCSB Arts & Lectures, Wexner Center for the Arts, Walker Art Center, and White Bird, among others.

Tickets for Stephen Petronio Company are \$42, \$38 and \$15; Five College & GCC 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. The Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England, with additional event support coming from Applewood and WRSI.

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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.

CALENDAR LISTING

UMass Fine Arts Center presents:

STEPHEN PETRONIO COMPANY LOCOMOTOR / NON LOCOMOTOR

Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Stephen Petronio's *Locomotor / Non Locomotor* is a full-company work in two parts featuring an original score by electronic hip-hop pioneer Clams Casino. *Locomotor* explores extreme locomotive states, casting Petronio's virtuoso company in a careening mix of action forward and backward through time and space, while *Non Locomotor* begins from the spine and its ability to initiate torque and torsion, sending movement surging throughout the body. Petronio will also perform a solo work to open the evening. "There's a visceral thrill to Stephen Petronio's choreography that is unlike anything offered by other contemporary choreographers..." —*The New York Times*

Audience members are invited to a pre-show talk by Five College Dance professor Constance Valis Hill at the University Museum of Contemporary Art (lower level of FAC) at 6:30 p.m. and to stay for a post-performance talk with Stephen Petronio immediately following the performance.

Tuesday April 14, 7p.m. – Book reading R.Michelson Galleries in Northampton

In early 2014 Stephen Petronio published a memoir, *Confessions of a Motion Addict*. Please join us and Stephen Petronio himself for a reading from his new memoir.

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

Season Sponsors: Baystate Health/Health New England
Event Sponsors: Applewood & WRSI.