



# Omar Offendum, Ronnie Malley and Thanks Joey

*The Little Syria Show*

Fri, Nov 3, 2023 at 8 pm

Sat, Nov 4, 2023 at 3 pm and 8 pm

The Nimoy

**CENTER  
FOR THE ART OF  
PERFORMANCE  
UCLA**

# WELCOME TO THE 2023–24 SEASON

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines – dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross cultural platforms – by leading artists from around the globe.

Our mission aligns with UCLA's mission of education, research and civic engagement by providing cultural and experiential programs that provoke inquiry and facilitate connection and creativity.

[cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu)



# CAP UCLA'S new home for live performance

It's an honor and a privilege to welcome you to CAP UCLA's stunning new home for the performing arts: the UCLA Nimoy Theater. Through our diverse programs, and by providing vital opportunities for artists and partner organizations to develop contemporary work, The Nimoy is poised to make a lasting contribution to the performing arts, UCLA and our Los Angeles communities.

The Nimoy's inaugural season launches with an interdisciplinary array of projects by influential and groundbreaking local, national and international artists. Together they will share their unique perspectives and crucial visions, creating an opportunity for our audiences to see the world in different and extraordinary ways.

This is your invitation to experience the beauty of sitting in a dark theater, among strangers or loved ones illuminated by the possibilities of the imagination. In this shared space, through the power of the arts, our ideas are challenged and our horizons are broadened – we are transformed.

I look forward to seeing you at The Nimoy!



Edgar Miramontes

*Executive and Artistic Director*





Photo by Ridwan Adhami

CAP UCLA Presents

# Omar Offendum, Ronnie Malley and Thanks Joey

## *The Little Syria Show*

Fri, Nov 3, 2023 at 8 pm

Sat, Nov 4, 2023 at 3 pm and 8 pm

The Nimoy

Program duration: 90 minutes

No intermission



Funds provided by the Sally & William A. Rutter Endowment for the Performing Arts.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Omar Offendum** is a Syrian-American rapper, spoken word poet and theatrical storyteller with a unique ability to draw in audiences from various backgrounds and generations through his signature blend of hip-hop and Arabic poetry. Over the course of his twenty-year career, he's been featured on prominent world news outlets (*Aljazeera, BBC, PBS, LA Times*), lectured at a number of prestigious academic institutions (Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Northwestern, UT-Austin, SOAS, Georgetown, American University of Beirut), collaborated with major museums and cultural organizations (LACMA, Penn Museum, Ithra, Shangri-La, Arab-American National Museum, The Brooklyn Museum) and helped raise millions of dollars for various humanitarian relief groups (UNRWA, Islamic Relief, Karam Foundation, ANERA, Syrian-American Medical Society).

In 2022 Offendum was invited by the Qatar Foundation to perform at over a dozen matches during the FIFA World Cup festivities in Doha. He was also named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow (2018-19), an Arab America Foundation "40 Under 40" award recipient (2020) and a member of both the Pillars Fund fellowship cohort for Muslim Narrative Change (2021) and the Race Forward Butterfly Lab cohort for Immigrant Narrative Strategy (2022). His recent foray into theater with the off-Broadway hit production *Little Syria* has earned him a spot in The Public Theater's distinguished "New York Voices" commission program for the 2023-24 season, while selling out multiple runs at iconic venues across the United States (Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, The Center for the Art of

Performance at UCLA, HERE Arts Center in SoHo, and Joe's Pub at The Public Theater in NYC).

After spending 17 beautiful years in Los Angeles, Offendum currently resides in the great state of New York with his wife and two little children, whilst forever daydreaming about the jasmine tree-lined streets of Damascus.

**Ronnie Malley** is a Palestinian-American multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, sound designer, producer, actor, playwright, educator and executive director of Intercultural Music Production. With a focus on various musical styles from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and medieval Spain, Ronnie has performed with several artists including Allos Musica, Apollo's Fire, Diwan al-Han, EMME, Huzam, Lamajamal, Mucca Pazza, Newberry Consort, Picoso, Omar Offendum, Surabhi Ensemble, University of Chicago Middle East Music Ensemble and Yves Francoi & Rocambu Jazz.

