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**FirstWorks and PPAC Present Gravity-Defying Daredevils of America's Got Talent
Fame
Friday, April 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**

DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion® combines extreme sports, dance, and acrobatics to astonish audiences of all ages

Providence, R.I. – FirstWorks, a Rhode Island non-profit dedicated to building community through world-class arts, and **the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC)** are partnering to present gravity-defying movement artists **DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion®**, to PPAC on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at first-works.org and ppacri.org or at 401-421-ARTS (2787), or at the PPAC Box Office at 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Ticket prices range from \$39.50 to \$69.50 (includes a \$3 facility restoration fee).

Seen by over 95 million people as a top 10 finalist on NBC's *America's Got Talent*, DIAVOLO soars beyond the grasp of gravity. Drawing from dance, acrobatics, martial arts, and gymnastics, DIAVOLO climbs, careens, and catapults from massive mobile structures onstage, plying the relationship between the human body and its surrounding architectural environment for feats of physicality. Led by the inventive genius of Founder and Artistic Director Jacques Heim and his fearless, athletic daredevils, the Los Angeles-based company continues to push a new edge of performance art.

"FirstWorks is thrilled to welcome DIAVOLO's breath-taking stunts to the PPAC stage," said FirstWorks Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher. "Their maneuvering of monumental sets tests the limits of human athleticism and probe our relationships with the architecture that surrounds us."



DIAVOLO's April program in Providence – the only public New England appearance on the tour – showcases the troupe's groundbreaking use of built structures to explore the upper limits of human movement. Their newest work inspired by travels in space, "Voyage," pays homage to the 50th Anniversary of the first moon landing and features audio recordings from Apollo 11 and a massive rolling dome reminiscent of the moon. Next, "Trajectoire" takes the audience on a visceral and emotional journey through the ebb and flow of the human experience as performers leap from a 3,000 pound boat made of aluminum and steel. Both adventurous works are set to original compositions by Nathan Wang.

DIAVOLO Founder and Artistic Director Jacques Heim will also offer a Creative Conversation at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) on April 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the RISD Center for Integrative Technologies. Presented by FirstWorks in collaboration with RISD Interior Architecture, Heim's talk will address DIAVOLO's unique performance style and the role of built structure in their work. Audience questions will be moderated by Liliane Wong, Professor and Head of the Department of Interior Architecture at RISD.

As part of FirstWorks Arts Learning, DIAVOLO will perform a student matinee at PPAC on Friday, April 24th at 10 a.m. for more than two thousand youth in grades 1-12 from across the state. The following day, Saturday, April 25th, members of the company will conduct a sensory-friendly workshop through PPAC's Education Program at 10 a.m.

About DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion®

DIAVOLO | Architecture in Motion®, the renowned Los Angeles-based dance company, was founded in 1992 by Artistic Director Jacques Heim. Thanks to Heim and his talented crew of dancers, designers and engineers, the Company, for more than 25 years, has been applauded internationally for its ability to display surprising movement against a backdrop of elaborately designed space, all while entertaining audiences. Heim's artistic vision combines elements of contemporary dance with martial arts, acrobatics, gymnastics, and hip-hop.

Throughout the years, the Company has captivated audiences in 250 cities and 14 countries and has performed to sold out audiences throughout the U.S. International touring has included stops in Germany, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Holland, Austria, Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Columbia and Chile. In 2017, DIAVOLO enjoyed an especially extraordinary season, highlighted by Heim's creation of five new pieces for Season 12 of NBC's hit series "America's Got Talent." One of the Top 10 contestants to reach the show's finale at Hollywood's Dolby Theater, the Company was seen by over 90



million television viewers. Through The DIAVOLO Institute, the Company also provides educational and outreach programs for people of all ages and abilities as it seeks to share the power of dance as a means of social impact.

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 diverse audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 600,000 participants. Last season, FirstWorks arts education programs reached over 5,500 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative, arts-based learning experiences. FirstWorks is the founding partner of PVDfest, collaborating with the City of Providence to produce the City's free signature arts celebration held each June. In 2019 PVDfest drew 130,000 visitors to Providence to experience music, art and spectacular performances. Embracing collaboration, FirstWorks has fostered over 90 community partnerships across business, social service, government, arts, and education sectors. Sustained collaborations with higher education include ambitious arts programming with Brown Arts Initiative at Brown University, artist workshops at Providence College, and lectures at Rhode Island School of Design. Visit first-works.org to learn more.

About the Providence Performing Arts Center

The Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) presents a full roster of touring Broadway productions and contemporary engagements, including family-friendly productions like **DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion®**. PPAC has been the theatre of choice in launching twenty-one national tours since 2008; this includes three National Tours that will launch during PPAC's 2020/2021 Season: AIN'T TOO PROUD – THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE TEMPTATIONS, PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL, and THE PROM. 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 and PPAC present DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion®

WHAT: A fusion of extreme dance, acrobatics, gymnastics and architectural structures

WHEN: Friday, April 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Providence Performing Arts Center, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence,



R.I.

TICKETS: \$39.50-69.50 (includes \$3 restoration fee)

Listings information:

WHO: FirstWorks and RISD Interior Architecture present DIAVOLO's Jacques Heim

WHAT: Creative Conversation on DIAVOLO's creative process and use of architectural performance elements

WHEN: Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: RISD Center for Integrative Technologies, 169 Weybosset St., Providence

TICKETS: Free, advanced registration is encouraged at

<https://firstworks.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0F2K00000NWexYUAT>

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