

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE AT UCLA

Press Release

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Taylor Mac to Make Los Angeles Debut with *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music: The 20th Century Abridged*, Presented by CAP UCLA at Royce Hall, Saturday, March 12

Show by Beloved Performance Artist / Singer / Director / Producer
Will Feature a Five-Piece Band and Incorporate Special Guests
Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles

*Ambitious Project Will Culminate This Fall in a 24-Hour Concert
Covering 24 Decades of Popular Music in America*



Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA (CAP UCLA) is proud to present the Los Angeles debut of Taylor Mac, March 12 at Royce Hall. Mac will perform *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music: The 20th Century Abridged*, part of Mac's ambitious, multi-year effort to chart the 24-decade history of popular music in America. *ArtForum* has called the project, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, a "face-wrenchingly funny...chronicle of sex, repression, expression, and community" and said, "Mac is a master performer, riveting storyteller, and charismatic, otherworldly creature, dressed to the tens in artist/designer Machine Dazzle's magnificent metamorphic glitz." The Royce

Hall performance will feature a five-piece band and surprise L.A.-based guest artists, including Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles—America's first all-female mariachi ensemble.

Taylor Mac will perform *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music: The 20th Century Abridged* Sat., Mar 12 at 8pm. Tickets, \$19-\$39, are available now at cap.ucla.edu, via Ticketmaster and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at 310.825.2101.

A 24-Decade History of Popular Music is a unique mash-up of music, history, performance and art. In it, Mac, wearing elaborate costumes by longtime collaborator Machine Dazzle, performs songs spanning the history of America. Since the undertaking began in 2012, Mac has been creating shows covering single decades, or a few decades at a time; Mac will stitch these together in the 24-hour-long extravaganza planned for this fall, in which Mac will be joined by a 24-piece orchestra, dancing beauties and an array of special guests.

Reviewing a recent run of shows from the project, *The New York Times* wrote, "In this playful and thoroughly winning tour through American pop history, Mr. Mac isn't merely performing a concert, although he sings...in a voice that can range from a silken croon to a blistering belt...His interest in pop is as much anthropological as musical. Drawing links between the songs he sings and contemporaneous history and culture...finds in popular music a revealing mirror of the times. With an emphasis on the experience of outsiders in America...he invites the audience to time-travel along with him and experience the turbulent past by playing its own role in the show." The review added, "With its scholarly title, Mr. Mac's show may sound soberly academic...but if you've ever seen him in performance, you know there's nothing even faintly fusty about him."

A 24-Decade History of Popular Music features co-direction by Niegel Smith, music direction by Matt Ray and costumes by Machine Dazzle. 24 local burlesque artists will appear onstage with Mac in a routine created by burlesque artist and choreographer Peekaboo Pointe. Peekaboo is recognized the world over as the "Fastest Tassel-Twirler from East to West." Trained as a classical modern dancer, she has performed burlesque across the globe. She was also voted one of the Top 20 Burlesque Performers in the world and winner of the Golden Pastie Award for "Most Sensual." Peekaboo is celebrated as one of America's most dynamic and seductive performers.

Pomegranate Arts and Nature's Darlings are co-producing the work.

Taylor Mac has garnered acclaim as a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, cabaret performer, performance artist, director and producer, for work ranging from Mac's OBIE Award-winning piece *The Lily's Revenge* to Mac's critically lauded collaboration with Mandy Patinkin, Susan Stroman and Paul Ford, *The Last Two People On Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville*, which co-stars Mac and Patinkin. Mac made many top critics' Best Theater of 2015 lists for *Hir*, a dark comedy that made its New York premiere at Playwrights Horizons in the fall. *The New York Times* described *Hir*, Mac's Off-Broadway playwrighting debut, as "sensational in all senses of the word" and called Mac "immensely gifted."

PRE SHOW/RELATED EVENTS:

PRE- AND POST-SHOW PARTY (night of show)

MOVEMENT 2016: EXPRESS YOURSELF

"Drag is wearing on the outside what you are on the inside." Taylor Mac

Strut your stuff, in drag or out, and walk the CAP UCLA runway on the Royce Terrace.

