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Cambridge, MA  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Live Action Anime 2007: Madness at Mokuba*** **to be performed at MIT, Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 2007**

How can MIT students bring to life the excitement and eccentricities of Japanese anime (animated films and TV shows)? The MIT Dance Theater Ensemble will demonstrate the possibilities with its performance *Live Action Anime 2007: Madness at Mokuba* on **Nov. 29, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 (Thu.-Sat.)**. The shows will be held at the **Kresge Little Theater** on the **MIT campus** at **8pm (free and open to the public, seating limited to 200 each night)**.

Part homage to anime history, part commentary on the plight of undocumented workers in the US, and 100% tribute to anime creators and fans worldwide, this original theatrical production features giant robots, a Japanese schoolgirl, a lovelorn otaku, a masterless samurai, a gamer woman, evil media magnates, and a vengeful deathgod who all battle for truth, justice, and the anime way. (Note: “anime” is pronounced “ah-nee-may.”)

**SYNOPSIS:** The stage is set for the finals of the giant robot contest at the Mokuba Institute of Technology. But as the two teams prepare for battle, a strange disease called VIRTIGO is sweeping the school, causing unpredictable reality slippages. And it's getting worse. Does it have something to do with Homeland Security's suspicious arrest of undocumented workers nearby? Can our heroes solve the mystery of VIRTIGO, help the workers, and . . . find love?

Directed by Prof. Thomas F. DeFrantz (Music and Theater Arts, MIT) with an original script by Prof. Ian Condry (Foreign Languages and Literatures, MIT), the play features a cast of MIT students, faculty, and other members of the MIT community as they attempt to do the impossible: create live action anime. Don't miss this opportunity to see anime history in the making.

In conjunction with the performances, **Prof. Condry** will give a lecture entitled **“Explaining Anime’s Global Power,” on Thursday, Nov. 29, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., Room 56-114 on the MIT campus** (free and open to the public). Prof. Condry will discuss his current book project, *Global Anime*, including discussion of how his

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fieldwork research in Tokyo anime studios informed the play's conception (spoilers will be avoided).

The events are sponsored by the MIT Japan Program, MIT Music and Theater Arts, MIT Foreign Languages and Literatures, SLIPPAGE: Performance, Culture, Technology, the Cool Japan Research Project, and the De Florez Fund for Humor.

**Live Action Anime 2007: Madness at Mokuba** continues the creative explorations of SLIPPAGE: Performance, Culture, and Technology, a collective of artists and researchers established in 2003. SLIPPAGE explores connections between acts of performance, formations of culture, and interventions of technology toward an end of original theatrical storytelling. Public presentations by SLIPPAGE offer audiences a glimpse into methodologies of theater that yoke performance, culture, and technology as partners in narrative exploration. Previous presentations by SLIPPAGE include *Ennobling Nonna* (2004); *Monk's Mood* (2005); workshop productions of *The House Music Project* and the original musical *The Downright Sexy Adventures of Drew Durango* featuring New York cabaret star Darius De Haas (both 2006); and *Queer Theory! An Academic Travesty* (2006). *Queer Theory!* was recently featured in performance at the UCLA World Arts and Cultures.

The MIT/Harvard Cool Japan research project was founded in January 2006 by Prof. Ian Condry (MIT) as an intellectual forum aimed at analyzing the cultural connections, dangerous distortions and critical potential of popular culture related to Japan. The project has organized seminars and international conferences to bring together scholars and cultural professionals to explore the power of "cool Japan," a reference to the explosion of international interest in Japanese cultural exports, from sushi to Pokemon, from Hello Kitty to Afro Samurai. Highlights include lectures by scholars such as Anne Allison (Duke U) and David Leheny (Princeton), as well as performances and discussions with Japanese artists, including a Tokyo-based female rap star named Miss Monday and with the anime director Mamoru Hosoda (*The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*, 2006), winner of the Japan Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature. The research project is supported by the MIT Japan Program, Harvard's Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, and MIT Foreign Languages and Literatures.

For more information, please contact Ian Condry (condry@mit.edu), Thomas DeFrantz (defrantz@mit.edu), or KC Cortinovis 617-253-4771. Images for publication are available on request at the website <http://web.mit.edu/condry/Public/liveanime/>

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