Ronnie has worked on award-winning theatrical plays, films and TV series including *The Band's Visit* (Broadway, Tony Awards, Grammy Awards), *Mo* (Netflix), *The Jungle Book* (Disney, Goodman Theatre) and *The New Mother* (Eleva Singleton). He has recorded on over twenty albums and has co-produced several works and staged productions including *Little Syria*, Karim Nagi's *Huzam*, *The Reminders*, *Yves Francois* and *The Andalusian Trail*. Ronnie was the recipient of the 2023 Chamber Music America Michael Jaffee Visionary Award. He holds a BA in Global Music Studies from DePaul University and is currently pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Chicago.

**Thanks Joey** was born in Brooklyn, New York to Syrian immigrants. Having a classical Arabic musician as a grandfather already set the palette for what Thanks Joey would be exposed to – Fairouz, Om Kalthoum, Abdel-Halim Hafez with a little bit of Jay-Z, Biggie Smalls, Nas etc. Thanks Joey met his long time collaborator/artist/friend, NIKO IS at thirteen years old in Orlando, Florida and the two immediately began creating music together. In 2009, Joey established the *Colours Of The Culture* label on which the 2015 NIKO IS album *BRUTUS* was released in collaboration with Talib Kweli's label, Javotti Media.

In 2018, Joey released his first instrumental album inspired by the works of Khalil Gibran entitled *On Beats*. He also produced the 2018 NIKO IS album *UNIKO* which was also released in collaboration with Talib Kweli and featured artists from around the world including Curren\$, Tego Calderón, HAIKAISS and more. He is currently working on multiple projects set to be released on *Colours Of The Culture* in the near future.



Photo by Ridwan Adhami

# DESIGN FOR SHARING (DFS)

Each year, Design for Sharing (DFS) brings thousands of K-12 public school students from across Los Angeles to CAP UCLA venues for free performances and interactive workshops with professional artists.

DFS programs are open to any public school in greater Los Angeles, and are always free to attend.

[cap.ucla.edu/dfs](http://cap.ucla.edu/dfs)







## Nella

Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 8 pm  
The Nimoy

Venezuelan-born singer Nella has a lush, soulful voice that belies the sweetness of youth and the strength of being far from her troubled homeland. Singing in Spanish, her style blends her native country's folklore, the sounds of her generation, and Andalusian influences.

**“As a [Latin Grammy] nominee in the category of Best New Artist, Venezuelan artist Nella knows she not only carries her own story, but also that of her homeland to the ceremony when she attends.” – NPR**

[cap.ucla.edu/nella](http://cap.ucla.edu/nella)



# UCLA NIMOY THEATER

CAP UCLA has a new home for live performance  
in Westwood!

Located near the UCLA campus on Westwood Boulevard,  
The Nimoy is a reimagining of the historic Crest Theatre as a  
flexible, state-of-the-art performance space.

This dynamic and intimately scaled venue immerses  
audiences in a profoundly engaging experience of live  
performance – while providing contemporary performing  
artists from Los Angeles and around the world expanded  
opportunities to develop and present new work.

[cap.ucla.edu/nimoy](https://cap.ucla.edu/nimoy)



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance acknowledge the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Ancestors (Honuukvetam), Elders (Ahihirom), and relatives/relations (Eyoohinkem) past, present and emerging.

# There is no room for racism, intolerance, or inequity.

## Anywhere

Not on our stages, in our offices, on our loading docks, in the box office lines, or on the dance floor.

## With anyone

Not with our staff, crew, artists, volunteers, ushers, audiences or fans.

We uphold and embrace principles of antiracism, equity, diversity and **AUTHENTIC** inclusion as integral to our mission.

We must **EMPOWER** the historically underrepresented.

