



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAP UCLA presents  
Jesmyn Ward and Mitchell S. Jackson  
in Conversation**

*February 7 at Royce Hall*



*"Ward's [Sing, Unburied, Sing] is a true triple threat, expert in prose, human observation, and social commentary." —Time*

*"Powerful...Jackson's prose has a spoken-word cadence, the language flying off the page with percussive energy...there is a warmth and a hard-won wisdom about the*

*intersection of race and poverty in America.* —*The New York Times*

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents Jesmyn Ward and Mitchell S. Jackson in conversation on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. at Royce Hall. Tickets for \$29–\$59 are available now at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu), via Ticketmaster, by phone 310-825-2101, and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

Ward and Jackson are two of America's most vital contemporary writers and together as part of the Words & Ideas series, discuss the intersection of their life experiences and how it relates to their work. Ward and Jackson are sure to deliver a highly engaging, fascinating conversation.

Jesmyn Ward's novel *Sing, Unburied Sing* (2017) explores the ties both alive and dead binding an interracial family together. Narrated in part by a world-weary 13-year-old boy, and his beleaguered mother, the two-time National Book Award winner's third novel is a powerful testament to her talent in conveying the nuanced nature of racism in current and past American society.

Heralded as a new literary star, Mitchell S. Jackson's highly anticipated memoir, *Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family* is a hybrid of social commentary, history, and storytelling that explores some of the most pressing issues in American society including the devastating effects of the prison system, violence, and drug addiction.

"A dynamic, impressive debut memoir from the Whiting Award-winning author of *The Residue Years* (2013) ... A potent book that revels in the author's truthful experiences while maintaining the jagged-grain, keeping-it-a-100, natural storytelling that made *The Residue Years* a modern must-read," said Kirkus Review.

Jesmyn Ward & Mitchell Jackson In Conversation completes CAP UCLA's 2018–19 Words & Ideas series. For more on the remaining season, please visit [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu).

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

CAP UCLA presents

[Jesmyn Ward and Mitchell Jackson](#)

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019 at 8 pm

Royce Hall, UCLA

10745 Dickson Court, Los Angeles, CA 90095

**Program:** Award-winning literary sensations and essential voices of our time Jesmyn Ward and Mitchell Jackson discuss the intersection of their life experiences and their life's work. Equally matched skill and talent, Ward and Mitchell both use their singular experiences to convey a larger portrait of life in America.

**Tickets:**

Single tickets: \$29–\$59

Online: [cap.ucla.edu](http://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 websites:** [Jesmyn Ward](#) and [Mitchell S. Jackson](#)

### **ABOUT JESMYN WARD**

Raised on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Jesmyn Ward is the first woman and first woman of color to win two National Book Awards for fiction. A noted memoirist and nonfiction writer and MacArthur Fellow, Ward first gained recognition and accolades with her debut novel *Salvage the Bones*.

Associate Professor of English at Tulane University, Ward's unique yet universal perspective is expanded in her third novel, *Sing, Unburied Sing* and with her memoir "Men We Reaped."

### **ABOUT MITCHELL S. JACKSON**

Mitchell S. Jackson's breakout novel *The Residue Years* garnered rave reviews from The New York Times, The Paris Review and The Times of London, winning the Ernest J. Gaines prize for literary excellence. The New York-based writer teaches at both New York and Columbia universities.

A TED fellow, Jackson is a well-regarded public speaker able to combine history and personal narrative to put societal issues into at once a highly personal and greater context.

### **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. Like CAP UCLA on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). #CAPUCLA

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**PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS:** Contact Nicole Freeman, PR & Marketing Assistant, The ACE Agency, [nicole@theaceagency.com](mailto:nicole@theaceagency.com)

**IMAGES:** Available by request or register for download at [cap.ucla.edu/pressimages](http://cap.ucla.edu/pressimages). Photos by Beowulf Sheehan (Jesmyn Ward) and John Ricard (Mitchell Jackson).