

THE VALLEY Advocate

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Historical Disintegration by Mark Fox. At Hampden Theatre, UMass, October 9, 8 p.m. Free admission.

When Mark Fox labels his multimedia performance "cutting edge," he's talking about props as well as concept. This fascinating-sounding celebration of multiculturalism combines not only live onstage music and live onstage painting, but live onstage cooking too.

The title, *Historical Disintegration*, is also double-edged, referring both to the breakdown of traditional ethnic identities in the American soup and to

artists Nelson Stevens, Edgar Sabogal and Richard Heller collaborate on the creation and decoration of an original totem pole. All the while two or three chefs (representing Puerto Rican, Jewish, and at press time, "maybe" African-American cuisine) will be titillating the nose with their own on-the-spot creations, which will be available for sampling (Fox warns that this won't be dinner theatre) during the post-show feedback session.

THEATRE

By Chris Rohmann

the tendency toward *dis*-integration in an attempt to preserve those identities. What Fox wants to promote is "not a melting pot, but more of a stir-fry" of cultures which can peacefully and fruitfully interact while retaining their individuality.

Fox, who counts Laurie Anderson and Philip Glass among his most powerful influences, sees his multimedia experiment as promoting this ideal by symbolizing it in a multicultural, multi-sensory experience. The ear will be fed by music from an combo of outstanding area musicians, including Tony Vacca, Tom McClung, Ed Byrne, Tsidii Le Loka, David Arenius, Herman LeBeaux, Kevin Bryan and Fox himself, improvising on Fox's original compositions.

The music, in turn, provides accompaniment for the visual component, as

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