We must **UPLIFT** excluded voices.

We must **RESIST** structural racism.

We will **COMMIT** fiercely to our responsibility to observe, absorb, consider, contemplate, endure, share and engage in this change.

We **STAND AGAINST** all forms of discrimination.

We will **STRIVE** to make our organization more equitable and inclusive.

As part of UCLA's School of Art & Architecture (SOAA), we – UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) and Theater Management Services (TMS) – are committed to connecting and creating space for the arts and for all communities.

We acknowledge our organizations' histories as being predominantly white institutions. We are facing uncomfortable truths about systemic racism as we work to make the deep changes necessary to transform the organizational dynamics in our work culture and business practices and dismantle existing oppressive structures. We know there will be shortcomings, which we will face head on. We commit to continually addressing and adapting to changes as they arise. It is only in an improved, supportive work environment that everyone can be fully present, and respected as their true authentic selves.

*This statement was drafted by a committee of staff members from both the Center for the Art of Performance and Theater Management Services, from a variety of backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives.*

Together we stand with UCLA's School of Art and Architecture's EDI statement.





# Karim Sulayman and Sean Shibe

## *Broken Branches*

Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 7 pm  
The Nimoy

Lebanese-American tenor Karim Sulayman praised for his “lucid, velvety tenor and pop-star charisma”, and sensational Scottish guitarist Sean Shibe known for innovative approach and the 2022 Leonard Bernstein Award, team up in *Broken Branches* to explore their mixed identity through Monteverdi, Britten and Fairuz’s songs.

[cap.ucla.edu/broken-branches](https://cap.ucla.edu/broken-branches)

# CAP UCLA COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

## CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council

The Executive Producer Council is CAP UCLA's philanthropic leadership group, which develops and contributes resources vital to CAP UCLA's programming and mission. The Council champions the creative development and presentation of live programs and public dialogue with contemporary performing artists by providing direct support for CAP UCLA's annual programming. The Council is engaged in dialogue about the artistic and curatorial practices that inform annual programs, long-term initiatives and collaborative planning efforts which stand at the heart of CAP UCLA's mission and public purpose.

## Design for Sharing (DFS) Council

The Design for Sharing Council is a group of dedicated supporters whose efforts help to resource the K-12 arts education programs of DFS.

[cap.ucla.edu/councils](http://cap.ucla.edu/councils)



**CAP  
UCLA**

# CAP UCLA STAFF

## Director's Office

Executive and Artistic Director: Edgar Miramontes  
Deputy Director and Program Manager: Fred Frumberg  
Director of Education and Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman  
Production Manager: Bozkurt "Bozzy" Karasu  
Artist Liaison Manager: Zarina Rico  
Associate Technical Director/Audio & Video: Duncan Woodbury  
Associate Technical Director/Lighting & Stage: Katelan Braymer

## Marketing and Communications

Director of Marketing and Communications: Bahareh Ebrahimzadeh  
Marketing Coordinator: Elvis Harold  
Marketing Associate: Helene Griffin

## Development

Manager of Institutional Giving: Erika Herran  
Development Assistant: Zoey Mendoza

## Education

Director of Education & Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman  
Education Program Coordinator: Theresa Willis Peters  
Student Arts Coordinator: Theo Bonner-Perkins

## Financial Management

Manager of Finance and Accounts: Stephanie Tarvyd  
Finance Analyst: Jodi Klein  
Finance Analyst: Ayesha Bulegoda

## Human Resources

Human Resources Assistant: Erah Lulu

## Ticketing

Assistant Director Central Ticket Office: Gerardo Galeano

## Royce Hall

Director of Operations: Heidi Snyder  
Venue Manager: Evan "Otter" Wilkinson

## Royce Hall Production

Production Manager: Jeff Wallace  
Stage Manager: Lauren "Ren" Westbury  
Event Manager: Thomas Colen  
Audio/Video Supervisor: John Coleman  
Audio/Video Assistant: Erich Schroeder  
Lighting Supervisor: Antony Gutierrez  
Lighting Assistant: Evan Drane  
Rigging Supervisor: Robert Ory  
Staff Stage Technician: Eric Erickson

