

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathleen Van Gorden
401-480-1840
kathleenv@kvgcom.com



High Resolution Images Available

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2009

**THE FIRSTWORKS FESTIVAL IS BACK
ASTONISHING MUSIC, DANCE AND NEW MEDIA ARTS
September 24 – November 15, 2009**

Providence, R.I. – This year the FirstWorks Festival celebrates icons of music and the moving image, the cultural legacy of American masters, revolutionary Cirque theatre, cutting edge digital arts, special projects by Rhode Island artists and more. Co-produced by FirstWorks and the City of Providence’s Department of Art, Culture and Tourism the FirstWorks Festival 2009 spans seven weeks and will connect musicians, artists and performers with audiences from September 24 – November 15. Tickets are on sale now at www.first-works.org.

“Each year we set out in search of boundary-breaking creators from around the globe who cross the disciplines of music, dance, theater and new media,” said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. “This process of discovery is truly transformative and the FirstWorks Festival, along with our year-round programming, allows us to share the astonishment, adventure and the unexpected with audiences in Providence.”

The FirstWorks Festival opens on Thursday, September 24 with “**Pixilerations [v.6]: The Great Disruption,**” an international array of cutting-edge new-media artists. The Festival culminates with the headline performance, **Cirque Mechanics “Birdhouse Factory,”** on Saturday, November 14 at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC). The international touring company marries the art of Mexican-born muralist Diego Rivera and the humor of Charlie Chaplin’s “Modern Times” to transform PPAC into a wondrous 1930’s factory. Comprised of stars from the famed circuses of the world, the spectacular Cirque Mechanics perform on giant gears and acrobatic assembly lines as they fly, climb and contort their way through rotating gears, trampoline walls and aerial hoops.

FirstWorks Festival 2009

- **September 24 – October 11: “Pixilerations [v.6]: The Great Disruption.”** New media installations, concerts and video screenings. Opening night Thursday, September 24 at 5 Traverse Gallery and RISD’s Sol Koffler Gallery, 6-8 p.m. Full Pixilerations event schedule and venues at www.pixilerations.org.

- **October 2 & 3:** American master **Pauline Oliveros**, an internationally acclaimed composer, performer and humanitarian, presents her lifetime practice, “Deep Listening®.” Oliveros has profoundly influenced American and electronic music through her groundbreaking work. October 2: Performance at RISD Auditorium, 8pm. October 3: Workshop at RISD Tap Room, 1 p.m.
- **October 3:** Indie-darlings **Dean & Britta** bring their dream-pop sounds to Andy Warhol’s “Screen Tests” in an amazing display of youth and beauty frozen in time. Performing as part of FirstWorks Festival 2009 and the Pixilerations [v.6] new media showcase. RISD Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- **October 9 & 10:** Two of Rhode Island's most original composers, **Steve Jobe** and **Chris Turner**, collaborate to premiere a unique musical program and create a sonic landscape of expressive power with a 30-member strong community-based ensemble. Beneficent Church, Providence, 8 p.m.
- **October 16:** The opening reception for “**Let us imagine a straight line**” an interactive installation by Butch Rovin, featuring dancer Ami Shulman, from 5-7 p.m. This event runs through November 6 at the Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown University.
- **October 17:** Award winning **Yellow Bird Indian Dancers** perform a repertoire rich in authentic Apache, Southwest and Northern Plains traditions for an experience to be shared with the whole family. RISD Auditorium, 2 p.m.
- **October 24:** A new cultural partnership between FirstWorks and the Taiwanese Council for Cultural Affairs brings **HORSE** to Providence for “Velocity”, a feast of dances set to music by composers ranging from Mozart and Bach to John Cage and Michael Gordon. Synthesizing elements of experimental theater, drama and mime, the playful vignettes of “Velocity” explore how the frenetic nature of contemporary society pulls people and things apart. RISD Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- **October 30:** Just in time for Halloween, the **Devil Music Ensemble** performs their original score, set live to Dracula’s silent film debut “Nosferatu,” directed by F.W. Murnau in 1922. RISD Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- **November 14: Cirque Mechanics:** Inspired by the masterful industrial murals of Diego Rivera, the outrageous illustrations of cartoonist Rube Goldberg, and the gentle political slapstick of Charlie Chaplin, these literally off-the-wall performers transform PPAC into a magical “Birdhouse Factory” with their revolutionary new brand of Cirque theatre. Providence Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m.
- **November 15:** The 100-voice **Providence Singers** season opener with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project wraps up the FirstWorks Festival and features masterworks expressly written for chorus and percussion. Beneficent Church, Providence, 3 p.m.

“Now in its sixth year, the FirstWorks Festival continues to expand with local, national and international performers and partnerships,” said David N. Cicilline, Mayor of the City of Providence. “This year FirstWorks

showcases more international artists than ever before and we offer a special Providence welcome to the dancers of HORSE who visit us as a result of the newly formed partnership between FirstWorks and the Taiwanese Council for Cultural Affairs.”

Extended Festival events include Artist-Up-Close conversations, pre-performance JumpStart festivities and festival workshops. FirstWorks Festival 2009 brings audiences together with artists to provide unique opportunities to discuss the inspiration and ideas behind the work, thereby expanding the festival experience beyond its signature first performance events.

Events will take place at the Providence Performing Arts Center, Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium, Brown University, the Sol Koffler Gallery and other Providence venues. All venues, show specifics, ticket prices and free event listings are available at www.first-works.org. Tickets for all performances are on sale now, including the FirstWorks Festival pass. Offered again this year, the FirstWorks Festival pass is an opportunity to save over 50% on individual tickets.

About FirstWorks

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 collaboration with the City of Providence's Department of Art, Culture & Tourism, FirstWorks has flourished. In six years FirstWorks has produced nine groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted 68,000 participants, and engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools. Visit www.first-works.org to learn more.

Produced by FirstWorks in collaboration with the City of Providence, Dept. of Art, Culture + Tourism, and made possible in part by Amica Mutual Insurance Company, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Brown University: Creative Arts Council, Dept. of Visual Arts, Dept. of Modern Culture and Media, Dept. of Music and the MEME program; The Felicia Fund, John and Happy White Foundation/TACO, Johnson & Wales University, June Rockwell Levy Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Rhode Island Foundation, Rhode Island School of Design: Academic Affairs and Digital+Media Department; Sodexo Food Services, Target, Inc. and Textron Charitable Trust. Media sponsors: Cox Communications, CW28, NBC10 WJAR, News Talk 630 WPRO & 99.7 FM, Poder 1110, *The Bay*, *East Side Monthly*, *Providence Monthly*, *Providence Phoenix*, *Rhode Island Monthly* and *SO Rhode Island*.

###