Music from DJ Manifesto, photo booth, spinning disco balls and *The Runway* go live at 6:30. Come in your finery or get a new look at our Drag Pop-Up Station, assembled and overseen by Machine Dazzle, the creator and designer of Taylor's fabulous costume creations. Smashbox Cosmetics will be providing make-up artistry for those who want a fresh coat of paint.

DRAG ANGELES: A Celebration of Los Angeles and West Hollywood Drag Creativity, History, and Art

Collaboration between the City of West Hollywood through WeHo Arts/One City One Pride, Los Angeles LGBT Center's Advocate & Gochis Galleries and the Center for the Arts of Performance / UCLA with assistance from the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

TWENTY YEARS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE

@ The Advocate & Gochis Gallery

Kick-off Reception for DRAG ANGELES

Thursday, February 18th 7-9pm

On view through April 2

FREE, www.lalgbtcenter.org/art

A look at 20 years of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in Los Angeles: featuring historical photos, ephemera and video. Opening reception includes DJ, blessing by the Sisters and lots of fun and frolicking!



A BRIEF HISTORY OF DRAG IN L.A.

@ West Hollywood Library

**Opening Night Reception Saturday, March 5th
7-9pm**

**7pm – Historic Drag Photo of Los Angeles,
Immediately followed by Opening Reception**

On view through June as part of One City One Pride
FREE, RSVP requested for participation in photo,
<http://draginla.eventbrite.com>

A historical look at the Los Angeles and West Hollywood drag scene from the late 1800's to today. Opening reception featuring DJ Ambrosia Salad, guest performers, portraits

by photographer Austin Young, and the taking of a historic group photo of drag artists in L.A.! Collaboration between the City of West Hollywood through WeHo Arts, Los Angeles LGBT Center's Advocate & Gochis Galleries and CAP UCLA with assistance from the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives. Curated by Katie Poltz (Los Angeles LGBT Center), David John Attyah (Glendale Community College) and Jessica-Jean Fowler.

DRAG WALL: As part of the exhibition, a specially-designated wall will be available for members of the community to bring historic photos and images of queens, kings, and artists who have performed in Los Angeles and West Hollywood. In an effort to unearth and reclaim the important members of the drag community, we invite everyone to dig into their personal collections and bring copies of photos, programs, and ephemera that will be seen by the community. For more information, or to send digital images in advance: artprograms@lalgbtcenter.org.

HISTORIC GROUP PHOTO OF DRAG ARTISTS IN LOS ANGELES: We invite all drag artists of today and yesterday to come to the West Hollywood Library for a historic group photo, courtesy of Austin Young. Special gifts will be awarded to all participating drag artists. We invite LA-based drag performers and drag enthusiasts to be a part of the biggest, most fabulous photo ever of people in drag in Los Angeles. The resulting photo, taken by photographer Austin Young, will hang in the West Hollywood Library for the run of the show, *A Brief History of Drag in L.A.* All participants will receive two complimentary tickets to Taylor Mac's *24-Decade History of Popular Music: The 20th Century Abridged* on March 12 @ Royce Hall, plus a special goodie bag provided by Smashbox Cosmetics upon arrival at the March 12 performance. Each participant will also receive copy of the group photo by Austin Young. RSVP today to guarantee your spot in this historic photo at <http://draginla.eventbrite.com>

TICKET INFORMATION

General tickets are available at www.cap.ucla.edu, all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 310.825.2101 or in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office on campus. \$15 UCLA Student tickets and \$25 UCLA Faculty & Staff tickets are available for purchase in advance online or at the Royce Hall box office night of show.

PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS: Contact Ashley Eckenweiler at ashley@theaceagency.com

IMAGES: Available for download at cap.ucla.edu/press-images. Register for access.

FUNDING CREDITS

CAP UCLA's presentation of *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music: The 20th Century Abridged* is supported in part by the Royce Gala Endowment.

A 24-Decade History of Popular Music is commissioned in part by Belfast International Arts Festival and 14 - 18 NOW; Carole Shorenstein Hays, The Curran SF; Carolina Performing Arts, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA; Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa; Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; New Haven Festival of Arts & Ideas; New York Live Arts; OZ Arts Nashville; University Musical Society of the University of Michigan.

This work was developed with the support of the Park Avenue Armory residency program and the 2015 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort with continuing post-lab dramaturgical support through its initiative with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

A 24-Decade History of Popular Music was made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.