## Royce Hall Patron Services

Patron Services Manager: James Porter  
House Manager: Ernie Ybarra  
F.O.H. Staff: Melih Ercan  
F.O.H. Staff: Pia Shekerjian

## Royce Hall Custodial

Custodian Supervisor: Ranoya Exum  
Custodian Lead: Delshena Murphy  
Custodian Lead: Montrell Calloway

## CAP UCLA Administrative Offices

B100 Royce Hall  
Box 951529  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1529  
Tel: 310-825-4401  
Fax: 310-206-3843

## General Questions

[info@cap.ucla.edu](mailto:info@cap.ucla.edu)  
(please allow 48 hours for a response)

## UCLA Central Ticket Office

Tel: 310.825.2101  
Fax: 310.206.7540  
[tickets@cap.ucla.edu](mailto:tickets@cap.ucla.edu)

## Press Inquiries

The ACE Agency  
Hanya Bruner  
PR and Marketing Specialist  
[hanya@theaceagency.com](mailto:hanya@theaceagency.com)

## Development Office

Tel: 310.267.4463  
Fax: 310.206.3843  
[devinfo@cap.ucla.edu](mailto:devinfo@cap.ucla.edu)

## Design for Sharing/ K-12 Arts Education

Tel: 310.825.7681  
Fax: 310.206.3843  
[dfs@cap.ucla.edu](mailto:dfs@cap.ucla.edu)

## Theater Rental Information

Anthony T. Jones  
Tel: 310.825.4403  
Fax: 310.206.8678  
[atjones@arts.ucla.edu](mailto:atjones@arts.ucla.edu)  
[roycehall.org](http://roycehall.org)

# CAP UCLA LEAD SUPPORTERS

**UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members whose gifts directly support the vitality of contemporary performing arts. Thank you!**

## **\$500,000 AND ABOVE**

Anonymous  
The Ahmanson Foundation  
Brenda R. Potter  
Cindy Miscikowski/ The Ring Foundation  
The McGrath Abrams Family Foundation  
Mellon Foundation  
Susan Bay Nimoy  
Nancy & Joe Walker

## **\$100,000-\$499,999**

Laura Donnelley/  
The Good Works Foundation  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
Kadima Foundation  
Renee & Meyer Luskin

## **\$25,000-\$99,999**

Anonymous  
Diane Levine  
Marla Mayer & Chris Ahearn  
Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts  
Hannah Montgomery & Aaron Bay-Schuck  
Laura & Gregg Perloff/  
Another Planet Entertainment  
Rosenthal Family Foundation

## **\$10,000-\$24,999**

John Archibald & James Costa  
Valerie & Brad Cohen  
Mariana Dietl & Ivan Markman  
Billie & Steven Fischer  
Fariba Ghaffari  
Jackie Gottlieb  
Stefan Hastrup & Gary Schilling  
Freyda & Jerry Miller  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Ralph & Shirley Shapiro  
Keith & Cecilia Terasaki  
Karyn Wynne

## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Linda Essakow & Stephen Gunther/  
Herbert McLaughlin Children's Trust  
Olivia & Nicolas Gentin  
Bonnie Moss  
New England Foundation for the Arts  
Melissa Rivers  
Nancy & Miles Rubin  
Doug Upshaw  
Bonnie & Paul Yaegar

## **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Barbara Abell  
Anna Wong Barth & Donald Barth, Jr.  
Carla Brand Breitner & Gary Woolard  
Roberta Conroy  
Harriett & Richard Gold  
Lori & Robert Goodman  
Karen Hohman Almeida & Edgilson Almeida  
Sandra Jacoby Klein & Don McCallum  
Joseph Kaufman  
Milly & Robert Kayyem Esq.  
Alicia Miñana  
Claude Petite  
Eleanor Portilla  
Stephanie Snyder  
Anne-Marie Spataru  
Debra Vilinsky & Michael Sopher

