



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rebecca Sheahan
T: 718-230-2528 F: 718-636-4166
rsheahan@651arts.org

651 ARTS presents
LIVE & OUTSPOKEN
An original live series of conversation and performance
Philip Glass & Tania León — February 8
Ntozake Shange & Marc Bamuthi Joseph — March 8
Stephen Henderson & Amiri Baraka — April 5

All Tickets: \$15 | www.SmartTix.com or call 212-868-4444

(Brooklyn, New York, January 2011) The Brooklyn-based, **651 ARTS** – a performing arts organization dedicated to the multi-faceted work of contemporary performing artists of the African Diaspora – announces three evenings of artist-to-artist interviews featuring innovators in contemporary dance, theater, and music.

In addition to conversation - and in keeping with 651 ARTS dedication to live performance - the subject of the interview will demonstrate his/her artistic form throughout the evening and, when possible, the participants will collaborate artistically during the 90-minute event.

LIVE & OUTSPOKEN features a stellar line-up of contemporary performance icons interviewing fellow artists who are making indelible marks in the performing arts world today. Each evening provides an intimate glimpse of the influences, artistry and social concerns of some of the worlds' most engaging and fascinating artists. On Tuesday, February 8 at the Mark Morris Dance Center, modern music icon **Philip Glass interviews fellow composer Tania León**; on Tuesday, March 8 at the Mark Morris Dance Center, poet **Ntozake Shange interviews artist/performer Marc Bamuthi Joseph**; and on Tuesday, April 5 at The Irondale Center, poet/activist **Amiri Baraka interviews film and stage actor Stephen Henderson**.

651 ARTS' LIVE & OUTSPOKEN is an original series that began in the spring of 2010 and celebrates the scope of work being made by artists of African descent today.

**LIVE & OUTSPOKEN
2011**

PHILIP GLASS interviews TANIA LEÓN

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 7PM

The James and Martha Duffy Performance Space at the Mark Morris Dance Center

Tickets: \$15

www.SmartTix.com or call 212-868-4444

Great minds meet in this intimate conversation between two celebrated composers – Philip Glass and Tania León. León discusses her fascinating life, art, and influences with fellow composer Philip Glass. Throughout the evening, selections of León's critically-acclaimed music will be performed on piano by award-winning pianist Adam Kent.

Tania León, born in Cuba, is highly regarded as a composer and conductor who has directed orchestras across the globe. In March 2009, the ballet *Inura*, with music by León and choreography by Carlos dos Santos premiered at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. In 2008, León served as U.S. Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain and held a Composer/Conductor residency at the Beijing Central Conservatory, China. Her work, *Horizons*, was performed by The National Symphony of China, in the opening concert of China's Beijing International Congress of Women in Music. Recent awards for her work include a Pulitzer Prize nomination (2008) for *Ácana*, *La Distinción de Honor de la Rosa Blanca* from the Patronato José Martí for her contribution to Cuban culture in the field of music, a Guggenheim Fellowship (2007), and a Fromm Music Foundation commission. In 2006, León was named Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York. In 2010, in addition to being elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Letters, León was officially invited to Havana by Cuban master conductor Leo Brouwer, where, for the first time, her music was performed in her native country. Her work, *To And Fro (4 Moods)*, was nominated for a 2010 Latin Grammy for Best Classical Contemporary Composition.

Philip Glass is one of the world's best known composers. His landmark opera, *Einstein on the Beach* (1976), on which he collaborated with Robert Wilson, is one of the works that brought him worldwide recognition as a modern composer. Since *Einstein*, Glass has expanded his repertoire to include music for opera, dance, theater, chamber ensemble, orchestra, and film. His scores have received Academy Award nominations (*Kundun*, *The Hours*, *Notes on a Scandal*) and a Golden Globe (*The Truman Show*). Glass has received an Oscar nomination for his *Notes* score. *Symphony No. 7* and *Symphony No. 8*—Glass' latest symphonies—along with *Waiting for the Barbarians*, an opera based on the book by J.M. Coetzee, premiered in 2005. In April 2007, the English National Opera, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Opera, remounted Glass' *Satyagraha*, which appeared in New York in April 2008. Glass' recent opera, based on the life and work of Johannes Kepler and commissioned by Linz 2009, Cultural Capital of Europe, and Landestheater Linz, premiered in September 2009 in Linz, Austria and in November 2009 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Adam Kent has performed in recital, as soloist with orchestra, and in chamber music throughout the United States, Spain, Switzerland, and South America. A winner of the American Pianists Association Fellowship and Simone Belsky Music Awards, Mr. Kent also received top prizes in the Thomas Richner, the Juilliard Concerto, and the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competitions and is a recipient of the Arthur Rubinstein Prize and the Harold Bauer Award. Mr. Kent made his New York recital debut at Weill Recital Hall in 1989 and has been featured numerous times on radio stations WQXR, WNYC, and WFUV. Recent concerts have included solo and chamber music performances at the Burgos International Music and the León Spanish Music Festivals in Spain as well as Mr. Kent's fifth annual appearance at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in a solo recital co-sponsored by the Spanish Consulate and the Foundation for Iberian Music. Mr. Kent's solo recordings are available on Bridge and SMF Records.

