



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAP UCLA presents
Frank Bruni in Conversation with Sarah Smarsh**

December 8 at Royce Hall



“I think what we journalists too often do is assume the status quo is unchangeable. I think all sorts of issues of political reform [and] electoral reform needs more discussion than they get.”

—Frank Bruni

“To find a more accurate vision of these United States, we must resist pat narratives about any group—including the working class on whom our current political situation is most often pinned.”

—Sarah Smarsh

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents Frank Bruni in Conversation with Sarah Smarsh on Sunday, December 8 at 5 p.m. at Royce Hall. Tickets starting at \$28 are available now at cap.ucla.edu, 310-825-2101 and the Royce Hall box office.

Frank Bruni and Sarah examine the inequalities in America. For their CAP UCLA engagement, they will discuss recent events and issues facing voters in the upcoming elections. These two socio-political pundits go beyond the headlines with their live opinions and facts on the current state of the nation.

Frank Bruni, as a former White House reporter, has opinions on the current political race and who best to fit the seat in the oval office. An Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* since June 2011, Bruni keeps tabs on all candidates and their platforms across social issues, education and culture. His reflections appear every Sunday and Wednesday in his column and for one day only as part of CAP UCLA's season at Royce Hall.

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Heartland: A Memoir of Work Hard and Being broke in the Richest Country on Earth*, Sarah Smarsh is a journalist, writer, speaker, educator and commentator. Smarsh has covered socioeconomic class, politics and public policy for several publications including the *Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. With her roots in Kansas, Smarsh wanted to bring a spotlight to rural lands and the working class. She created *The Homecomers with Sarah Smarsh* podcast as an effort towards this goal

CAP UCLA's Words & Ideas series concludes with *Marlon James (Feb 27, Royce Hall)*.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

[Frank Bruni in Conversation with Sarah Smarsh](#)

Sunday, December 8 at 5 p.m.

Royce Hall, UCLA

10745 Dickson Court, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Program:

Frank Bruni is a long-time Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times*. He joined the newspaper in 1995 and has ranged broadly across its pages – from being a White House correspondent to writing as the chief restaurant critic. In his columns, he reflects on diverse topics including American politics, higher education, popular culture and gay rights. Sarah Smarsh is an author, educator, speaker, and journalist who focuses on socioeconomic class and rural America. Her book *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* examines historic economic inequality and tells the story of her upbringing among the working poor on a Kansas farm.

Tickets:

Tickets starting at \$28

Online: cap.ucla.edu

Phone: 310-825-2101

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.

Artists website: [Frank Bruni](#) | [Sarah Smarsh](#)

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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