



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 25, 2015

**WHAT:** Doug Varone and Dancers

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 20, 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 [www.fineartscenter.com/](http://www.fineartscenter.com/)

**IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom>

### CELEBRATED DANCE COMPANY DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS PERFORMS NEW WORK *RECOMPOSED* AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER

“Rarely do you find a choreographer so dedicated to the full and generous complexity of the human spirit. Many choreographers can create interesting movement; few can make it mean so much.”

– *Chicago Tribune*

Award-winning choreographer Doug Varone brings his talented dance company to the UMass Fine Arts Center, performing three works from the company’s diverse repertoire – including a solo by Varone himself. The company has been hailed as “superb dancers...always worth seeing” by *The New York Times*. The performance is on Tuesday, October 20 at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. Audience members are invited to stay for a post-performance talk with the company immediately following the performance.

Doug Varone and Dancers will also participate in a ‘Stripped’ performance at the Hampshire College Dance Studio on October 19 at 7 p.m., dressed only in rehearsal clothes with simple work lighting. Varone will offer a behind the scenes look at how he works with his company to create dance, followed by stripped-down performance excerpts from the company’s repertory. Tickets are limited and available from the box office (413-545-2511), \$10 for the public, free for Five College students and \$5 for GCC students, or youth 17 and under.

The performance on the 20<sup>th</sup> begins with 2006's *Lux*, a full-company work. *The Washington Post* described the piece: "Lux is all about freedom. It is what dancing really feels like, the kind of dancing I might dream about: loose and sweeping in a spirit of exultation." Then Varone performs his new solo work *The Fabulist*, commissioned in 2014 by the American Dance Festival. The evening culminates in a performance of *ReComposed*, a kinetic full-company dance inspired by the form and vivid color of Joan Mitchell's abstract paintings. Varone sees glimpses of his own work reflected in Mitchell's style, explaining, "Like many of my dances, she compresses extreme opposites and places stillness amidst a swirl of activity, giving each moment its own drama."

Choreographer and director Doug Varone works in dance, theater, opera, film and fashion. In the concert dance world, Varone has created a global body of works, including commissions for Martha Graham Dance Company, Bern Ballet (Switzerland), An Creative (Japan) Rambert Dance Company (London) and Batsheva Dance Company (Israel), among many others. He has both directed and choreographed in the world of opera, including work on four celebrated productions at The Metropolitan Opera. Numerous honors and awards include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, an OBIE Award (Lincoln Center's *Orpheus and Euridice*), two individual Bessie Awards, three American Dance Festival Doris Duke Awards for New Work, and four National Dance Project Awards. He was recently awarded a prestigious Doris Duke Artist Award.

Doug Varone and Dancers was founded in 1986, celebrating nearly 30 years of innovative dance work and technical prowess. On tour, the company has performed in more than 100 cities in 45 states across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada, and South America. Stages include The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, San Francisco Performances, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Toronto's Harbourfront, Moscow's Stanislavsky Theater, Buenos Aires' Teatro San Martin, the Venice Biennale, Marble Hall in Tokyo, and the Bates, Jacob's Pillow and American Dance Festivals. Varone, his dancers and designers have been honored with 11 Bessie Awards

Tickets for Doug Varone and Dancers are \$35, \$30, \$20; Five College, GCC and 17 and under \$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). This event is sponsored by Take Magazine, the Smith College Museum of Art and Atkins Farms.

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## **PHOTOS**

Hi-res photos are available at <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom>

## **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:

**DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS**

**Performing *Recomposed* and *Lux***

**Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall**

Doug Varone's kinetically-thrilling dances explore the complexity of the human spirit. From the smallest gesture to full-throttle bursts of movement, Varone's work can take your breath away. In new work *ReComposed*, dancers echo abstract master Joan Mitchell's painted explosions of color and light, set to Max Richter's newly constructed version of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. Set to music by Philip Glass, "*Lux* is all about freedom. It is what dancing really feels like, the kind of dancing I might dream about: loose and sweeping in a spirit of exultation." – *Washington Post*

**Audience members are invited to stay for a post-performance talk with the company immediately following the performance.**

**\$35, \$30, \$20; Five College, GCC and 17 and under \$10.**

Event Sponsors: Take Magazine, the Smith College Museum of Art and Atkins Farms.

**Monday, October 19, *Stripped* (performance showcase stripped of costumes/lights)  
7 p.m., Hampshire College Dance Studio**

Hear from the choreographer himself as he reveals the creative process of dance. Acting as emcee, Varone offers an intimate glimpse into the construction of his works. Here, the dancers are dressed only in rehearsal clothes with simple work lighting, offering a behind-the-scenes look into how dance is created, and finishing with "stripped" performance excerpts from the company's repertory. Tickets are limited and are available from the box office, 413-545-2511.

**General Public \$10, Five College Students free, GCC and 17 and under \$5**