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visual, literary and
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FACT SHEET
ENDOWMENT SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE
MARCH 17, 1994

The National Endowment for the Arts, through its Media Arts Program, awarded a fiscal year 1993 grant of \$750,000 to Public Television Playhouse, Inc., to support the thirteenth season of the award-winning American Playhouse. This anthology series, managed by a consortium of four public television stations in California, Massachusetts, New York, and South Carolina, presents new American dramatic work through independent feature films, literary and stage adaptations, and original television productions. It has ranked among the top ten most-watched public television programs each year and has received excellent critical response. The Endowment has supported the series since 1981.

As part of American Playhouse, the Public Broadcasting Service made available to stations across the country a mini-series titled "Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City." The six-hour program is based on Maupin's widely acclaimed worldwide bestselling books that began as a newspaper serialization. It is a chronicle of several fictional characters in San Francisco in 1976, and contains dialogue and situations that are true to that time and place.

Local stations within the public broadcasting system have autonomy in making programming decisions. No station was required to carry "Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City." Because the mini-series was intended for viewing by adult audiences, stations carrying the show aired a statement at the beginning of each hour of the program advising viewer discretion.

The total project budget for "Tales of the City" was \$9.2 million. Of that amount, \$8.2 million was provided by Channel 4 in Great Britain. American Playhouse reports that it used \$321,000 in funds from the Arts Endowment for the mini-series. Additional support was provided by grants from other private sources.

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