CAP UCLA presents

GOAPELE

Sat, Feb 10, 2018 | The Theatre at Ace Hotel
Welcome to the Center for the Art of Performance

The Center for the Art of Performance is not a place. It’s more of a state of mind that embraces experimentation, encourages a culture of the curious, champions disruptors and dreamers and supports the commitment and courage of artists. We promote rigor, craft and excellence in all facets of the performing arts.

2017–18 SEASON VENUES

Royce Hall, UCLA
The Theatre at Ace Hotel
Freud Playhouse, UCLA
Little Theater, UCLA
Will Rogers State Historic Park

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-platforms utilized by today’s leading artists. Part of UCLA’s School of the Arts and Architecture, CAP UCLA 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. The organization invests in the creative process by providing artists with financial backing and time to experiment and expand their practices through strategic partnerships, residencies and collaborations. As an influential voice within the local, national, and global arts community, CAP UCLA serves to connect audiences across generations in order to galvanize a living archive of our culture.

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTIST

I've loved music and the arts ever since I can remember. I love how music can bring people together regardless of language, ethnicity, or lifestyle. I have always wanted my music to be a part of positive change in the world. As a singer/songwriter, I want people to feel something. Music should stir the soul—it should inspire. Tonight’s program will be a journey through my discography encapsulating all five of my albums (Even Closer, Change It All, Break Of Dawn, Strong As Glass, Dreamseeker).

—Goapele

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Goapele displays every side of her voice on the 2017 Dreamseeker EP [EMPIRE].

In one breath, she’s urging social change and boldly standing up for righteousness in the face of inequality. In the next, she’s guiding her child with a sensitive understanding, hard-earned wisdom, and unconditional love. In between, she’s as seductive and soulful as ever seamlessly slipping from activist, mother, and poet to temptress. This delicate sonic shape-shifting is a technique she introduced on her now classic 2001 debut Closer, but she hones it to perfection on Dreamseeker.

“I’m a woman, but I’m also a whole person who won’t be confined to any one box,” she asserts. “Nobody is just one thing. Within any race, within any genre, and within any neighborhood, there’s so much diversity. As artists and especially as women of color, we have to be proud of that. I’m coming from an honest place and expressing the different parts of myself that make me whole.”

That diversity has defined the Oakland-born singer, songwriter, producer, actress, and designer since the start of her career in 2001. Her influence and impact can be felt throughout R&B, soul, and hip-hop. Even Closer yielded the iconic anthem “Closer.” To date, it’s impressively racked up over 6 million Spotify streams and been sampled by everyone from Drake to YG. In between touring the world, she has released four full-length albums and collaborated with a diverse array of heavy hitters such as Snoop Dogg, E-40, Eric Benét, Soulive, and Jeff Bhasker. A film and television mainstay, she’s landed high-profile syncs in Sparkle, Honey, 90210, and many more. Along the way, The Washington Post fittingly described her as “soulful as always,” Huffington Post called her “a driving motivational force for many women,” and Essence exclaimed, “her voice is the stuff of dreams.”

In 2016, she made a conscious decision to return to her roots while composing the music that would comprise this latest offering.

“I felt like it was time to reconnect with my original fans,” she affirms. “I didn’t want to overthink anything. It’s about being boundless and getting back to that soul, R&B, funk, and even some hip-hop. I took pieces of me and let them be more raw. As an independent artist these days, there are no rules. That’s comforting, because it’s how I started.”

Recording in Los Angeles and Bay Area studios, she re-teamed with longtime friends and collaborators such as producer/keyboardist Mike Tiger, guitarist Errol Cooney, and Bedrock who all contributed to some of her earliest material. The sensual first single “Secret” introduces Dreamseeker. Produced by BedRock and AE, a ringing phone, shimmering keys, and a jazz-y beat give way to Goapele’s sexy delivery, yielding an artful bedroom anthem.

