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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FirstWorks' 2016/17 Artistic Icons Series Continues with  
PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY**

*FirstWorks hosts the world premiere performance of a new Paul Taylor work  
"The Open Door" at their February 3 dance/live music event*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** — **FirstWorks**, a Rhode Island non-profit dedicated to connecting art with audiences, continues their 2016/2017 **Artistic Icons Series** with **PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY** on **Friday, February 3, 2017** at **8:00 p.m.** at **FirstWorks at The VETS** (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence). Tickets for the performance, presented by **FirstWorks**, range from **\$28-\$150**. The premium option includes admission to a post-show Premiere Party with the Paul Taylor dancers. Tickets are available for purchase at <http://first-works.org> and 401-421-ARTS (2787).

Dancemaker Paul Taylor, hailed as "the greatest living American choreographer," returns with his namesake company to Providence for an ambitious **FirstWorks Artistic Icons** event that includes a live orchestra and a unique opportunity for Rhode Island dance lovers to be the first to experience a new Paul Taylor work.

This extraordinary evening of music and movement offers the thrilling world premiere of “The Open Door,” a dance work choreographed to Edward Elgar’s “Enigma Variations.” Featured alongside this brand new work is the company’s first-ever Rhode Island performance of “Esplanade”—Taylor’s definitive masterwork set to Bach’s “Double Violin Concerto,” which will be backed by live music performed by the Brown University Orchestra. The program also features “Airs,” a 1978 work choreographed to the music of George Frideric Handel, which showcases Taylor’s classical ballet roots.

“We are honored that the American master artist Paul Taylor chose **FirstWorks** to debut his 146th dance which will be seen by audiences in Providence prior to its New York City Lincoln Center run,” said **FirstWorks** Founder and Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. “Paul Taylor is the epitome of an artistic icon. The Paul Taylor Dance Foundation has worked with us to develop a once-in-lifetime tribute to Paul’s vision and legacy for Rhode Island audiences.”

This world premiere event is the capstone performance of a larger arts residency partnership between **FirstWorks** and Paul Taylor American Modern Dance—**The Paul Taylor Legacy Project: Art in Motion**. Spanning **FirstWorks**’ season, the residency features talks, workshops, film screenings, performances and in-school arts learning programs across the state. The full schedule to-date is online at <http://first-works.org/events/paul-taylor-legacy-project/>

The Paul Taylor Legacy Project residency programs have been developed by **FirstWorks** and American Dance Legacy Initiative as a “Widening the Circle” undertaking, along with partners including the Brown University Orchestra, RISD Museum, Jamestown Arts Center, Cable Car Cinema and the Providence Tourism Council.

## **About the Paul Taylor Dance Company**

The world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company sets the global standard for contemporary dance excellence. Since the Company's founding in 1954, it has performed in some 524 cities in 64 countries. The upcoming 2017 Lincoln Center season marks the Company's 63rd performing year. Mr. Taylor continues to create at least two new works annually for his 16-member Company. His autobiography, "Private Domain," was published in 1987 and the Company was the subject of the documentary film "Dancemaker," nominated for an Academy Award in 1999. A book of essays mostly for fun, "Facts and Fancies," was written by Mr. Taylor in 2013. He has achieved countless accolades, including two of our nation's highest artistic distinctions: the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts.

## **About FirstWorks**

**FirstWorks** is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, **FirstWorks** festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 367,500 participants. The **FirstWorks Arts Learning Program** reaches over 4,000 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative arts-based learning experiences. **FirstWorks** is Founding Creative Partner for PVDfest, partnering with the City of Providence to produce an international arts celebration held each June in downtown Providence. The 2016 PVDfest drew over 75,000 to experience music, art and spectacle. Visit <http://first-works.org> to learn more.

## **Listings Information**

WHO: **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series presents PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY**

WHEN: **Friday, February 3, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.**

WHERE: **FirstWorks at The Vets** (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence)

TICKETS: **\$28-\$150** (includes a \$3 restoration fee). Premium ticket includes post-show Premiere Party.

PURCHASE: Tickets are available at <http://first-works.org> and at the Vets box office: **401-421-ARTS (2787)**, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence

SPECIAL OFFERS: 20% off ticket 4-pack with code **PTDANCE4**

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