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FirstWorks' Artistic Icons Series presents PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

Landmark event unveils world-premiere and live music/dance masterworks

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** and 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 to Providence for the first time in 50 years for a landmark **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series** world-premiere and masterwork performance featuring live orchestral music. This extraordinary event features the thrilling world premiere of “The Open Door,” Taylor’s new dance choreographed to composer Edward Elgar’s “Enigma Variations.”

A highlight of the evening program is the company’s first-ever Rhode Island performance of Taylor’s definitive masterwork, “Esplanade.” The piece is set to J.S. Bach’s “Double Violin Concerto” and “Violin Concerto in E Major,” which will be performed live by members of the Brown University Orchestra, conducted by

Paul Phillips. Featured guest soloists with the orchestra include Solomiya Ivakhiv (violin), Frederick Jodry (harpsichord), and Brown University student soloists Typher Yom (violin) and Calvin Jin (violin). The program also features “Airs,” a 1978 work choreographed to the music of George Frideric Handel, which showcases Taylor’s classical ballet roots.

Premium tickets include a post-show Premiere Party with the Taylor dancers, held in honor of the John Hazen White family for their contributions to **FirstWorks** and the arts in Rhode Island. Partygoers will enjoy drinks, desserts and live music at The Vets Loft.

A **FirstWorks** “Morning-After Conversation” over coffee with Paul Taylor principal dancers will take place at the RISD Museum Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium on Saturday, February 4 from 10-11:30 AM. The conversation will offer a behind-the-scenes perspective on the dancer’s role in co-creating a new work and will be moderated by Julie Strandberg, co-founder of American Dance Legacy Initiative at Brown University. Paul Taylor Dance Company ticket holders receive free admission with their ticket stub; all others may gain admission at the door, space allowing, for \$10 general admission / \$5 student.

“We are thrilled to have American master artist Paul Taylor debut his 146th dance in Providence with **FirstWorks** prior to its Lincoln Center run in New York City,” said **FirstWorks** Founder and Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. “This weekend of lush live music, genre-defining dance, and artist up-close interaction is the fruit of deep collaboration with the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation and our valuable local partners at Brown University, American Dance Legacy Initiative, The RISD Museum and the Providence Tourism Council.”

These events are part 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, Dedee Shattuck Gallery, 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 honoring the John Hazen White Family.

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

Listings Information

WHO: **FirstWorks Morning-After Conversation with Paul Taylor dancers**

WHEN: **Saturday, February 4, 2017, 10-11:30 a.m.**

WHERE: **RISD Museum Michael P. Metcalf Auditorium** (20 North Main Street, Providence)

TICKETS: FREE for ticket holders to February 3 Paul Taylor Dance Company performance. \$10 general admission / \$5 student at door for all others

MORE INFO: <http://first-works.org>

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