“I always like to have a sensual aspect to my music on every album,” she smiles. “This one hit that spot!” On the other end of the spectrum, clean guitar entwines
with her captivating croon on the politically charged “Stand,” as she sings, “Just stand up for something. Don’t fall back for nothing. If we don’t stand for something, we’ll fall for anything.”

“It’s a song I started writing some years ago when Oscar Grant was shot by the Oakland Police,” she sighs. “It was one of the first situations of police brutality caught on social media. Since then, that’s tragically happened countless times. I was really upset. I didn’t know what to do with my energy, so I started writing from a place of feeling powerless as an individual. Our voices matter. We can’t just sit back and keep falling for the lies. I have a platform. I need to use it sometimes. It’s meant to motivate people.”

“Power!” shares a message to her daughter—“You were born as bright as the sun. Don’t change who you are, no matter what the world says.” Then, there’s “Stay” where she duets with none other than modern R&B impresario BJ The Chicago Kid. The closer “Cool Breeze” features Goapele’s luscious and cinematic production at the forefront. Connecting these moments, the title Dreamseeker speaks to the passion driving each song.

“I was thinking of where I’m at now,” she goes on. “There’s still so much more that I want to do and dreams I want to fulfill. I’m reaching for those with each project. I run into people all the time who share their goals with me. I wanted to represent them.”

As she continues to evolve as an artist, Goapele further devotes herself to activism, acting, and fashion. She’s partnered with AIDS Healthcare Foundation in 2017, launched a lifestyle product line Dreamseeker, and starred in a short film entitled Where Is Beauty. In the midst of everything, motherhood remains the highest priority.

“Being a parent fuels me,” she states. “My daughter has shown me what life is about and taught me not to sweat the small stuff. I’ve grown so much.”

As all of Goapele’s music has done, Dreamseeker will undoubtedly inspire.

“I want listeners to feel like anything is possible, there’s room for magic, and they can be themselves no matter what,” she leaves off. “I want to lift spirits and make people feel good.”

Theo Rodrigues (Management/Creative Director) is a jack of all trades. Also known as a creative instigator in the studio. Co-owner of Skyblaze Recordings, Executive Producer & Art Direction on Even Closer, Change It All, Break of Dawn, Dreamseeker.

Ashley Raymond (Management) currently runs a Music Management and Event Production company based in Los Angeles. She has worked alongside a range of artists. Before starting her own company, she served as Day to Day Manager for Alex and Sierra, A Great Big World, Brian Culbertson, Home Free, and Morgan James at WORKS Entertainment. Prior to that, Ashley was a Production Manager at ABS Collective and worked on high level events including the Guild of Music

Supervisors Awards Show and Conference, the BESLA Annual Conference, and Stevie Wonder’s House Full of Toys. Ashley has worked countless other events and continues to serve as a West Coast team member of The Vanity Group, which is a boutique creative agency specializing in luxurious events.

Steven Baiocchi (Tour Manager) is currently a Tour/Production Manager for high level artists and music festivals. His experience in the entertainment industry is vast and diverse. For over 12 years, he has provided a variety of services to nightclubs, large-scale music festivals, and intimate concerts. He has worked alongside some of the best and biggest names in the industry. From the likes of Erykah Badu, Yasiin Bey, Ms. Lauryn Hill to Dave Chappelle and the Red Hot Chilli Peppers. His colleagues consider him a leader with a calm demeanor in high-pressure predicaments.

Mike Aaberg (Musical Director) is a Bay Area native musician. Born into a musical family; his father is an accomplished pianist, keyboardist and composer, having played and recorded with Peter Gabriel, Average White Band, The Doobie Brothers and many more. His father also enjoys a successful solo career and has released several albums.

After high school he attended the New School of Social Research’s jazz program. He studied with Reggie Workman and George Garzone in their ensembles. He was in the top combo during his stay. Classmates included Robert Glasper, Bilal, Marcus and E.G. Strickland and Otis Brown III.

