



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAP UCLA in association with Glorvya Kaufman
Presents Dance at the Music Center Present
The Great Tamer
A Work by Dimitris Papaioannou

U.S. Premiere

January 11 at Royce Hall



*"Dimitris Papaioannou's *The Great Tamer* [is] a piece of theatre that grabs the attention and largely doesn't let go. It's part dream, part nightmare, part riddle, with a lot of room left for the audience to make their own associations and meaning; somehow, that just adds to the mystery and allure." — Seeing Dance*

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) in association with Glorlya Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center present the U.S. Premiere of Dimitris Papaioannou's celebrated work *The Great Tamer* on Friday, Jan. 11, at 8 p.m. at Royce Hall. Tickets for \$29–\$79 are available now at cap.ucla.edu, via Ticketmaster, by phone 310-825-2101, and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

Conceived, visualized, and directed by Dimitris Papaioannou, *The Great Tamer* takes its audience on a journey through the meaning of life and the mysteriousness of death.

Moving within the framework of innovative choreography and stunning optical illusions, performers pause in tableaux recalling sculptures and paintings of great masters such as Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*, Michelangelo's *David* and *Anatomy Lesson* by Rembrandt. In these scenes, familiarity collides with the unknown and unexplored allowing viewers to wrestle with thoughts and emotions evoked by the piece. Nudity is used to punctuate moments of gravity and absurdity, helping to evoke the full spectrum of life.

On the heels of a successful international run including at the famed Festival d'Avignon in the south of France, *The Great Tamer* features ten performers who seamlessly join to look into the deepest and darkest parts of the human soul.

Perhaps most widely known for creating the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, Papaioannou is the rare artist who traverses and merges visual and performative mediums: art, dance, set design, costume and staging to create unforgettable not-to-be-missed experiences; experiences that strike the heart and challenge the mind all at once.

Funds provided by Deborah Irmas, Diane Levine and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation multi-year grant for Collaborative Intersections in the Visual and Performing Arts.

CAP UCLA's 2018–19 theater series continues with Quote Unquote Collective in association with Why Not Theatre *MOUTHPIECE* (Feb. 9, Royce Hall Rehearsal Room), Andrew Dawson: *Space Panorama* and *Spirit of the Ring* (Feb. 21–22, Royce Hall Rehearsal Room), Carrie Mae Weems: *Past Tense* (March 8, The Theatre at Ace Hotel), CAP UCLA in association with Center Theatre Group presents *The White Album* by Joan Didion by Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera (April 5–7, Freud Playhouse).

DISCLAIMER: This performance contains nudity and is recommended for adults 18+.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA in association with Glorlya Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center present

[*The Great Tamer*](#)

[A Work by Dimitris Papaioannou](#)

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Royce Hall, UCLA

10745 Dickson Court, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Program: A visually stunning and surreal pageant that grapples with the meaning of life, the mystery of death, time, destruction and reconstruction. Often referencing famous sculptures and paintings, Papaioannou uses the human body to create vignettes brimming with humor, horror, circus-like stunts and optical illusions.

Tickets:

Single tickets: \$29–\$79

Online: cap.ucla.edu

UCLA Central Ticket Office: 310-825-2101, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Royce Hall box office: open 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

Artist website: [Dimitris Papaioannou](#)

Like Dimitris Papaioannou on [Facebook](#) and follow him on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

#THEGREATTAMER

CREDITS

The Great Tamer

Conceived – Visualized + Directed by **Dimitris Papaioannou**

With **Pavlina Andriopoulou, Costas Chrysafidis, Dimitris Kitsos, Ioannis Michos, Evangelia Randou, Kalliopi Simou, Drossos Skotis, Christos Strinopoulos, Yorgos Tsiantoulas, Alex Vangelis**

Produced by **Onassis Cultural Centre - Athens** (*Greece*)

Co-produced by **CULTURESCAPES Greece 2017** (*Switzerland*), **Dansens Hus**

Sweden (*Sweden*), **EdM Productions, Festival d'Avignon** (*France*), **Fondazione**

