From: News Services

To: <u>Archive</u>; <u>Shelly L Armstrong</u>

**Subject:** Dance Ensemble Presents Show at Ferris

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Included below is a press release regarding the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, which will be performing at Ferris State University Feb. 14. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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## Celebrate Valentine's Day with "Dances from the Heart of Rock and Roll"

BIG RAPIDS – The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble is performing an array of fresh new contemporary dances that touch on the theme of love with an homage to Rock and Roll at 8 p.m. Feb. 14 in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium on the campus of Ferris State University.

"I'm very excited about this program, and I think the audience will love it," the ensemble's Artistic Director Laurie Eisenhower said. "The music is familiar and fabulous...and the dancers look terrific in the choreography."

Featured on the performance will be Tom's Songs, a heartfelt tribute by Eisenhower featuring the music of Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Bonnie Raitt, among others. Excerpts from Tom's Songs were recently performed by the company at Chicago's Athenaeum Theatre to rave reviews.

The program also will spotlight the work of choreographer Eddy Ocampo, winner of EDE's first-ever Choreography Competition. The choreography competition was developed to encourage new work by up-and-coming choreographers. Ocampo created the work, "Orion," for EDE during a choreographic residency in October 2008.

In addition, EDE will present Stephanie Pizzo's beautiful and deeply moving work, "Unconditional." Set to the folk/blues music of Susan Tedeschi, the piece contemplates a variety of human relationships, exploring the idea of giving oneself unconditionally in hope of receiving the same love in return. Set on EDE during the 2007-08 season, "Unconditional" was a wonderful success at its premiere performance in April 2008 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

The EDE also will be presenting their Kid's n' Motion program at three local schools, including Crossroads Charter Academy in Big Rapids, St. Michael's in Remus and G.T. Norman Elementary School in Reed City. Kid's n' Motion introduces young people to the art of dance, giving them a chance to express themselves through movement.

Tickets for this event are available now and support arts programming at Ferris State University. All seats are reserved. Call the Williams Auditorium Ticket Office at (231) 591-5600 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or order any time online at www.ferris.edu/arts.

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