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**FirstWorks presents NOCHE FLAMENCA, Spain's most revered flamenco company featuring the mesmerizing SOLEDAD BARRIO, in Providence on March 27<sup>th</sup>**

*A sizzling finale for the FirstWorks 2015 "Artistic Icons" series*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – FirstWorks presents Spain's most authentic flamenco touring company, **SOLEDAD BARRIO and NOCHE FLAMENCA** in a searing, spellbinding evening of incomparable flamenco dance, song (*cante flamenco*), and guitar. Featuring the Bessie Award-winning Soledad Barrio, said to be the best flamenco dancer of the modern era, Noche Flamenca will astonish FirstWorks' Providence audience on **Friday, March 27, 2015 at 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium (The Vets)**. This performance marks the finale of the FirstWorks 2015 "Artistic Icons" series, which presents artists across the disciplines of theater, dance, and music who have significantly impacted their fields to Providence audiences. ***Tickets to the Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca evening performance start at \$23 and are available at [first-works.org](http://first-works.org) or 401-421-ARTS.***

Touring with a full ensemble of 16 dancers and musicians, Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca's visit to Providence offers a rare opportunity to see the best of the best. "This is a chance to see someone who will be written about in history," stated FirstWorks' Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher, speaking about Ms. Barrio's remarkable and renowned skill. Critics place Ms. Barrio in the pantheon of great dance artists like Isadora Duncan and Martha Graham. Her dancing has been described as evoking "an entire vocabulary of fire: blazing, scorching, smoldering, flaming, incandescent" (Alan Helms, [ballet.co](http://ballet.co), England). Noche Flamenca as a whole is known for honoring the art of flamenco – giving equal balance to dance, song, and music, and taken to their depths, distilling these presentations into a deeply

moving, visceral experience. The award-winning Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca perform true flamenco – an art born out of the trials of Romans, Jews, Moors, and Gypsies from India and Pakistan living in 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>-century Andalucía to express solidarity and the universality of the human experience. “There is no stage dressing with Noche Flamenca; there doesn’t need to be. Theirs is a primitive expression driven by rhythm, and rooted in an electric blending of culture,” continued Pletcher.

Noche Flamenca was formed in 1993 by company artistic director Martín Santangelo and his wife, lead dancer Soledad Barrio. A nonprofit organization with a base in New York City, Noche Flamenca has become Spain's most successful touring company, performing regularly around the globe. Santangelo has successfully brought the essence, purity, and integrity of one of the world's most complex and mysterious art forms to the stage without the use of tricks or gimmicks. In the presentations of Noche Flamenca, all aspects of flamenco – dance, song, and music – are interrelated and given equal weight, creating a true communal spirit within the company – the very heart and soul of flamenco.

FirstWorks is a nonprofit organization that brings the world's stories, history and culture to local Providence audiences through world-class performances and opportunities to interact with artists and their artistic forms. As the final performance in the FirstWorks 2015 “Artistic Icons” series, Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca close a curated series “filled with legends,” Pletcher says. “These artists not only devote their lives to answering the question of how art shifts them individually, but how their art shifts the outside world.”

Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca perform at Veterans Memorial Auditorium (The Vets) at One Avenue of the Arts in Providence, R.I. on Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m.

For more information on the artists or to purchase tickets visit [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org) or call The Vets box office at 401-421-ARTS.

**About FirstWorks**

FirstWorks brings exceptional world-class performing arts experiences to Rhode Island, impacting the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of the community. Curating fully immersive programs since 2004, FirstWorks has offered Rhode Islanders unprecedented access some of the most exciting artists of this time, including Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Wynton Marsalis, Joffrey Ballet, and international masters from the Middle East, Asia, Australia, and Europe. FirstWorks programming includes arts learning residencies in area public schools and intimate conversations with artists. FirstWorks presents the FirstWorks Festival on the Plaza, Providence's signature arts event bringing thousands into downtown Providence. The June 2015 Festival, a multistage spectacle of music, art, theatre and dance, is produced in collaboration with the City of Providence and partners from art, tourism, business, and education. Visit [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org) to learn more.

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