Campania dei Festival – Napoli Teatro Festival Italia (*Italy*), **Les Théâtres de la Ville de**

Luxembourg (*Luxembourg*), **National Performing Arts Center-National Theater & Concert**

Hall | NPAC-NTCH (*Taiwan*), **Seoul Performing Arts Festival | SPAF** (*Korea*), **Théâtre de la**

Ville – Paris / La Villette – Paris (*France*)

Executive Producer **2WORKS**

With the support of **ALPHA BANK** and **MEGARON – THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL**

ABOUT DIMITRIS PAPAIOANNOU

Born in Athens in 1964, **Dimitris Papaioannou** gained early recognition as a painter and comics artist, before his focus shifted to the performing arts, as director, choreographer, performer, and designer of sets, costumes, make up, and lighting.

He was a student of the iconic Greek painter Yannis Tsarouchis before studying at the Athens School of Fine Arts.

He formed Edafos Dance Theatre, in 1986 as an initial vehicle for his original stage productions, hybrids of physical theatre, experimental dance, and performance art.

Originating in the underground scene, the company challenged perceptions and gained an expanding number of dedicated followers. *MEDEA* (1993) marked the company's transition to big theatres and is considered its iconic work. The Edafos company spanned 17 years, to 2002, and set its indelible stamp on the arts scene in Greece.

Papaioannou became widely known in 2004, as the creator of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games.

Restarting in 2006, with his production '2', he found himself in the odd position of creating avant-garde works in major theatres in Athens that enjoyed record-breaking long runs, with over 100.000 tickets sold.

In 2009, he began using this platform to create theatrical experiments on a large scale: *NOWHERE* (2009) for the inauguration of the renovated Greek National Theatre and *INSIDE* (2011) for the Pallas Theater.

In 2012, stripping down his work to bare essentials, he created *Primal Matter* for the Athens Festival, with him back on stage after a ten-year absence.

On the same quest for simplicity, he created *Still Life* (2014), the first work that toured extensively in Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia.

In 2015, he created the Opening Ceremony for the Baku 2015 First European Games.

Papaioannou's 25 productions range from mass spectacles with thousands of performers, to intimate pieces, and have appeared in a wide variety of venues, from his famous underground squat theater in Athens, to the ancient theatre in Epidaurus, and from Olympic stadiums to Théâtre de la Ville – Paris, and Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza.

In 2017, he created *The Great Tamer*, his first international co-commissioned work with ten co-producers, including the Festival d'Avignon. *The Great Tamer* is on an international tour, scheduled until 2019.

In 2018, Dimitris has become the first artist to create a new, full-length work for Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch. *Since She* (2018) premiered on 12 May 2018 in Germany.

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[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 — by leading artists from around the globe. Part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, CAP UCLA curates and facilitates direct exposure to artists who are creating extraordinary works of art and fosters 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 and collaborations. As an influential voice within the local, national and global arts communities, CAP UCLA connects this generation to the next in order to preserve a living archive of our culture. CAP UCLA is also a safe harbor where cultural expression and artistic exploration can thrive, giving audiences the opportunity to experience real life through characters and stories on stage, and giving artists an avenue to challenge

assumptions and advance new ways of seeing and understanding the world we live in now.

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ABOUT GLORYA KAUFMAN PRESENTS DANCE AT THE MUSIC CENTER

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center is one of the leading presenters of dance on the West Coast. The celebrated series offers significant works by prestigious ballet and contemporary dance artists from around the world. Now entering its 16th year, Dance at The Music Center is a powerful commissioning force, supporting new works and artists-in-residence projects by today's most influential companies and choreographers. Performances take place throughout The Music Center, including the historic Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the distinctive Ahmanson Theatre and the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall, and in locations around the Los Angeles area.

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PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS: Contact Nicole Freeman, PR & Marketing Assistant, The ACE Agency, Nicole@theaceagency.com

IMAGES: Available by request or register for download at cap.ucla.edu/pressimages. Photo by Julian Mommert.