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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FirstWorks' Paul Taylor Legacy Project Storms Providence Next Week

Workshops, master classes, and a newly announced talk by Paul Taylor's official biographer Suzanne Carbonneau lead up to a capstone event— Paul Taylor Dance Company's world premiere performance at The Vets on February 3

Providence, RI — FirstWorks' season-long **Paul Taylor Legacy Project** ignites Providence next week with a series of workshops and events leading up to the **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series** performance by **Paul Taylor Dance Company at The Vets on Friday, February 3**. Tickets for the performance range from \$28-\$150 and are available for purchase at <http://first-works.org> and 401-421-ARTS (2787). This extraordinary evening includes the world premiere of Taylor's 146th work, "**The Open Door**," with costumes by acclaimed Broadway designer William Ivey Long, ahead of the company's New York City performance run at Lincoln Center.

FirstWorks' Paul Taylor Legacy Project has featured an unprecedented 30 events in dance, American history, art, and music designed to engage Rhode Island audiences with the creative genius of one of America's greatest living dancemakers.

The Paul Taylor Legacy Project moves into a heady one-week whirlwind of events beginning on February 1 with a series of student workshops, master classes, and a newly announced talk by Mr. Taylor's official biographer, Suzanne Carbonneau, on February 2. After The Paul Taylor Dance Company's performance at The Vets on February 3, residency events conclude on February 4 with a "Morning After" post-show conversation with Paul Taylor's principal dancers at the RISD Museum.

FirstWorks Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher says: "Paul Taylor is truly an artist with a towering legacy—not only within the world of dance, but in music, visual art, and history. FirstWorks is thrilled to make Rhode Island the focal point for celebrating his multidisciplinary contributions to art, culture, and community."

This unique and expansive program highlighting Paul Taylor's extensive contributions to American dance began in fall 2016 with a series of workshops, documentary film screenings, a performance of Taylor's recently rediscovered dance, "Tracer," and in-school events at 19 schools in Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, Central Falls, Cumberland, Jamestown, and Newport. It culminates with the world premiere of Taylor's 146th work, "The Open Door," in a concert program that includes two never-seen-in-RI Taylor masterworks and live music from the Brown University Orchestra.

Upcoming Paul Taylor Legacy Project Events Include:

Thursday, February 2

12:00–1:00 p.m. **Paul Taylor's America: Songs of Innocence and Experience**
Nightingale Brown House at Brown University (357 Benefit Street, Providence)

Join official Paul Taylor biographer Suzanne Carbonneau for an engaging conversation about how Paul Taylor's dances have chronicled both shining ideals and uncomfortable truths about democratic equality in America. Open to the public by reservation only. RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/QSkGVFTcmbgVLRaQ1>

Friday, February 3

12:30–1:30 p.m. **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Student Matinee with Paul Taylor Dance Company**

The Vets (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence)

This open dress rehearsal will engage K-12 students with the Taylor masterwork "Esplanade," set to live music performed by members of the Brown University Orchestra. Interested educators and school groups can contact FirstWorks Education & Community Coordinator Kathleen McAreavey, (401) 421-4278 or kathleenm@first-works.org

8:00 p.m. **FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series presents Paul Taylor Dance Company**

The Vets (1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence)

A once-in-a-lifetime chance to witness the world premiere of Paul Taylor's most recent original work, "**The Open Door**," featuring the music of Edward Elgar and set/costume design by Tony Award-winner William Ivey Long. In "The Open Door," Paul Taylor opens the door on a social event where a host entertains a diverse ensemble of guests.

The program for this world premiere event includes the company's first-ever Rhode Island performance of Taylor's definitive masterwork, "**Esplanade**," set to J.S. Bach's "Double Violin Concerto" and "Violin Concerto in E Major." Music will be performed live by members of the Brown University Orchestra, conducted by Paul Phillips. Featured guest soloists 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.

Community MusicWorks, an organization that builds relationships between professional musicians and families in Providence's urban neighborhoods, will be the featured **JumpStart, FirstWorks'** signature pre-show series matching local artists with Artistic Icons. The JumpStart performance takes place in The Vets upper lobby 30 minutes prior to curtain, and is included in the ticket price.

Saturday, February 4

10–11:30 a.m. **Morning-After Conversation with Paul Taylor Dancers**

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

The Paul Taylor Dance Company's lead artistic team will offer a behind-the-scenes perspective on the dancer's role in co-creating a new work. The conversation will be moderated by Julie Strandberg, co-founder of American Dance Legacy Initiative at Brown University.

For more information on these events, including detailed booking information, visit <http://first-works.org>.

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 Partner for PVDfest, working 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**

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