

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UMO Ensemble contact: Elizabeth Klob  
[Elizabeth@umo.org](mailto:Elizabeth@umo.org) | cell: (206) 963-0660  
Festival contact: Ron Lasko  
[ron@spincyclenyc.com](mailto:ron@spincyclenyc.com) | PH: (212) 505-1700

**UMO Ensemble Presents**

**FAIL BETTER: Beckett Moves UMO**

*A love story, between UMO and Beckett. With a teeter totter. And ropes.*

**Part of The New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC**

**A production of The Present Theatre Company**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>; Tickets: \$18 – For tickets visit [www.FringeNYC.org](http://www.FringeNYC.org)**

*“Ever tried, ever failed. No Matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail Better.” – Samuel Beckett*

UMO Ensemble, a physical theatre company from Seattle, Washington, is proud to present **FAIL BETTER: BECKETT MOVES UMO** as part of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC. UMO explores the essential themes of Samuel Beckett’s work using a giant teeter-totter, ropes and pulleys. Five archetypal Beckett characters tackle love, life, death and going-on in typical Beckett fashion: with humor, metaphor, stillness and gross indecency - creating a living, visceral experience.

The work of Samuel Beckett has fascinated UMO for many years. Beckett grapples with existential questions of life, love, action and inaction, and his writings speak directly to physical enterprise: walking, balancing, eating, hanging, spinning. **UMO takes these impulses, these questions and conundrums, and uses them to launch our love story – into the air itself.**

FAIL BETTER premiered at Seattle’s ACT THEATRE in fall 2014, as part of the *Seattle Beckett Festival*, and returned for a second run in April 2015 following stunning first-round reviews and sold-out houses. Director **Elizabeth Klob** conceived the show with lead writers **Lyam White** and **Maria Glanz**. Mr. White and Ms. Glanz perform, along with UMO Founders **Janet McAlpin** and **David Godsey**, and guest artists **Terry Crane** and **Jimmy Garver**. Mr. Crane is a world-renowned rope artist, and Mr. Garver an extraordinary sound designer joining us from Washington, DC. **Jon Schroeder** designed the giant teeter-totter, central to the show.

UMO Ensemble is one of the most innovative, compelling and critically acclaimed performance companies based in the Pacific Northwest. In the past 25 years, UMO has made over twenty physical theatre works, including *Red Tiger Tales*, *El Dorado*, *Maldoror* and more. UMO’s mission is to stir the human spirit and incite the imagination by providing awe, challenge and inspiration through original and compelling art. Our work is image-rich and physical, combining character, movement, music, sculpture and story. We seek the alchemy of live performance, through which thoughts and images under the surface of culture are given form.

*“A brilliantly performed and orchestrated show... an artistic postcard from the edge of reality well worth going to see, hear, feel and experience.”* - L. Steven Sieden, Huffington Post

*“UMO Ensemble’s remarkable tribute to (Beckett’s) genius, Fail Better is a mesmerizing production... a visual delight and an intellectual teaser.”* –The Seattle Times

For more information visit [www.umo.org](http://www.umo.org)

# # #