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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FIRSTWORKS PRESENTS HORSE DANCE THEATRE**

Taiwan's First All-Male Dance Troupe Brings  
Unique Style And Innovation To Providence

Providence, R.I. – Taiwan's first all-male dance company, HORSE dance theatre, will stage the New England premiere of its highly acclaimed production "Velocity" as part of FirstWorks Festival in Providence, R.I. Synthesizing elements of experimental theatre, drama and mime, the performance explores how the frenetic nature of contemporary society pulls people and things apart. The performance takes place Saturday, October 24 at 8 p.m. at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Auditorium, 17 Canal Walk. Tickets are \$18, and are available through the ArtTix box office: (401) 621-6123, and online at [www.ArtTixRi.com](http://www.ArtTixRi.com).

"Velocity" is collectively choreographed and performed by Chen Wu-Kang, Su Wei-Chia, Yang Yu-Min, Huang Yi, Chang Tzu-Ling, and Kao Yung-Yu. The performers were introduced to FirstWorks' Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher in Taiwan last May by the Taiwanese Council for Cultural Affairs and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) during Ms. Pletcher's curatorial tour of the country's best performance groups. Forging a new cultural exchange between the City of Providence and Taiwan, FirstWorks invited HORSE to present "Velocity" at the sixth annual FirstWorks Festival, now through November 15.

"One of HORSE dance theatre's strengths is partnership among its members," said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. "We are excited about our new partnership with the Council for Cultural Affairs of Taiwan and their investment in sharing some of Taiwan's leading artists with FirstWorks Festival audiences in Rhode Island's capital city. We are working together to bring another amazing first to Providence, this time from halfway around the world. HORSE's exploration of male bodies in the urban landscape is changing the world of dance, while delighting audiences with their fresh new take on movement theatre."

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Dr. Huang Pi-Twan, Minister of the Council for Cultural Affairs of Taiwan, said, “The Taipei Culture Center of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York (TPECC) brings Taiwan’s best performance groups and artists to perform in America to showcase the rich diversity of Taiwan’s culture and arts. I am delighted that the TPECC is cooperating with the FirstWorks Festival and inviting Taiwan’s outstanding HORSE dance theatre to perform with them. This opportunity will surely highlight the creativity and energy of Taiwan’s contemporary dance on the international stage.”

Founded in 2004, FirstWorks is a multidimensional arts organization recognized with nine grant awards from the National Endowment for the Arts. This year’s FirstWorks Festival features dance, music, Cirque theatre and new media arts. The full festival schedule, complete with venue and ticket info is available online at [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org). The FirstWorks Festival is produced by FirstWorks each fall in collaboration with the City of Providence’s Department of Art, Culture + Tourism.

### **About FirstWorks**

FirstWorks was launched in 2004 as a vehicle to build community, reach underserved audiences, and present extraordinary arts programs that elevate Providence’s national profile. In collaboration with the City of Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks has flourished. In six years FirstWorks has produced nine groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted 68,000 participants, and engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools. Visit [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org) to learn more.

The FirstWorks Festival is produced by FirstWorks in collaboration with the City of Providence, Dept. of Art, Culture + Tourism, and made possible in part by Amica Mutual Insurance Company, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Bank R.L., Brown University: Creative Arts Council, Dept. of Visual Arts, Dept. of Modern Culture and Media, Dept. of Music and the MEME program; The Felicia Fund, John and Happy White Foundation/TACO, Johnson & Wales University, June Rockwell Levy Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Rhode Island Foundation, Rhode Island School of Design: Academic Affairs and Digital+Media Department; Sodexho Food Services, Target, Inc. and Textron Charitable Trust. Media sponsors: Cox Communications, CW28, NBC10 WJAR, News Talk 630 WPRO & 99.7 FM, Poder 1110, *The Bay*, *East Side Monthly*, *Get Magazine*, *Providence En Español*, *Providence Monthly*, *Providence Phoenix*, *Rhode Island Monthly* and *SO Rhode Island*.

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