Groove with Seun Kuti and Fela’s Egypt 80 April 20 at Royce Hall

Who: Champion of the Afrobeat movement, Seun Kuti performs with the extraordinary combo, Fela’s Egypt 80, touring in support of his recent album From Africa With Fury: Rise. Alongside fourteen talented musicians, Seun enchants audiences worldwide with incendiary live performances.

What: UCLA Live presents Seun Kuti and Fela’s Egypt 80, an evening celebrating the talent and mission of Seun Kuti. At an early age, Seun inherited his famed father’s band Fela’s Egypt 80 as well as the passion that drove Fela to use music to deliver powerful and empowering messages of joy and hope alongside political commentary. Seun uses a fiery combination of beats, horns and chants to continue the Afrobeat movement that his father began.

Sadly, Kuti finds himself challenging many of the same injustices his father fought in his heyday, from corporate greedheads to militaristic leaders to the ever-futile war on drugs.

“What inspires me is the time that I live in,” Kuti says of his latest album. “Basically what is happening today in Africa are the same things that were happening 40 years ago, when my father was songwriting, but they’re happening in different ways. So when I write my music, it’s from the perspective of a 27-year-old man living in 2012, instead of a 30-year-old man living in the 1970s.”

When: Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.) Tickets available at uclalive.org, the UCLA Box Office at 310.825.2101, or via Ticketmaster ($20-$55).

Where: UCLA Live at Royce Hall. 340 Royce Drive, UCLA Campus. More information: uclalive.org

About: UCLA Live presents world-class performing arts with a global perspective, enhancing the experience by engaging, cultivating and developing artists and audiences.

Seun Kuti captivates the crowds with a pulse—in his music, in his body movements, and in the continuation of his father’s groove, fighting against the harshness, corruption, and unfairness of day-to-day life in Africa. Kuti implores listeners to fight petroleum companies and corruption. His goal is subtle—he sees himself as an educator, speaking truth to power in order to provoke awareness and debate throughout his beloved homeland. His latest album, From Africa With Fury co-produced by Brian Eno, captures the group’s extraordinary power, fraught with the scorching rhythms and kinetic funk energy that has earned them worldwide acclaim as one of today’s most incendiary live acts.

He tours, records and performs with Egypt 80, the extraordinary combo first fronted by his renowned father, Fela Kuti, whose legend has grown exponentially in the past two years thanks to the Broadway smash hit bearing his name. Egypt 80 consists of Oluwa Seun Anikulapo Kuti, who is the lead vocalist of the group, Tajudeen Lekan Animasahun who plays the keyboard and is the Musical
Director of the group, Adekunle Adebiyi on baritone sax, Oyinade Adeniran on tenor sax, Emmanuel Kunnuji on trumpet, Kunle Justice on bass, David Obanyedo on lead guitar, Alade Oluwagbemiga on guitar, Ajayi Raimi Adebiyi on drums Kola Onasanya on Giant Conga, Wale Toriola on percussion, and Okon Iyamba on the Shekere, as well as lively vocalist/dancers Yetunde Sophia George Ademiluyi and Iyabo Adenirian.

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