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FirstWorks presents World Premiere of *Zoologic* by Lostwax Multimedia Dance

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – As part of their mission to build community through world-class performing arts and education programs, FirstWorks presents ***Zoologic***, a World Premiere work from Providence’s own **Lostwax Multimedia Dance**. Voted “Rhode Island’s best dance company” in a Providence Phoenix 2011 Readers’ Poll, Lostwax has toured across the U.S., in Europe and Asia, and has regularly sold-out its Providence performances for FirstWorks. *Zoologic* launches in a three-day premiere run at RISD Auditorium on April 10, 11 at 8 p.m. and April 12 at 4 p.m., 2015. ***Tickets to the performance are on sale now for \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door and are available at first-works.org or 401-421-4278.***

From 'panda cams' and electronic wildlife tagging to selfies, snapchat, and drones, Lostwax Multimedia Dance explores the ways in which technologies of communication and capture create more or less visible cages in contemporary life. Told through author Thalia Field's contemporary love story/environmental tragedy, we follow Tessela, a woman trapped in her own self-made cage, as she meets Heine Hediger, the Swiss specialist in animal behavior in zoos. The stories, both human and animal, provide a piercing look at fight, flight, and living life under surveillance.

Zoologic was created by Lostwax Artistic Director Jamie Jewett, along with his long-term collaborator composer/media artist R. Luke DuBois, surveillance artist/scholar Elise Morrison and performers Shura Baryshnikov, Sydney Skybetter, Kathryn Mcnamara, and Ali Brodsky. The Lostwax dancers will be joined onstage by drones of various shapes and sizes that in turns surveil them, protect them, and become

fellow living creatures. R. Luke DuBois provides a fierce soundscape composed using the sounds of endangered species as collected over the last 100 years by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The result is at once romantic and nightmarish.

“We so appreciate the boundary-pushing talent of these artists who call Rhode Island home,” said FirstWorks Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. “Jamie Jewett and Lostwax challenge our imaginations, create gorgeous productions, and open our eyes to the world. Lostwax is using art to explore issues around how our human behavior is recorded in the technological world we live in.”

Lostwax has long been interested in exploring the intersection between bodies and technology; *Zoologic* takes us further into the rapidly expanding range of surveillance technologies that we encounter on a daily basis — from Facebook and Match.com, to CCTV cameras and drones. Through the platforms of online dating, wildlife surveillance, zoo cams, and domestic partnerships, *Zoologic* explores the ways in which technologies create situations of voyeurism, exhibitionism, control and freedom in everyday life.

The troupe has a well-established history of premiering new work through FirstWorks. *Zoologic* marks the fifth world-premiere it has presented over FirstWorks’ 10-year history.

“We are tremendously excited about our fifth collaboration with FirstWorks,” said Jamie Jewett. “*Zoologic* was derived through a process that includes the spectrum of creative expertise brought by our cast. Together, we represent four RISCA choreographic fellows. In many ways this piece represents a collaborative tour-de-force of Rhode Island dance.”

In addition to the three-day premiere run of *Zoologic* on April 10-12, Lostwax artistic director Jamie Jewett will conduct in-school workshops on Friday, March 20 for students at Sanchez High School in Providence, R.I. and Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Pawtucket, R.I. These dance workshops are part of the FirstWorks Arts Learning program serving

Rhode Island's youth.

Lostwax Multimedia Dance performs *Zoologic* at the RISD Auditorium, 17 Canal Walk, Providence Greenway, in Providence, R.I. on Friday, April 10 at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 11 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 12 at 4 p.m. For more information on the artists or to purchase tickets visit www.first-works.org or call 401-421-4278.

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 our 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 is the leading arts partner for the *2015 Providence International Arts Festival*, 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 to learn more.

