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CONTACT: Joyce Linehan 617-282-2510 x 1, joyce@ashmontmedia.com

THEATRE, COMEDY, SPOKEN WORD OFFERINGS AT FIRST NIGHT 2010

Note: The complete press kit for First Night Boston 2010, including program guide and images can be viewed at <http://www.firstnight.org/PressRoom/Default.aspx>

(BOSTON) First Night Boston is the country's oldest and largest New Year's arts celebration. On Dec. 31, 2009 from 1 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, ice sculpture, fireworks and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes children, families and revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night Boston offers a wide array of theatre, comedy and spoken word performances this year. Most performances occur twice and last 45 minutes. For complete schedules including updates, please visit www.firstnight.org.

Kaiju Big Battel

Hynes Convention Center, Hall A, 9:30 p.m.

Massachusetts-based Kaiju Big Battel is the world's only live monster wrestling spectacle, performing parodies of both professional wrestling and Japanese monster movies, with a dash of Mexican wrestling thrown in. "Battels" are presented in the style of pro wrestling matches, with costumed performers playing giant monsters like Godzilla and Gamera.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: A Shakesporean Cabaret!

St. Paul's Cathedral, 8 and 9:15 p.m.

Shakespeare has inspired countless composers - Verdi, Rossini, Benjamin Britten, Cole Porter, Rogers and Hart, and Leonard Bernstein, to name a few. In collaboration with New England Conservatory, CSC will present a collection of funny, beautiful, touching modern and classic songs from and inspired by Shakespeare.

Tony V and Jimmy Dunn

Hynes Convention Center, Hall D

Almost as much of a New Year's tradition as First Night itself, Tony V. hosts his annual comedy show with Boston comic Jimmy Dunn, host of NESN's *Fan Attic*. Join two Boston comedy veterans to ring in the New Year with so much laughter it'll bring you to tears.

Best of Both Worlds

American Repertory Theatre, 3 and 7:30 p.m.

First Night Boston crosses the river where the first 100 First Night button holders at each performance will be admitted free to *Best of Both Worlds*, a joyous and celebratory gospel/r&b musical inspired by *The Winter's Tale*, perfect for the whole family.

Improv Boston

Hynes Convention Center Exhibit Hall C, 7:30, 8:45 and 10 p.m.

ImprovBoston takes suggestions from the audience to weave their input, challenges, scenes, and songs into a wonderful performance for all ages, performing familiar 'games' as seen on TV as well as their own unique, hilarious brand of comedy.

Boston Poetry Slam

Hynes Room 208, 7:30, 8:15, 9 and 9:45 p.m.

Poetry slam is a fast-paced competition where poets have a limited amount of time to impress judges randomly selected from the audience. Storytelling, lyricism, and stand-up comedy all come together in what's evolved to a modern oral tradition.

In addition to these and other great events, First Night will also feature **Japanese Anime; Kaiju Big Battel; Kristin Hersh; Anat Cohen; Bollywood Film;** fiveice sculptures; **The FedEx Family Festival; The Metro Boston First Night Grand Procession;** the **Boston Family Fireworks** presented by Mayor Menino and The Mugar Foundation; the traditional **midnight fireworks over Boston Harbor** sponsored by Cape Dairy; and a midnight countdown with WBZ-TV's Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes at Copley Square. For a complete listing, visit www.firstnight.org.

All First Night outdoor events are free, though supported by sales of the First Night button (artwork by Ekuia Holmes), which is the ticket for admission to all indoor events. Buttons are \$18 (children under 4 admitted free) and are available at Boston-area Shaw's and Star Markets, Tedeschi's, Store 24, Au Bon Pain and dozens of other locations. For a complete list of advance sale locations or to buy buttons online, visit www.firstnight.org. Buttons are available at a special web price of \$15 at www.firstnight.org through Dec. 26. For more information, visit www.firstnight.org.

First Night, Inc. is a private, 501©3 non-profit organization. It is supported by public and private contributions, sponsorships, and through the admission sales of the First Night button. First Night Boston is grateful for the support of its major contributors: The City of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, Mayor; WBZ-TV; Metro Boston; The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority; FedEx, Frank Ward of Cape Dairy; The Boston Foundation; The Linde Family Foundation; Jane's Trust; Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau; an Anonymous Foundation; Massachusetts Cultural Council; Fleetwing Foundation; MBTA; WGBH Radio; Boston 4 Productions; The Mugar Foundation, Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Bank of America, Trustee; Clear Channel Outdoor and Wall USA.

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