NTOZAKE SHANGE interviews MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 7PM

The James and Martha Duffy Performance Space at the Mark Morris Dance Center

Tickets: \$15

www.SmartTix.com or call 212-868-4444

Celebrated author Ntozake Shange has influenced countless artists, activists and young people with her critically-acclaimed poetry and plays. Acclaimed artist/performer Marc Bamuthi Joseph speaks with Shange, who he has called "one of my greatest influences" about the artistic process, activism and more. Bamuthi will perform excerpts from his works *Word Becomes Flesh* and *red, black and GREEN: a blues*.

Marc Bamuthi Joseph is one of America's vital voices in performance, arts education, and artistic curation. In the fall of 2007, Bamuthi graced the cover of *Smithsonian Magazine* after being named one of America's Top Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences. He is the artistic director of the 7-part HBO documentary *Russell Simmons presents Brave New Voices* and an inaugural recipient of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship, which annually recognizes 50 of the country's "greatest living artists". After appearing on Broadway as a young actor, Joseph developed several poetically based works for the stage that have toured across the U.S., Europe, and Africa. These include *Word Becomes Flesh*, *Scourge*, and *the break/s*, which co-premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays and the Walker Arts Center in the spring of 2008. Joseph has been commissioned to create a libretto for the Atlanta Ballet in 2011, and to co-write a narrative for the Chicago Jazz Ensemble with Amiri Baraka in 2012. A gifted and nationally acclaimed educator and essayist, he has lectured at more than 200 colleges and universities, been a popular commentator on National Public Radio, and has carried adjunct professorships at Stanford University, Lehigh University, Mills College, and the University of Wisconsin. Bamuthi's proudest work has been with YOUTH SPEAKS where he mentors 13-19 year old writers and curates the Living Word Festival and Left Coast Leaning.

Ntozake Shange is best-known as the award-winning author of the Broadway play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf*. Shange's work, celebrated for affirming the realities of women of color, has garnered worldwide acclaim and influenced a generation of young people, academics and artists. While Ms. Shange is first and foremost a poet, she has constantly extended her talents into other realms. Aside from *for colored girls...*,

which was recently adapted into a movie by Tyler Perry, she has written numerous critically acclaimed plays, among them *Three Pieces: Spell #7*, *Boogie Woogie Landscapes*, & *A Photograph in Motion*, which won A Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry, and *Mother Courage and Her Children*, for which she received her second Obie Award. In addition, she is the author of several novels and books of poetry and essays, including the celebrated *Sassafrass*, *Cyprus and Indigo*, *Betsey Brown* as well as several children's books; one of them, *Ellington Was Not a Street*, was the 2005 winner of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Once Upon a World Award. Ms. Shange has even put her passion on a plate with a soulful cookbook titled *If I Can Cook, You Know God Can*.

AMIRI BARAKA interviews STEPHEN HENDERSON

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 7PM

The Irondale Center, 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn

Tickets: \$15

www.SmartTix.com or call 212-868-4444

Poet and activist Amiri Baraka takes the stage to interview prominent stage and film actor Stephen Henderson — one of the foremost interpreters of the August Wilson canon. As contemporaries, Baraka and Henderson came of age in turbulent and exciting times. Join us as they discuss their ideas, influences, and inspirations.

Stephen Henderson is an actor who is especially recognized as a veteran performer of August Wilson's canon. Most recently, he portrayed Jim Bono in the Broadway revival of August Wilson's *Fences* starring Denzel Washington for which Henderson received a Tony nomination as a supporting actor. He also received the Richard Seff Award from Actor's Equity for that performance. On Broadway, he has performed in *Drowning Crow*, the revival of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *King Hedley II*. Henderson is known for his role as Arthur in the acclaimed HBO film, *Everyday People*. In addition to his films, Henderson has been cast as a recurring character Omar on the FOX series *New Amsterdam*, which premiered in early 2008. His work as an actor, director, and educator has been documented in the book, *Acting Teachers of America*, and also in the Oxford University Press African American National Biography. He currently teaches in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Amiri Baraka is the author of over 40 books of essays, poems, drama, and music history and criticism, a poet icon, revolutionary political activist and occasional controversial voice who has recited poetry and lectured on cultural and political issues extensively in the USA, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe. With influences on his work ranging from musical orishas such as Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Thelonius Monk, and Sun Ra to the Cuban Revolution, Malcolm X and world revolutionary movements, Baraka is renowned as the founder of the Black Arts Movement in Harlem in the 1960s. The movement and his published and performance work, such as the signature study on African-American music, *Blues People* (1963) and the play *Dutchman* (1963) practically seeded "the cultural corollary to black nationalism" of that revolutionary American milieu. His awards and honors include an Obie, the American Academy of Arts & Letters award, the James Weldon Johnson Medal for contributions to the arts, Rockefeller Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts grants, Professor Emeritus at the State university of New York at Stony Brook, and the Poet Laureate of New Jersey.



For over 20 years, 651 ARTS has been committed to developing, producing and presenting performance and cultural programming from the African Diaspora, with a primary focus on contemporary performing arts. 651 ARTS serves the cultural life of New York City, with a particular focus on Brooklyn, one of America's most culturally diverse communities.

651 ARTS' 2011 Season is sponsored in part by the following: The Brooklyn Community Foundation, Con Edison, The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Fan Fox and Leslie R Samuels Foundation, The Ford Foundation, General Electric, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Councilwoman Letitia James, The Lambent Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, the National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The New England Foundation for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts

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**Press information:
Rebecca Sheahan
Tel: 718-230-2528
Email: rsheahan@651arts.org**