About the creators of "Zoologic"

Dr. Jamie Jewett (Choreography) is a choreographer, filmmaker, and new media artist who directs Lostwax Multimedia Dance. He creates hardware and software systems for use in live performance. He is an Associate Arts Professor of Dance and New Media at NYU/Tisch. Previously he was the Director of Dance at the College of Morris in NJ and a Professor in the Masters program in Sound, Image, and the Body at E.M.A. Fructidor in France. Jamie holds a PhD in New Media and Performance from Brown University as well as an MFA in Choreography and Technology from the Ohio State University. Recent works have been seen at the New Genre Festival (OK), Ringling Museum (FL), Here (NYC), Danspace (NYC), the Atlas Institute (CO), Boston Cyberarts (MA), and FirstWorks (RI) as well as London, Amsterdam, Dijon, and Vancouver. Dr. Jewett has been awarded multiple fellowships, commissions, and grants including being named the 2012 State of Rhode Island Choreographic Fellow. Dr. Jewett has been an artist in residence at HERE Center for the Arts in New York, at STEIM in Amsterdam, and at Perishable Theater in Providence, RI. Lostwax has been voted the best dance company in Rhode Island by readers of the Providence Phoenix.

R. Luke DuBois (Sound Design) is a composer, artist, and performer who explores the temporal, verbal, and visual structures of cultural and personal ephemera. He holds a doctorate in music composition from Columbia University, and has lectured and taught worldwide on interactive sound and video performance. He has collaborated on interactive performance, installation, and music production work with many artists and organizations including Toni Dove, Matthew Ritchie, Todd Reynolds, Michael Joaquin Grey, Elliott Sharp, Michael Gordon, Bang on a Can, Engine27, Harvestworks, and LEMUR, and was the director of the Princeton Laptop Orchestra for its 2007 season. Ar
collaborator, DuBois is the co-author of *Jitter*, a software suite for the real-time manipulation of matrix data. He appears on nearly twenty-five albums both individually and as part of the avant-garde electronic group The Freight Elevator Quartet. DuBois has lived for the last fifteen years in New York

City. He is the director of the Brooklyn Experimental Media Center at NYU's Polytechnic Institute. His records are available on Caipirinha/Sire, Liquid Sky, C74, and Cantaloupe Music. His artwork is represented by bitforms gallery in New York City.

Elise Morrison (Surveillance Technology) received her PhD in Theater and Performance Studies at Brown University in 2011. Currently a Mellon Postdoctoral fellow in Interdisciplinary Performance Studies at Yale University, she writes and teaches about surveillance technologies and their theatrical uses in art-making and everyday life. She has published in the *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media*, *TDR*, and *Theater Magazine*, as well as in several edited volumes. Her book, "Discipline and Desire: Surveillance technologies in performance" is under contract with University of Michigan Press. As a performing artist, Elise has created a number of surveillance art pieces for performance in Providence, Boston, and New York; in addition to "Zoologic", she has been developing "Through the Looking Glass: A Surveillance Cabaret".

Thalia Field (Author) is a poet and playwright. Her books include "Bird Lovers, Backyard" (New Directions, 2010), "A Prank of Georges" (Essay Press, 2010), "Ululu (Clown Shrapnel)" (Coffee House Press, 2007), "Incarnate: Story Material" (New Directions, 2004), and "Point and Line" (New Directions, 2000). The recipient of an NEA Commission/Development grant for her opera, "The Pompeii Exhibit", Thalia has worked on several collaborations with composers and interdisciplinary artists and edited a special issue of *Conjunctions* on experimental music-theater and dance "scores/texts". Thalia has two books forthcoming: "Experimental Animals" (Solid Objects, 2016) and "Leave to Remain", her second collaboration with Abigail Lang. Thalia is a professor in the Literary Arts department at Brown University.

Heidi Henderson (Costume Design) grew up in Skowhegan, ME and now lives in Rhode Island. Her work has been shown in London, Korea, NYC, at Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out and in many other places in New England. Heidi danced in the companies of Bebe Miller, Nina Weiner, and Paula Josa-Jones, and with Colleen Thomas, Peter Schmitz and Sondra Loring. She is a contributing editor at *Contact Quarterly*: a vehicle for moving ideas. She teaches regularly at the Bates Dance Festival and is on the dance faculty at Connecticut College.

