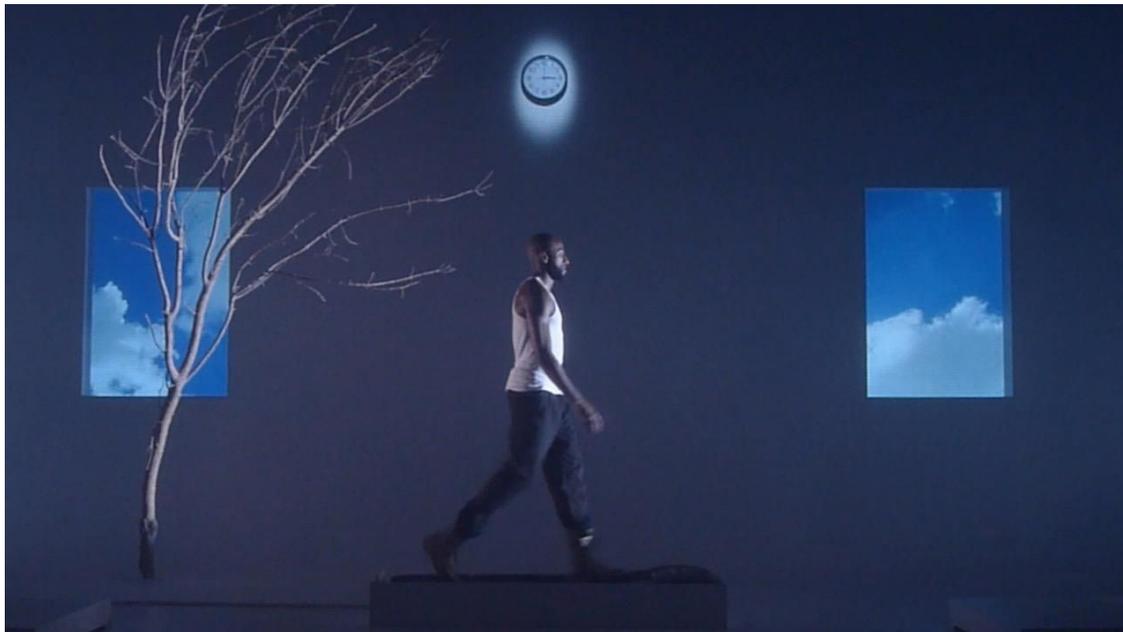




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAP UCLA Presents  
**Carrie Mae Weems**  
*Past Tense*

*March 8 at The Theatre at Ace Hotel DTLA*



“Weems has long been one of our most effective visual and verbal rhetoricians. When she tackles complex subjects in complex ways, the results are . . . deeply stirring.”

- Holland Cotter, *The New York Times*

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents *Past Tense*, a production by acclaimed artist Carrie Mae Weems on Friday, March 8 at the Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles. Tickets for \$29-69 are available now at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu), [theatre.acehotel.com](http://theatre.acehotel.com), 310-825-2101 and The Theatre at Ace Hotel box office.

A rule-breaker, one of the foremost photographers of her generation, Carrie Mae Weems is a contemporary artist whose work insists on the worth of black women. In *Past Tense*, Weems takes a refreshed look at the story of *Antigone*. A visual compilation and delight, *Past Tense*, includes a Greek chorus, musicians, a poet, dancer, and screen projections to explore social justice, violence, gender, politics, and personal identity.

"While working on *Grace Notes* for months it occurred to me that I was telling the story of *Antigone*, wherein an innocent man dies by unjustified means and his sister fights for the right to bury him honorably. But the wider community refuses her; her right to justice, and to peace, is denied," said Carrie Mae Weems.

The cast includes spoken word artist Carl Hancock Rux whose excerpt from *The Exalted* was part of CAP UCLA's 2012-13 season. The remainder of the cast currently includes Carrie Mae Weems with singers Eisa Davis, Imani Uzuri, Alicia Hall Moran and dancer Vinson Frealey. Music direction will be given by and trombone played by Craig Harris.

Weems, 65, was the first African-American woman to have a retrospective at the Guggenheim. Existing in a cultural mythosphere, it is difficult to separate the artist from the art. Aside from Weems inspired and inspiring photography, she is name-checked in a lyric on the Black Thought album, appears in Spike Lee's new Netflix series "She's Gotta Have It," and is said to have influenced the videos of Beyoncé's *Lemonade*.

Funds for this performance provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation multi-year grant for Collaborative Intersections in the Visual and Performing Arts.

CAP UCLA's Theater series continues with *The White Album by Joan Didion* by Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera in association with Center Theatre Group (April 5-7, Freud Playhouse).

#### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

CAP UCLA presents

[Carrie Mae Weems' \*Past Tense\*](#)

Friday, March 8 at 8 p.m.

CAP UCLA at The Theatre at Ace Hotel DTLA

929 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Program:** Carrie Mae Weems' *Past Tense* takes us on a deep dive into the enduring significance of the iconic tale of *Antigone*. Through music, text, projection, and video, this powerful piece explores themes of social justice, escalating violence, gender relations, politics and personal identity within the context of contemporary history.

#### **Tickets:**

Single tickets: \$29-69

Online: [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu), [theatre.acehotel.com](http://theatre.acehotel.com)

Phone: 310-825-2101

The Theatre at Ace Hotel box office: Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; day of show, 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

**Artist websites:** [Carrie Mae Weems](#)

#### **ABOUT CARRIE MAE WEEMS**

Considered one of the most influential contemporary American artists, Carrie Mae Weems has investigated family relationships, cultural identity, sexism, class, political systems, and the consequences of power. Determined as ever to enter the picture—both literally and metaphorically—Weems has sustained an on-going dialogue within contemporary discourse for over thirty years. During this time, Carrie Mae Weems has developed a complex body of art employing photographs, text, fabric, audio, digital images, installation, and video. In a New York Times review of her retrospective, Holland Cotter wrote, "Ms. Weems is what she has always been, a superb image maker and a moral force, focused and irrepressible." Weems has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions at major national and international museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Frist Center for Visual Art, Solomon Guggenheim Museum in New York, and the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo in Seville, Spain.

#### **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

#### **ABOUT THE THEATRE AT ACE HOTEL DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES**

The Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles is Ace's loving reanimation 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).

# # #

**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).  
Photo by William Strugs.