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**FirstWorks Partners with Everett Dance Theatre**

*“Brain Storm” to Hit Providence*

*New Partnership Produces a Powerful Storm of Sustained Creativity*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – FirstWorks announces a partnership with the Everett Dance Theatre, facilitating national funding for the dance company to develop *Brain Storm*, an ambitious multimedia dance/theater production now scheduled to premiere at the 2011 FirstWorks Festival, recently described as one of the top contemporary art festivals in New England by the Providence Journal.

Funding for *Brain Storm* comes in part from The New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project and was dependent on the Everett Dance Theatre securing a presenting partner to premiere the work. The FirstWorks partnership was the catalyst that propelled the Everett Dance Theatre to become one of just six recipients to receive funding. Founded in 1986, Everett Dance Theatre has performed at some of the most prestigious stages across the country including Dance Theatre Workshop, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Spoleto Festival, the Skirball Cultural Center, and the Walker Center for the Arts. The company's numerous awards include The New York Dance and Performance Awards, informally known as the Bessie Awards; the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts Award and the first Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Creative development of *Brain Storm* will kick-off this week with a Brain Café on Thursday, January 27 at the Carriage House Stage in Providence, and the process will span the next nine months. *Brain Storm* will explore new developments in brain research and neurological advancements, and the creative process will cross boundaries and disciplines. The production will blend theater, choreography, kinetic sculptural set pieces and mobile video projections with

research, human stories and humor. Follow the development of *Brain Storm* at [www.first-works.org](http://www.first-works.org).

“FirstWorks early commitment to presenting *Brain Storm* played an important role in securing The New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project funding,” said Aaron Jungels, Co-Artistic Director, Everett Dance Theatre. “We are very excited to have FirstWorks onboard as a presenting partner and to premiere *Brain Storm* at the 2011 FirstWorks Festival in Providence.”

“This promises to be a ground-breaking partnership that involves our entire community in the incubation of this ‘first work,’” said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. “FirstWorks is dedicated to connecting art with audiences – over the next nine months, *Brain Storm* will engage so many constituents including – artists, scientists, researchers, healthcare providers, and anyone who is interested in how their own brain works. As a catalyst for creativity in Providence, FirstWorks is looking forward to the coming ‘brain storm’ of creativity and creation.”

Kicking off the “brain storming” process this week in Providence, Everett Dance Theatre will host the first of a monthly series of Brain Cafés at the Carriage House Stage. The first Brain Café starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 27 and will include:

- Neuroscience 101 – a short presentation by Brown University neuroscientist John Stein featuring a real human brain.
- Tap and the Brain – tap dancer Brian Jones exploring the brain's ability to process syncopation, symmetry, rhythm and rhyme in a 15-minute tap lecture.
- Brain Storm Process – Everett company members share the questions they are currently asking about the brain and demonstrate some of their improvisational creation methods.
- About my brain – people from the audience share stories they have about the brain.
- An open dialogue with the audience will follow the presentation.

The development of *Brain Storm* will take place in part while Everett Dance Theatre is undertaking a two-year residency at the Crotched Mountain Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Greenfield, NH, serving children and adults with brain injuries and disabilities. The work will incorporate experiences and stories from Crotched Mountain families, patients and caregivers

and will involve interviewing and developing relationships with neuroscientists working at Brown University, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

### **About FirstWorks**

FirstWorks connects art with audiences year-round through the exceptional vitality of artists' first appearances, children's first experiences with performance and the premiering of new works. FirstWorks was launched in 2004 as a vehicle to build community, reach underserved audiences, and present extraordinary arts programs that elevate Providence's national profile. In the six years since, FirstWorks has produced ten groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted over 75,000 participants, and engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools.

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