In 2001 Mike Aaberg produced the title track “Closer” off Oakland artist Goapele’s album with Zioni member Ampline. He went on to produce, perform, and become her Music Director for the next 13 years. He also has performed extensively with jazz/soul artist Lalah Hathaway and his keyboards are featured on her 2011 release “Where it All Begins.” He will soon be featured on her upcoming live jazz album. Since 2014, Michael has been touring with Blue Note jazz artist Derrick Hodge. A truly versatile musician, Michael has performed with many different artists including Fantasia Barrero, DJ Quik, Kenny Garrett, Joshua Redman, Yosvanny Terry, Rahsaan Patterson, Ambrose Akinmusire, Dave Ellis, Josh Jones Group, The Coup, Zioni and more.

He has taught at: Berkeley High School Jazz, The Jazz School, La Peña Cultural Center, Prospect Sierra, Oakland School of the Arts, and Salesian High School.

Errol Cooney (Guitar) is currently one of the top touring guitar players in the industry. He has played with the likes of Janet Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, Christina Aguilera, Phillip Phillips, Dave Chappelle, Lalah Hathaway, and Goapele over the past 15 years. His talent has brought him to play at the White House and on a variety of different international stages. He has collaborated with Goapele on several albums and co-wrote “Cool Breeze” and “Chasing.”

James ‘Booyah’ Richard (Bass) grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Born and raised in church, his interest and love for music began at a very young age.
James’s love for music has enabled him to excel, perform, teach, and produce music including, the motion picture title track, “A Question of Faith,” that released Fall 2017. He has also recorded with many great musicians. Amongst some of those are Jennifer Hudson, Marsha Ambrosius, Kenny Lattimore, Waymon Tisdale, Lenny Williams, En Vogue, Dave Hollister, The Clark Sisters, Smokie Norful, Lawrence Matthews, Tad Worku, and numerous other local and nationally known artists.

James is currently the main bassist at his local church, Acts Full Gospel, in Oakland, CA. In conjunction, he continues his musical journey as a Music Producer, and the President of Top 2 Bottom Entertainment. James gives all Glory to God for his many accomplishments and blessings.

Corey Baugh (Drummer) “One of today’s most prominent drummers, Corey Baugh is quickly making a name for himself as one of today’s most in-demand drummers. At only 26 years of age, Corey has worked with some of the most elite Gospel and R&B artists in the world.”

In 2006, Corey decided to take on his musical career professionally, giving him the opportunity to work with the likes of four-time Grammy Award winner Karen Clark-Sheard, four-time Grammy Award winner Edwin Hawkins, two-time Grammy Award winner Dorinda Clark-Cole, three-time Grammy Award winner Donnie McClurkin, two-time Grammy Award winner Tye Tribbett.

Along with playing with some of today’s more prestigious gospel singers, Corey has also worked with some of today’s top R&B and Pop artists such as Jamie Foxx, Goapele, Dave Hollister, Chico DeBarge, LaChanz, Eric Roberson, Martha Wash, Joel Smith (legendary bassist/drummer), Carl Wheeler (Frankie Beverly & Maze), Eric Smith (Musical Director for Rihanna), Cassandra O’Neal (Prince), David Jackson (Musical Director for Jennifer Hudson) just to name a few.

Toni Scruggs (Background Vocalist) is a world renowned and accomplished vocal musician, whose professional experience includes ensemble (background, choir) singing, solo performance, conducting, directing and education. As a union session singer in Los Angeles, she has been featured in many live and recorded performances, television shows, cartoons and movie soundtracks.

DJ R-Tistic (DJ), Ronald Turner II, known as DJ R-Tistic, is a DJ hailing from Los Angeles, CA. He was introduced to music at a very early age by his father, drummer and producer, Ronald Turner I. He is a graduate of Florida A&M University, which is where his passion for DJing came into fruition. He is managed by Naledi N. of NINE.

