

The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Whiting Proudly Presents



Flint, MI – The Whiting is pleased to announce the recent addition of **DRUMLINE LIVE** on **Friday, November 18, 2011 at 8pm** to its 2011-12 season. Tickets go on sale the general public Friday, August 19 at 11am and range in pricing from \$19 - \$39. Tickets can be purchased online at **TheWhiting.com**, by phone at **(810) 237-7333 or (888) 8-CENTER** or by walk-up at The Whiting Ticket Center. The Whiting is located at 1241 E. Kearsley Street in Flint, just off I-475 between the University of Michigan Flint and Mott Community College on the Flint Cultural Center campus.

DRUMLINE LIVE kicks off its third US tour in the 2011-2012 season following its extremely successful tours in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011. DRUMLINE LIVE's energetic cast has honed its precision and energy with years of training in marching band programs across the southern United States.

This versatile group of musicians and dancers brings an explosive energy and athleticism to an eclectic mix of sounds. Equally at home with the hottest contemporary hip hop, R&B, classic Motown tunes and the rousing sounds of the great brass tradition, DRUMLINE LIVE is thrilled to share the American Marching Band experience with a wider audience.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) are institutions of higher learning that were established before 1964 with the intention of serving the African American community. There are more than 100 historically black colleges in the United States, located almost exclusively in the Southeast. The HBCU were established after the Civil War as places of dignity and hope where young people had an opportunity to become professionals instead of maids or laborers. Along with the private black colleges and universities founded later by the AMA, these reconstruction era schools became the backbone of higher education for African Americans.

It was in these bastions of higher education that the tradition of the show style marching band was born. The tradition began over fifty years ago at Florida A&M University, which has been long considered the nation's preeminent black college marching band school. HBCU marching bands began, as most do, as support for the college football team. They have since grown into a sport of their own, featuring characteristic high stepping, funky dance rhythms, and exciting musical repertoire ranging from classical to Top 40.

Celebrations of HBCU marching culminate in competitions such as the Big Southern Classic and the Bayou Classic. These competitions, which draw audiences of roughly 60,000 fans each, are a testament to the popularity of the sport. But it is only recently, with films such as *Drumline*, backed by a flurry of high profile marching band appearances that this tradition has begun to capture the imagination of the American public.

DRUMLINE LIVE is generously supported by McLaren Regional Medical Center, Health Alliance Plan, ABC12, Town Square Media, The View Newspapers, Club 93.7 and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The Whiting is a member organization of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation and is dedicated to bringing the performing arts to the community. The Whiting is a nonprofit organization and an Equal Opportunity Employer providing programs and services without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.

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****Reviewer Tickets ARE AVAILABLE. High-res images and interviews are available upon request.**

To secure tickets, request images or interviews, please contact Wendi Fournier at

(810) 237-8689 or wfournier@thewhiting.com**