## **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Diane & Noel Applebaum  
Ruth Bachofner  
Scott Beasley  
Marjorie Blatt  
Keith Brownfield & Micheal C. Trinity  
Olga Garay-English  
Vance Garrett  
Deborah Irmas/ Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation

Fidelity Charitable Johnston/  
Lesser Charitable Trust Fund  
Sandra & Lewis Kanengiser  
Joanne Knopoff  
Martha Koplin  
Joan Lesser & Ronald Johnston  
Bea & Leonard Mandel  
Willard L. Marmelzat Foundation  
Weston Milliken  
Linda Gach Ray Esq & Stephan Ray Esq  
Kathleen Riquelme  
Lorraine Ross  
The Raskin Family Foundation  
Yolanda Robinson  
Sylvia & James Rothman  
Suzie & Michael Scott  
Muriel & Neil Sherman  
June Shoji  
James Sie & Doug Wood  
Stephanie Snyder  
Edith Stoell  
Kathleen & John Quisenberry

## **\$500-\$999**

Natsuko Akiyama  
Digna & Scott Beasley  
Karen Bizzini & Michael Neal  
Ronda & Stanley Breitbart  
Katherine Browning  
Patti & Paul Eisenberg  
Georgina Huljich & Marcelo Spina  
Don Karl  
Sandra Klein  
Joy & Robert Penner  
Jill Lawrence & Paul Koplin  
Leslie Mitchner Esq.  
Sherill Luke  
Lynn & Neville Ostrick  
Carol Siegle & Bruce Feldman  
Simran Foundation  
Sirla & Man J. Singh  
Mary Terrall & Ted Porter



# ENDOWMENTS

**Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity.**

Arthur E. Guedel Memorial Lectureship Fund  
Barbara and Bruce Dobkin Endowment Fund  
at Design for Sharing  
Beatrix F. Padway Endowed Fund  
for Design for Sharing  
Design for Sharing Endowment  
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
Endowment Fund  
Evelyn & Mo Ostin Endowment  
for the Performing Arts  
Ginny Mancini Endowment for  
Vocal Performance  
Henry Mancini Tribute Fund  
James A. Doolittle Endowment  
José Luis Nazar Endowment  
for the Performing Arts  
Kevin Jeske Young Artists Fund  
The Lloyd E. Rigler Emerging Arts Fund

Merle & Peter Mullin Endowment  
for the Performing Arts  
Mimi Perloff Endowment for Design for Sharing  
Mimi & Werner Wolfen Endowment  
for Design for Sharing  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Challenge Grant Endowment  
Plitt Theaters Fund for Design for Sharing  
Roslyn Holt Swartz & Allan J. Swartz Endowment  
for the Performing Arts  
Royce Center Circle Endowment Fund  
Royce Gala Endowment  
Sally & William A. Rutter Endowment  
for the Performing Arts  
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro  
Director's Discretionary Fund  
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Endowment  
for Design for Sharing

## NAME YOUR SEAT

The opening of The Nimoy offers donors a rare opportunity to create a lasting legacy while celebrating their passion for contemporary performing arts at UCLA. Learn more about naming a seat in The Nimoy – CAP UCLA's newest home for live performance – and other opportunities to become a part of this state-of-the-art theater.

[cap.ucla.edu/give-nimoy](https://cap.ucla.edu/give-nimoy)



# JOIN THE CONSTANTLY CURIOUS

We invite you to become a CAP UCLA Member and support our ability to create a space for shared experiences, extraordinary artistry and the exchange of ideas.

- Enjoy priority access and discounts
- Support extraordinary artistry
- Deepen relationships with artists and other arts enthusiasts

**Become a member**  
**[cap.ucla.edu/membership](http://cap.ucla.edu/membership)**

**[cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu)**