Stephen Petrilli (Lighting Design) is working with Lostwax Multimedia Dance for the second time. He has designed for Pilobolus Dance Theatre, HT Chen & Dancers, Noche Flamenca, Kun Yang Lin/Dancers, Shapiro & Smith Dance, Ailey II, Nathan Trice/Rituals and The Kevin Wynn Collection. Theatre credits include work for The Pearl Theatre Company, National Asian-American Theatre Company, and The Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival in his hometown of Pittsburgh. Stephen also spent five years touring as the Lighting/Sound Supervisor for Pilobolus.

Zoologic Performers

Shura Baryshnikov is a Rhode Island-based educator, improviser, dancer and movement designer. Shura has worked as a choreographer and movement consultant for Trinity Repertory Company, The Wilbury Theatre Group, Bridge Repertory Company, Elemental Theatre Collective and on a number of Brown/Trinity MFA productions. As a freelance dancer, she has performed in works by Heidi Henderson, Ali Kenner-Brodsky and Betsy Miller, among others, and with Aerplaye Dance, American Dance Legacy Initiative and Festival Ballet Providence. Shura is a teaching associate in the Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies at Brown University and has also taught movement and choreographed for students at MIT, Dean College, Rhode Island College, Salve Regina University and at Earthdance in Plainfield, MA. Shura's performance work has been presented by the RISD Museum, Festival Ballet Providence, the Providence Fringe Festival and in Earthdance's Moving Arts

Ali Kenner Brodsky is the artistic director of ali kenner brodsky & company (akb & co.) and is the 2014 recipient of the RI State Council on the Arts Fellowship for Choreography. She was an artist-in-residence at the Joyce SoHo in NYC, where Phyllis Lamhut mentored her. Ali dances with and acts as rehearsal director for national touring company Lostwax Multimedia Dance. She has performed with Jessica Howard, Rose Pasquarello-Beauchamp, Emma Hogarth and with 83 paperbirds-moving lab and has co-produced two a+b performances with Betsy Miller. akb & co. had their Fall 2014 season, percolate, at The Dance Complex in Cambridge, Mass. and have been invited to the Provincetown Dance Festival among other festivals around New England. Ali is an adjunct dance faculty and guest choreographer at Salve Regina University and Dean College. A Rhode Island native, Kenner Brodsky and her family now make their home in Dartmouth, Mass.

Katie McNamara is a dance artist, a cook, a mother and a teacher. Katie spent her preliminary professional years in Philadelphia where she danced with Group Motion, Scrap Performance Group and Leah Stein Dance Company. During this time she also co-founded and directed the Bald Mermaids, named “best new modern dance company” by Philadelphia’s City Paper. Her work has been shown at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Philadelphia’s Painted Bride Art Center, the Carriage House, Galapagos Art Space, the Projekt Theatre (Dresden, Germany) as well as during the Silesian Dance Festival (Bytom, Poland). Katie has been asked to choreograph for many local universities, she currently teaches dance movement and theory at Dean College and has had a sixteen-year career as a Pilates teacher-certified through Pilates Method Alliance. She holds a BA in Dance and Anthropology from Connecticut College and an MFA in Dance from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Sydney Skybetter is a lecturer, choreographer, and writer. His dances are regularly performed around the country, most recently at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Boston Center for the Arts, Jacob’s Pillow and the Joyce Theater. As a Founding Partner with the Edwards & Skybetter | Change Agency, he has consulted on issues of change management and technology for The National Ballet of Canada, Barnes & Noble, New York University and The University of Southern California among others. He lectures on everything from dance history to cultural futurism, and is a frequent speaker at Juilliard, Dance/USA, and Opera America. He is a regular contributor to The Clyde Fitch Report, serves on the faculty of The Boston Conservatory, and is a lecturer on Dance History at Harvard University. He produces shows at Joe’s Pub and OBERON with DanceNOW[NYC], and was the first to get the word “Frack” in print at Dance Magazine. @SydneySkybetter

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