



**For Immediate Release**

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**651 ARTS Receives NEA Arts in Media Grant to Support  
*FLY: Five First Ladies of Dance*  
A documentary by filmmaker Alla Kovgan**

*New York City, NY* - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Rocco Landesman announced that 651 ARTS is one of 78 not-for-profit national, regional, state, and local organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Arts in Media grant. 651 ARTS is recommended for a \$50,000 grant to support the research, development, and production costs of *FLY: Five First Ladies of Dance*, a documentary by filmmaker Alla Kovgan. The 78 Arts in Media grant awards total \$3.55 million, and support the development, production, and national distribution of innovative media projects about the arts and media projects that can be considered works of art.

In May of 2009, 651 ARTS produced *FLY: Five First Ladies of Dance*, which featured solo performances by some of the most influential contemporary dancer/choreographers in history: Bebe Miller, Jawole Zollar, Dianne McIntyre, Germaine Acogny and Carmen de Lavallade. The project was designed to reflect the contributions of veteran Black female choreographers to the field of dance, to juxtapose the variety between their artistic voices, and to illustrate the collective impact of the featured artists.

The performances were a resounding success as measured by audience enthusiasm as well as critical response, and as a result, a subsequent national tour took place in the fall of 2010: Washington, DC (Kennedy Center); Cleveland, OH (Dance Cleveland/Oberlin College); Philadelphia, PA (Painted Bride); and Newark, NJ (NJPAC). Riding on the success of the tour, 651 ARTS will produce a six-segment performance/documentary program. Each segment will be a 10-20 minute film-portrait, and together they will comprise a 90-minute program.

Anna Glass, Managing Director at 651 ARTS shared, "651 ARTS is thrilled to receive this extraordinary support from the National Endowment for the Arts. We look forward to telling the stories of these legendary dance artists and to providing audiences all over the world the opportunity to experience their artistry on the big and small screens."

Chairman Landesman said, "While Americans across the country are experiencing art live and in person every day, NEA research has shown that more than half of American adults also consume the arts via electronic media. I am thrilled to announce these Arts in Media grants and look forward to the organizations' efforts to reach ever wider audiences and create innovative new works of art."

For more information about the 2012 National Endowment for the Arts, please visit <http://www.nea.gov>.

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*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. For more information, please visit <http://www.651ARTS.org>*