DJ R-Tistic has a style that is rarely seen by modern DJs. His style incorporates the technical mastery that turntablists and legendary hip-hop DJ’s are known for, while infusing the commercial and Regional club sounds that are prevalent throughout the Country. He enjoys to spin what he calls “Expanded Open Format” in which he digs in the crates to display different styles of hip-hop, pop, soul, House, rock, and upbeat R&B that normally aren’t played within the same set. He is known for his trademark transitions, in which he keeps the crowd on edge as they anticipate what song will come next.

Migui Maloles (FOH Engineer) is a Bay Area-based Grammy Award-winning Audio Engineer. Though he is a studio engineer by trade, he has also found his niche as a touring Front of House engineer.

Andrew White (Lighting) has had the pleasure of working with DPH Sound & Lighting as a lighting designer and project manager since 2008. In that time he’s worked with hundreds of artists, venues and festivals all across California. As a musician himself, he understands the nuances of designing lighting for an artist. He brings a vibrant passion and energy to all of his designs. In addition he has provided design and project management for product launches from Dior, Oracle and Salesforce.

Colson Whitehead is a New York Times bestselling writer, a MacArthur Fellow and the author of the highly acclaimed novel The Underground Railroad, a tour de force chronicling a young slave’s desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South, which won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2016 and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2017.

Colson will read from the novel and discuss his writing process.

Tickets: 310-825-2101
cap.ucla.edu
House Rules

PHOTOGRAPHY
Photography, video and the use of any recording equipment is strictly prohibited at all times during performances at all UCLA campus performance venues and at The Theatre at Ace Hotel. Any/all press photography must be approved in writing in advance by the Center for the Art of Performance representative. For press inquiries and to make a request to cover an event, visit cap.ucla.edu/press

CAMERAS & SMART PHONES
The use of cameras, smart phones, cell phones and recording equipment of any kind is strictly prohibited at all times during performances at all UCLA campus performance venues and at The Theatre at Ace Hotel. All devices must be silenced before the start of the performance. Please be considerate to those around you and refrain from texting, emailing or surfing the web during performances.

LATE SEATING
Late seating will be subject to company approval and will occur only at a suitable time at the discretion of the house staff. Latecomers may not be able to be seated in their assigned seats to avoid disruption or distractions during the performance. Some events have no late seating by request of the artist, and refunds on parking and tickets for latecomers will not be accommodated.

Please check the event detail page of our website for late seating policies for specific performances or opt in to our email data-base by signing up for our newsletter and pre-show emails with helpful information about pre-show activities, parking, late seating, running time, nearby dining opportunities and more at cap.ucla.edu/enews

CHILDREN
Children over age 5 are welcome to most events and, regardless of age, must have a ticket. Infants on laps are not permitted. Inquire when purchasing tickets of age appropriateness for specific events and check out website for specific performance information.

ACCESSIBILITY
The Theatre at Ace Hotel offers ADA accessible seats and restrooms. You can buy ADA seating on our ticketing site or by calling AXS at 888-9-AXS-TIX (888-929-7849). When buying tickets over the phone, please let the ticket agent know if you require accessible seating, and s/he will issue you an ADA seat.

In addition to wheelchair spaces, The Theatre at Ace Hotel is equipped with select aisle seats that have folding armrests on the aisle side to make transfer easier for those with mobility limitations. For such seating, please request a “transfer seat.”

If you need accessible seating the night of the event and don’t have a special ticket, we’ll do our best to accommodate you once you arrive at the theater.

Assisted listening devices are available. If desired please ask our house staff.

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Our members are committed to groundbreaking contemporary performance locally, globally and everywhere in between. Your support is how we ensure that artistic expression will thrive on stage, on the UCLA campus and in the Los Angeles community for years to come. Membership dollars provide the means for us to interact with the leading artists of our time, and to share what we discover with as many people as we can.

With your involvement, we can provide young audiences with the chance to experience life through the lens of the modern stage, offer fans and aficionados the recent work of artists who propel us boldly forward, and enhance the public mission of one of the nation’s leading research universities.

Your membership dollars are the primary financial resource that sustains us. We need your support now more than ever. Please become a member today.

cap.ucla.edu/membership
ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO

Remain In Light

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