

From: [Jan Eckert](#)
To: [Shelly L Armstrong](#); [Archive](#)
Subject: Fly Dance Co. to Perform at Ferris
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Attachments: [Live at Williams Fly Dance.jpg](#)

Included below is a press release regarding the April 10 performance of Fly Dance Company at Ferris State University. The Houston, Texas-based group blends break dancing with Bach, flips with Flamenco and pops with classic pop music for a fun-filled showcase of high-energy head spins, windmills, funky footwork and comic improvisations set to bold choreographic inventions. Also, a photo is attached.

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One-of-a-kind FLY Dance Company to perform at Ferris

BIG RAPIDS – The FLY Dance Company is a one-of-a-kind performance group that blends break dancing with Bach, flips with Flamenco and pops with classic pop music for a fun-filled showcase of high-energy head spins, windmills, funky footwork and comic improvisations set to bold choreographic inventions.

The dance company will be bringing its brash humor and risk-taking feats, which have delighted audiences throughout the United States and Europe, to G. Mennen Williams Auditorium on the campus of Ferris State University at 8 p.m. April 10.

Hailing from Houston, Texas, FLY's technique is primarily hip hop – very creative, gymnastic and highly masculine. The contemporary dance company consists of four young men performing to a variety of music, including classical, jazz, pop, experimental, drumming and live sound effects. They dance on point while semi-crouched in high-top sneakers. Their seamless choreography, made up of corkscrew turns, fast footwork, amazing break dance moves and sheer limber-legged strength, together with their streetwise charm and subtle humor, make FLY absolutely entertaining.

Expanding dance audiences wherever they go, their appeal cuts through age, gender, ethnic and cultural boundaries. Indeed, FLY's touring schedule bears this out. Last year, FLY performed 59 concerts and more than 100 outreach workshops in 19 states, including an appearance at the Kennedy Center Theatre Lab in Washington, D.C.

FLY has a mission: They want to educate audiences about hip hop and make a positive impact on their community. "There is more to hip hop than rap music and graffiti," dancers said.

Part of FLY's appeal is their harnessed athleticism. Like ballet dancers pulling off extra pirouettes or loftier jumps, they strive to balance longer, spin better or lift each other higher in a formation. "We want you to experience the good parts of hip hop," they said. "We want you to see that even though it's a street culture, it's a culture for everyone."

FLY began in 1993 when veteran choreographer Kathy Wood met the dancers of a street

crew performing at a Houston street festival. Impressed with their unusual talent, she invited the group to come and work with her. Adapting hip hop movement to classical music by the baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi, she developed the range and skills of the dancers, creating a unique style that led to their quick emergence on the national contemporary dance scene.

Tickets are available at the G. Mennen Williams Auditorium ticket office, located at 901 S. State St. in Big Rapids. The ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and one hour before performance times. People needing special accommodations to attend this performance may call the auditorium office at (231) 591-3676.



Live at Williams Fly Dance.jpg

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