



**UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance joins forces with The Theatre at Ace Hotel  
Downtown Los Angeles under the direction of Artistic & Executive Director  
Kristy Edmunds**

September, 2017, LOS ANGELES — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is thrilled to announce an exciting collaboration with The Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles, for the Center's 2017 – 2018 season, launching in September 2017. Conceived and curated under the direction of CAP UCLA's Artistic & Executive Director Kristy Edmunds, the season will showcase maverick work with a downtown vibe where artists and communities can find each other.

The CAP UCLA collaboration with The Theatre at Ace Hotel stems from a creative relationship that Edmunds has had with the Ace Hotel brand and its founders since the late 1990's. Both share deep ties to the Pacific Northwest, and an ethos for supporting contemporary artists who carry the culture forward. In Los Angeles, they have embarked on a long-term alliance that melds their brand sensibilities, serves contemporary performance, and brings UCLA's creative footprint into downtown LA.

*"This alliance has sympatico written all over it. We have been able to forge a collaboration that has shared aims around community cause and unfettered creativity. We have a passion for connecting people, and for being a creative home for the ever-adventurous artists of our time,"* said Edmunds of the collaboration between the two institutions. *"Frankly it is a bit like finding your sibling after being separated at birth who went off into dizzying heights of success, and is as inspired by what you are doing as you are by what they are doing. Like 'getting the band back together' in some ways, and then figuring out what the set list is going to be."*

Today, as an influential voice within the local and global arts community, Edmunds' goal in joining forces with The Theatre at Ace Hotel is to merge CAP UCLA's rich history in supporting contemporary artists through high spirited and deep-drilling programming, with the adventurous culture of Ace.

The Theatre at Ace Hotel is an iconic performance site in downtown Los Angeles, that is a home for the curious with a rebellious history. The 1,600-seat Spanish-Gothic venue was restored as a cathedral to the arts and church of past radicals, complete with a three-story grand lobby, ornate balcony and a vaulted ceiling adorned with thousands of mirrors that illuminate the space. This venerated stage will host a variety of CAP UCLA performances including words and ideas by cartoonist **Matt Groening** in conversation with **Lynda Barry** on 40 years of friendship and the trials and tribulations of being funny for a living; the critically acclaimed multi-media performance, *In My Mind* by jazz pianist **Jason Moran**; internationally celebrated avant-garde composer and light-and-sound-installation artist **Ryoji Ikeda**; and **Taylor Mac**, the 2017

recipient of the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History, will present his uniquely original, multi-night music theater extravaganza, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, designed exclusively for The Theatre at Ace Hotel which has been commissioned in part by CAP UCLA.

*"We've been cross-pollinating and sharing paths and friendships with the folks at CAP UCLA for years now – from Seattle, to Portland to LA. As we've grown, we've each built these thriving communities of creatives between us,"* said Kelly Sawdon, Partner and Chief Brand Officer, Ace Hotel / Atelier Ace. *"Kristy and CAP UCLA's mission has always been about providing a supportive space for artists, and Ace has been welcoming musicians and friends to stay with us since we first opened in Seattle in the 90s. This partnership and melding of minds coming together feels like a natural fit – we're excited to see what new territories we cross together."*

This collaboration will allow CAP UCLA and The Theatre at Ace Hotel to support special projects, artists and audiences in downtown Los Angeles. Organically intertwined in their missions, the institutions' overarching hope is to bring people together over a broader demographic, and do so with a shared commitment to eschewing as many limitations as possible.

*"I could not be more thrilled by this new, synergistic collaboration between CAP UCLA and The Theater at Ace Hotel,"* said David Roussève, Interim Dean of the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture. *"The arts are nothing less than essential to our humanity – so to be able to expand the artistic vision and voice that CAP UCLA brings to life each year through its inspired and innovative programming to new audiences and engage even more deeply with the broader cultural ecosystem of Los Angeles is very exciting."*

The full CAP UCLA season will be announced on **May 4, 2017** and includes the full range of performances at both The Theatre at Ace Hotel and the iconic Royce Hall on the UCLA campus, in addition to other locations. Individual tickets for all events will be available beginning **July 17, 2017**. For additional information, please visit [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu) or [theatre.acehotel.com](http://theatre.acehotel.com).

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#### **About Kristy Edmunds:**

An artist, curator and artistic director, Kristy Edmunds is recognized for innovation and depth in the presentation of works by contemporary artists, with a particular emphasis on contemporary performing arts. In her current role at the venerated performing arts program, UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA), Edmunds is shepherding an exciting new era. Under her leadership, the organization has evolved into a creative habitat for supporting artists in the presentation of their work. Edmunds previously served as the Consulting Artistic Director for the Park Avenue Armory in New York from 2009-2012 and prior to that, Artistic Director for the Melbourne International Arts Festival from 2005-2008, the first to serve an unprecedented four-year term. She was the Founding Executive & Artistic Director of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) and the TBA Festival (Time Based Art) in Portland, Oregon.

**About UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA):**

Under the direction of Artistic & Executive Director, Kristy Edmunds, UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) curates an annual season of live performance in all disciplines, with particular emphasis on contemporary genres, which activate L.A.'s appetite for contemporary performance and the artists of our time. CAP UCLA is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as the emerging digital, collaborative and cross-platforms utilized by today's leading artists. Organized within UCLA's School of the Arts & Architecture, the Center for the Art of Performance curates and facilitates direct exposure to contemporary performance from around the globe, supporting artists who are creating extraordinary works of art and fostering a vibrant learning community both on and off the UCLA campus. As an influential voice within the local, national, and global arts community, CAP UCLA serves to connect this generation to the next, in order to preserve a living archive of our culture. Direct experience is at the heart of the organization with the belief that exposure creates literacy, and literacy creates legacy. More at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu).

**About The Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles:**

The Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles is Ace's loving re-animation of the historic United Artists Theater. Built in 1927 for the maverick film studio founded by Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks, The Theatre stands as a monument to a group of seminal American artists — modern iconoclasts striking out on their own. Ace's restoration of this majestic space serves as a singular stage for art, film, dance and creative celebration in the heart of the Broadway Theater District's vibrant modern renaissance. View all upcoming events at The Theatre at Ace Hotel DTLA at [theatre.acehotel.com](http://theatre.acehotel.com).

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