

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE AT UCLA

Press Release

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Contact: Ashley Eckenweiler
ashley@theaceagency.com

CAP UCLA Presents *Memory Rings* by Phantom Limb Company April 8 and 9 at Freud Playhouse



Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA is proud to present Phantom Limb Company with their newest multimedia work *Memory Rings*. A spellbinding journey into the woods of a vanishing past and even more precarious future, *Memory Rings* is told through fairy tale, fable, puppetry, choreography, original music and striking visual design to chronicle 5,000 years of human and environmental change.

There are only three opportunities to see this meditative, playful and inventive theatrical collage at Freud Playhouse. Tickets (\$29-\$49) for Fri, Apr 8 at 8 p.m., Sat, Apr 9 at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. are available now at cap.ucla.edu/MemoryRings, via Ticketmaster and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at 310.825.2101.

Inspired by the "Methuselah Tree," a California bristlecone pine estimated to be more than 4800 years old, *Memory Rings* is the 2nd installment in Phantom Limb's trilogy of original works about the environment. Its time-bending forest dreamscapes—incorporating everything from the epic tale of Gilgamesh to our penchant for Google searches—chart the humor and hubris of our species, the loss of our identification with the natural world, and the hope that we may yet be able to rewrite our story.

Directed and designed by visual artist/designer and Phantom Limb Co-Artistic Director Jessica Grindstaff, the production features puppets and an original score by Phantom Limb co-Artistic Director Erik Sanko, choreography by L.A. based choreographer Ryan Heffington, video design by Keith Skretch, costumes by Danish fashion designer Henrik Vibskov, lighting by Brian H. Scott and sound by Darron L West. Janice Paran is the dramaturg, and *Memory Rings* is produced by Los Angeles native Mara Isaacs, Octopus Theatricals.

Memory Rings is a meditation on the way we live now—on our conflicted, uneasy relationship with the subjects of climate change and environmental degradation. Grindstaff says of *Memory Rings*, “Reams have already been written about the environmental crisis, a topic that demands our attention but is typically met with avoidance or fatigue. And though numerous artists are tackling it from a variety of perspectives, the results are often unsatisfying: naive, didactic, or sentimental.” Drawing inspiration from The Dark Mountain Project, an alliance of writers and artists founded by ex-environmental activist Paul Kingsnorth, Phantom Limb is less interested in the “save the world” strategies of climate scientists and political action groups than in carving out, in *Memory Rings*, “a space to sit with our apprehension, our grief, our foolishness and our hope.”

CAP UCLA presentation is made possible by the NEA, National Endowment for the Arts, with lead funding from the Royce Center Circle Endowment. Additional support provided by Todd VonBastiaans, Bryan McCarthy, Diane Levine & Robert Wass.

Memory Rings is commissioned by BAM for the Next Wave Festival, CAP UCLA, the New York University Abu Dhabi Arts Center, and ASU Gammage at Arizona State University. Development residencies have been provided by OZ Arts Nashville, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation/Rauschenberg Residency, MASS MoCA and The Hermitage. Additional support has been provided by the Jim Henson Foundation and New Music USA.

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 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.