



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAP UCLA presents
Roberto Fonseca & Fatoumata Diawara**

March 23 at The Theatre at Ace Hotel DTLA



"The Cuban keyboardist is a terrific example of what makes 21st century improvised music so exciting: Fonseca is part of a generation of musicians who feel that all sounds from all countries are accessible to them, either in acoustic, electric or digitized form — whether it's a traditional, ancient rhythm or a computerized studio effect." — *Downbeat*

"Fatoumata Diawara projects her strong songs with effortless poise." — *The Telegraph*

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents Roberto Fonseca & Fatoumata Diawara in a shared evening celebrating their musical roots on Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m. at The Theatre at Ace Hotel Downtown LA. Tickets for \$29–\$59 are available now at cap.ucla.edu and theatre.acehotel.com, by phone 310-825-2101, and at The Theatre at Ace Hotel box office.

Both Fonseca and Diawara are masters of their craft and together, Diawara's husky yet smooth vocals followed by Fonseca's jazz genius create a remarkable evening.

Considered one of the most innovative Cuban pianists in generations, Fonseca became a musical connoisseur after his time as a pianist with the Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club®. Fonseca found his exemplary sound between the crossroads of jazz, traditional music, and soul immersed from his Afro-Cuban roots.

Hailed as one of the most vital standard-bearers of modern African music, Diawara mastered her craft as a back-up vocalist to her fellow Malian Oumou Sangaré. She is skilled in creating musical masterpieces that simultaneously offer a fresh, bold sound while also paying respect to her heritage.

Diawara and Fonseca are forces to be reckoned with. In 2014 Diawara and Fonseca teamed up for the first time to create the album *At Home*. Their individual strengths form the perfect Afro-Caribbean musical dream team. On March 23 at The Theatre at Ace Hotel they will each perform separately with their individual bands.

CAP UCLA's Global Music series continues at Royce Hall with Zakir Hussain and Masters of Percussion (March 28), Anoushka Shankar (April 19), and at The Theatre at Ace Hotel with Nano Stern (March 30) and The Gloaming (April 12).

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

[Roberto Fonseca & Fatoumata Diawara](#)

Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m.

CAP UCLA at The Theatre at Ace Hotel DTLA

929 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Program: Both artists learned their craft from old masters: she as a backup singer for her fellow Malian Oumou Sangaré; he as a pianist with the Buena Vista Social Club. Diawara is hailed as one of the most vital standard-bearers of modern African music. Fonseca is considered one of the most innovative Cuban pianists in generations.

Tickets:

Single tickets: \$29–\$59

Online: cap.ucla.edu, 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 the show, 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

Artist websites: [Roberto Fonseca](#) | [Fatoumata Diawara](#)

ABOUT ROBERTO FONSECA

The dazzling musician **The New York Times** called “a charismatic spark plug of a pianist from Cuba” made his debut at the Havana International Jazz Festival in 1990 when he was 15. Grammy Award nominated, Fonseca also played with **Buena Vista Social Club™**, joining great the cast of stars such as Ibrahim Ferrer, Orlando ‘Cachaíto’ López, Rubén González, Guajiro Mirabal y Manuel Galbán and he also recorded and toured with another of its frontline stars **Omara Portuondo**.

During his career, Roberto Fonseca has collaborated with **Mayra Andrade, Regina Carter, Anat Cohen, Carlinhos Brown, Vicente Amigo, Kepa Junkera, Snarky Puppy, Michael Brecker, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Nils Petter Molvær**; performing in Palais des Congrès (Paris), Royal Albert Hall (London), Beacon Theatre (New York), Sydney Opera House (Australia), Frankfurt Alter Oper (Frankfurt), Jazz in Marciac, Festival de Jazz de Montreaux, the New York City Center Hall, Festival Jazz de Tokyo. He was also **co-producer** along with British **Dj Gilles Peterson** of **Havana Cultura New Cuban Sound Vol I and II**.

Accompanied by Ruly Hernández on drums and Yandy Martínez on bass it's impossible to sit still when Fonseca's trio takes off.

ABOUT FATOUMATA DIAWARA

Hailed as one of the most vital standard-bearers of modern African music, Fatoumata Diawara takes her artistry to fresh and thrilling heights on her new album ‘Fenfo’. Boldly experimental yet respectful of her roots, it’s a record that defines her as the voice of young African womanhood – proud of her heritage but with a vision that looks confidently to the future and a message that is universal.

Her spectacular 2011 debut album ‘Fatou’ was hailed by Pitchfork as a “beguiling album” that “simply surrounds you with its atmosphere”, The Guardian described it as “spellbinding” and Gilles Peterson declared Fatoumata to be “one of the most exciting talents I’ve heard in a long time” making the Malian singer, songwriter, guitarist and acclaimed actress the most talked about new African artist of recent years. ‘Fenfo’, which translates as “something to say”, dramatically fulfills that promise on a set of vivid and original new compositions that draw on the rich experiences she has enjoyed since. “I’ve had so many different musical adventures since the last album, touring and working with so many other musicians and I think you can hear how all of that feeds into this record,” she says. “This is my time and I’m sharing my soul.”

Diawara has previously worked with some of the biggest names in contemporary music. She recorded with Bobby Womack and Herbie Hancock; and toured/recorded with the Cuban pianist Roberto Fonseca. She assembled a West African super-group featuring Amadou and Mariam, Oumou Sangaré and Toumani Diabaté; and climbed aboard Damon Albarn’s star-studded Africa Express, which culminated in her sharing a stage with Sir Paul McCartney. Diawara most recently appeared at Carnegie Hall alongside David Crosby, Chris Thile, Snarky Puppy and others for an evening of topical protest music. *Rolling Stones* noted that “the singer and guitarist, originally from Mali, provided two of the night’s most striking moments.

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 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.

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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. Photos by Guiro Hernandez (Roberto Fonseca) and Aida Mulunah (Fatoumata Diawara).