



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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651 ARTS and boomBOOM present

### *651 ARTS' Spring Music Series*

featuring three evenings of live performance by Brooklyn's own

**BlueNefertiti**

**Toni Blackman**

**Tamar-kali: Psychochamber Ensemble**

(Brooklyn, NY, April 8, 2009) **651 ARTS** continues its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season celebration by honoring the significant contribution that women leaders and artists have made to 651 ARTS. This spring, 651 ARTS teams up with **boomBOOM Presents** for the *Spring Music Series* – three shows that promise something for every musical taste - featuring Brooklyn's most dynamic mistresses of style and substance. Being showcased are celebrated hip-hop artist and spoken word poet, **Toni Blackman** with a new work-in-progress *Travels of a Lyrical Ambassador* (May 14) that examines the power of music and poetry to inspire personal and social change; for fans of the sultry, multinational group *Les Nubians*, singer **Célia Faussart as BlueNefertiti**, presents her bi-lingual renditions of jazz classics and whimsical narrative in an evening of French-influenced cabaret at Brooklyn's intimate new hotspot **Deity** (May 15); and finally, from NYC's underground hardcore scene, the ultra-fierce **Tamar-kali: Psychochamber Ensemble** - an all-female string sextet will appear at Fort Greene's new **Irondale Center** on May 21.

**MORE...**

THEATER

DANCE

MUSIC

COMMUNITY

**Thursday, May 14 @8pm****Toni Blackman**

*Travels of a Lyrical Ambassador*, a work-in-progress

BRICstudio

57 Rockwell Place

between Fulton & DeKalb

Tickets: \$7 | SmartTix.com | 212-868-4444

651 ARTS presents the sensational musician, poet, activist and international champion of hip-hop culture, Toni Blackman for this work-in-progress showing of *Travels of a Lyrical Ambassador*. One of the first hip-hop artists to break ground using hip hop to promote international peace and understanding, Blackman never imagined that hip hop would be so universally spoken in places such as Swaziland, Botswana, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines. *Travels...* examines her belief in the power of music and poetry to inspire personal and social change.

*A one-woman revolution of poetry and microphone*, the award-winning Blackman is known for the irresistible, contagious energy of her performances and her groundbreaking work in the world of hip-hop. She has shared the stage with such luminaries as Erykah Badu, Mos Def, The Roots, Wu Tang Clan, GURU, Bahamadia, Boot Camp Clic, and Me'Shell Ndegeocello.

**Friday, May 15 @ 8pm****BlueNefertiti**

*Paris@Night*, a French cabaret

Deity

368 Atlantic Avenue

between Hoyt & Bond

Tickets: \$10 | SmartTix.com | 212-868-4444

*Paris@Night* is an unconventional mélange of original songs written by or for BlueNefertiti (Celia of *Les Nubians*), plus innovative renditions of pieces made famous by Edith Piaf, Nina Simone, Josephine Baker, Miriam Makeba, and Dave Brubeck. This musical evening spans the experimental frequencies of Electronic, Dub, Soul, House, Hip-Hop, moves back through time to the era of the great Jazz Standard. *Paris@Night* is an exhilarating soundtrack to BlueNefertiti's bi-lingual tales of her love for Africa, Paris and New York City.

BlueNefertiti's style is a direct reflection of her vast influences in music – Abbey Lincoln, Minnie Ripperton, Joao Gilberto, Bobby McFerrin, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. She began singing professionally with her older sister in France during the mid-90's and later formed the internationally renowned duo, *Les Nubians*.

**Thursday, May 21 @ 8pm****Tamar-kali: Psychochamber Ensemble**

The Irondale Center  
85 South Oxford St  
between Lafayette & Fulton  
Tickets: \$10 | SmartTix.com | 212-868-4444

Tamar-kali is a force of nature. Her musical roots lie in NYC's hardcore rock and underground punk scene where she established herself as a dominant and original voice. In addition to composing her own material, which she has performed on tour and at festivals around the world, she has lent her voice in support of high-profile artists including Fishbone and OutKast, and was featured in director James Spooner's award-winning documentary *Afro-Punk*. Inspired by her longtime love of strings; Tamar-kali formed Psychochamber Ensemble in 1998. Tamar-kali leads this all-female instrumentalist string sextet – featuring electric and acoustic bass, viola, two violins, cello, plus background vocals – performing deconstructed songs arranged and composed by Tamar-kali specifically for strings.

**Coming May 30 & May 31, 2009****651 ARTS BLACK DANCE: Tradition & Transformation*****FLY******Five First Ladies of Dance***

Solos performed by **Germaine Acogny, Carmen de Lavallade, Dianne McIntyre, Bebe Miller,** and **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**

**Acogny, de Lavallade, McIntyre, Miller and Zollar** are ground-breaking dancer/choreographers who have shaped the history of contemporary dance. In these rare performances each will perform in a solo work. Zollar, McIntyre, and Acogny appear in new works of their own; Miller dances in a remounting of her 1989 classic *Rain* and de Lavallade will perform *The Creation* (1972) choreographed by Geoffrey Holder.

Saturday, May 30 at 8pm & Sunday, May 31 at 3pm

The Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts  
at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus  
(Flatbush between DeKalb & Willoughby)

Tickets: \$25 | \$30 students, seniors  
[www.kumbletheater.org](http://www.kumbletheater.org) or call 718-488-1624

**boomBOOM Presents** is a New York based live music booking and production company. Showcasing an eclectic mix of artists and an all-inclusive aesthetic palette, boomBOOM Presents is dedicated to providing ideal concert experiences for both performers and audiences. Launched by Brice Rosenbloom in the fall of 2006, boomBOOM brings a broad array of live music to thousands of New Yorkers every year. boomBOOM Presents continues to curate a broad musical vision on stages around the city, including the new West Village venue Le Poisson Rouge; the Stuytown Music On The Oval Summer Concert Series; and the Brooklyn Masonic Temple in Fort Greene; as well as other venues and festivals around town.

**651 ARTS** is 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' 2009 Season is sponsored in part by the following:** Axe-Houghton Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Con Edison, City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Ford Foundation, Independence Community Foundation, Harkness Foundation for Dance, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Council Member Letitia James, Mertz Gilmore, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, Tides Foundation, and Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund



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