



For Immediate Release

Contact: Jodine N Dorcé

T: 718-230-2528

F: 718-636-4166

press@651ARTS.org

651 ARTS PRESENTS

World Premiere of

***Carmen de Lavallade: My Life in Dance and Theater and Legends I Met
Along The Way***

Friday – Saturday, May 18 & 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

*Carmen de Lavallade: My Life in Dance and Theatre and
Legends I Met Along The Way*

Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts at LIU Brooklyn, New York
1 University Plaza (on Flatbush Avenue between DeKalb Avenue and Willoughby Street)

Tickets are on sale now

\$35 General Admission / \$30 Students & Seniors

\$100 Premium Seating & entry to Post-Reception (May 19th)

www.651ARTS.org or call (718) 488-1624

March 5, Brooklyn, NY/ To honor a “First Lady of Dance,” choreographer, actress and teacher, **Carmen de Lavallade**, and her legacy in her 81st year, 651 ARTS presents the world premiere of *Carmen de Lavallade: My Life in Dance and Theatre and Legends I Met Along The Way* on **May 18 & 19** at 7:30 p.m. at LIU Brooklyn’s Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts (1 University Plaza, on Flatbush Avenue between DeKalb Avenue and Willoughby Street). After a year of development support from 651 ARTS, de Lavallade will provide audiences a first look at *Carmen de Lavallade: My Life in Dance and Theater and Legends I Met Along The Way*, a retrospective dance performance replete with excerpts of signature solos, film clips, photos and many stories. “A lot of people didn’t know about my other life...” de Lavallade offers, “I touched every part of the arts in some way; I never settled for one thing... (she laughs), maybe because I didn’t know any better.” Stories of her years in California dancing with Lester Horton, in New York with Alvin Ailey and in Paris with Josephine Baker; working with jazz musicians Duke Ellington and later Wynton Marsalis; her work in film; and the “...magical...” time spent as part of Yale University’s Repertory Theatre, will frame the work. *My Life...* is directed by de Lavallade’s past student, actor/director Joe Grifasi, with dramaturgy by award-winning playwright/director Talvin Wilks. A reception follows the May 19 performance.

Carmen de Lavallade first appeared in New York City with the Lester Horton Dance Theater and subsequently on Broadway with Alvin Ailey in *House of Flowers*. She appeared in the films *Carmen Jones*, *Big Daddy* and *Lone Star*. Horton, Geoffrey Holder, Ailey, Glen Tetley and Agnes de Mille created ballets especially for her. She was a principal dancer with the Metropolitan Opera and a guest artist with the American Ballet Theatre. At Yale, she taught movement for actors and became a member of the Yale Repertory Company and the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard. She has choreographed for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Metropolitan Opera. De Lavallade received a *Dance Magazine* Award, an honorary doctorate from the Juilliard School, a Duke Ellington Fellowship Award and a Dance/USA Award.

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

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651 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217