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[Link to Star Dust preview](#)

[High resolution images](#)



FirstWorks Celebrates 15th Anniversary with Glitter and Glam Evening Featuring Complexions Contemporary Ballet's Dance Tribute to David Bowie

“From Bach to Bowie” is the ultimate dance party, featuring classically trained dancers who break boundaries and challenge ballet stereotypes

Providence, R.I. (April 8, 2019) – FirstWorks, a non-profit dedicated to connecting Rhode Island audiences to world-class arts presents “From Bach to Bowie” with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, in partnership with The Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available now online at first-works.org and ppacri.org or at 401-421-ARTS (2787). Ticket prices range from \$25-\$200, (includes a \$3 per ticket restoration fee). Premium tickets include admission to FirstWorks 15th Anniversary pre-show Glitter and Glam Party.

The first half of Complexions' evening performance titled “From Bach to Bowie” features “Bach 25,” an intricate fusion of contemporary dance and ballet technique exquisitely performed to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The second half of the program features Complexions' runaway hit “Star Dust,” a homage to the iconic and chameleon spirit of **David Bowie**. “**Star Dust**” takes on an array of Bowie's greatest hits to create a rock-inspired ballet in his honor, featuring some of Bowie's best-loved music including “**Heroes**”, “**Young Americans**”, “**Life on Mars**”, “**Let's Dance**” and more.

“Audiences will be awestruck by the innovative themes and ‘super-dancer’ techniques displayed by Complexions Contemporary Ballet,” said Kathleen

Pletcher, FirstWorks Founder and Executive Artistic Director. "Complexions' philosophy is that dance should be about removing boundaries, not reinforcing them. The performance takes what you may think about ballet and turns it on its side."

Complexions Contemporary Ballet was founded in 1994 by master choreographer Dwight Rhoden, a former principal dancer from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the legendary Desmond Richardson, the first African American principal dancer of the American Ballet Theater. As America's first fully multicultural ballet company, Complexions reinvents dance through a groundbreaking mix of methods, styles and cultures. The company is presented as part of FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series connecting Providence audiences with genre-defining artists.

Since its inception in 1994, Complexions Contemporary Ballet has presented its visionary approach to human movement in over 20 countries on five continents, to over 20 million television viewers and well over 300,000 people in live audiences.

The arts organization FirstWorks has been bringing the Rhode Island community together through the arts for the last 15 years. Immediately prior to Complexions Contemporary Ballet's performance, PPAC will host FirstWorks' 15th Anniversary Glitter and Glam Party featuring great food, music, entertainment and celebration starting at 5:00 p.m. FirstWorks is also a founding partner of PVDfest. Tickets to the party include top-tier seats to the Complexions evening performance and are available at FIRST-WORKS.ORG / PPACRI.ORG or by calling 401-421-ARTS (2787).

Members of the community are also invited to attend a free FirstWorks Artist Up Close Conversation with Complexions co-founders Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden on Tuesday, April 16 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Ashamu Dance Center at Brown University located at 77 Waterman Street, Providence. The talk will be

moderated by Julie Adams Strandberg, co-founder of American Dance Legacy Initiative, Artist-In-Residence and Founding Director of Dance at Brown University.

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 500,000 participants. The FirstWorks Arts Learning Program reaches more than 4,500 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative, arts-based learning experiences. FirstWorks is Founding Partner for PVDfest, collaborating with the City of Providence to produce an international arts celebration held each June that in 2018 drew 100,000 visitors to Providence to experience music, art and spectacular performances. Visit first-works.org to learn more.

About Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Break the boundaries of dance with the innovative company that transcends tradition, Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Founded in 1994 by master choreographer Dwight Rhoden and the legendary Desmond Richardson, Complexions' foremost innovation is to remove any barriers to creative expression, not reinforce them. This singular approach mixes methods, styles and cultures to create groundbreaking movement that embodies the company's historical moment, while simultaneously building its future. Today, Complexions represents one of the most recognized and respected performing arts brands in the world. In the 23 years since its inception, the company has born witness to a world that is becoming more fluid, more changeable and more culturally interconnected than ever before—continuing its mission of bringing unity to the world, one dance at a time. For more information please visit complexionsdance.org.

About Providence Performing Arts Center

The Providence Performing Arts Center is celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Loew's Theatre Building throughout its EPIC 2018/2019 Season. It was a momentous day when the Loew's Theatre Building, now known as the Providence Performing Arts Center, opened on October 6, 1928. The Theatre, designed by Rapp & Rapp, has always been a visual marvel, and has astounded visitors with its beauty and grandeur. For nine decades, the Loew's Theatre Building has not only survived, but ultimately flourished, while undergoing various name changes, storm damage, and ongoing architectural restoration.

The Providence Performing Arts Center presents a full roster of touring Broadway theatricals and contemporary engagements. PPAC has been the theatre of

choice in launching eighteen National Tours, including MISS SAIGON, CATS, and THE BAND'S VISIT this Season. PPAC is a 3100-seat, world class venue located in the heart of Providence's arts and entertainment district; it is the second largest theatre of its kind in the country. PPAC is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; it has also been ranked by Pollstar as one of the Top Venues in the world.

Listings Information:

WHO: FirstWorks Artistic Icons Series presents Complexions Contemporary Ballet: From Bach to Bowie

WHAT: An electrifying ballet performance set to Bach and Bowie music

WHEN: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Providence Performing Arts Center, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence, R.I.

TICKETS: \$25-74.50 (includes \$3 restoration fee), \$200 premium ticket including FirstWorks 15th Anniversary Party admission also available at first-works.org or ppacri.org or call 401-421-ARTS (2787).

WHO: Complexions Contemporary Ballet co-founders Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden, and American Dance Legacy Initiative founder Julie Adams Strandberg

WHAT: A FirstWorks Artist Up-Close Conversation

WHEN: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 4 p.m.

WHERE: Ashamu Dance Studio at Brown University, 77 Waterman Street Providence, R.I.

TICKETS: Free and open to the public

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