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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2013

FirstWorks Season Kicks Off with *Cirkopolis* by Cirque Éloize

- *Renowned Choreographer and Spectacle Directors Blend Worlds of Circus, Dance, and Theater* -
 - *Evening and Matinee Performances* -
 - *Special Four-Pack Ticket Pricing Now Available* -
 - *Providence Performing Arts Center* -
 - *November 1 & 2, 2013* -

PROVIDENCE, RI – The [FirstWorks](#) season kicks off at the Providence Performing Arts Center with *Cirkopolis*, Friday, November 1, 2013 at 7:30pm and Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 4:00pm. A spectacular show by Quebec-based Cirque Éloize (*pronounced [sirk el-waz]*) that transports performers—and spectators of all ages—between dream and reality in an uninterrupted stream of dazzling acrobatics, illusions and imagery.

From one of the architects of the astonishing acrobatics at the 2006 Olympic Game closing ceremonies ([Cirque Éloize's](#) creative director Jeannot Painchaud) and the world-renowned choreographer of [Cirque du Soleil's](#) *Zumanity* and *LOVE* (Dave St-Pierre) comes a magnificent circus spectacle that lives between dream and reality, underscored by a continuous stream of original music, and brought to vivid life by 3-D projections. With *Cirkopolis*, [Cirque Éloize](#) takes their breathtaking blend of circus arts, theater, and dance to a highly stylized metropolis setting. Performing within an inventive stage design inspired by Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* and Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*, twelve acrobats and multidisciplinary artists rebel against the limits of an imposing factory-city, lifting the veil of anonymity and replacing it with bursts of colors and expressive drama. 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of Cirque Éloize which is positioned at the heart of the renewal of circus arts. This one-of-a-kind company has captivated audiences in 40 countries and has partnered with Cirque du Soleil® for a long-term relationship based on common creative visions and international entertainment appeal. Tickets are on sale now.

"After a stunning European tour, Cirque Éloize joins us for the first time in Providence to kick off what promises to be our best season yet," said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. "Bringing the big top onto the stage, Cirque Éloize gives audiences heart-stopping spectacle blended with artistry, making *Cirkopolis* unlike any other circus arts production you've seen."

"*Cirkopolis* was imagined as a crossroads—between imagination and reality, between individuality and community, between limits and possibilities. The show is driven by the poetic impulse of life, the physical prowess of the circus and the humor, at once serious and light-hearted. Entering *Cirkopolis* is all about letting go and allowing yourself to be borne aloft by hope," explained Jeannot Painchaud, creative director of Cirque Éloize and co-director of *Cirkopolis*.

FirstWorks presents *Cirkopolis* by Cirque Éloize, Friday, November 1, 2013 at 7:30pm and Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 4:00pm at Providence Performing Arts Center, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Tickets are \$38-68 with a special offer on selected tickets purchased as Friends and Family four-packs. The offer provides a savings of 35% on \$48 and \$58 four-pack tickets. Tickets are available online at first-works.org and at the PPAC Box Office: 401-421-ARTS, Friends and Family four-pack code is FF4P. Ticket prices include a \$3 restoration fee.

About FirstWorks: connecting art with audiences

FirstWorks is a non-profit arts organization that builds the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of our community through world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks has offered Rhode Islanders access to some of the most exciting artists of our time including Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Wynton Marsalis, Joffrey Ballet and the master artists of Pakistan through the Caravanserai project (2011-12). Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks has produced 22 groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted more than 155,000 participants, presented over 361 international artists and innovators, engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools, and grown into a multidimensional arts organization recognized with 15 National Endowment for the Arts grants. In fall 2012, FirstWorks partnered with the City of Providence to present the inaugural FirstWorks Festival: On the Plaza, leading a consortium of 18 organizations to create an event that drew 40,000 people into downtown Providence. In July 2013, the City of Providence and FirstWorks were named recipients of another a second NEA Our Town grant to support a community design effort to create a cultural corridor in downtown Providence along Washington Street, and to establish the FirstWorks Festival on the Plaza as a biennial signature event in Providence. Visit www.first-works.org to learn more.

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