

**CAP UCLA Presents
The Plastic Bag Store
Robin Frohardt**

Tickets on sale June 9

Installation and Immersive Film Experience June 30 – July 11

CAP UCLA Partners with Local Environmental Activists



[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](https://cap.ucla.edu) presents the much-anticipated arrival of Robin Frohardt's *The Plastic Bag Store*, opening to the public in Los Angeles' downtown Arts District Wednesday, June 30 – Sunday, July 11. To purchase tickets, make a reservation, contribute or for more information on how to get involved in Plastic Free July please visit cap.ucla.edu.

There are two modes to experience this presentation: timed entry to the “store” itself to wander the aisles and discover the abundant products devised by the Brooklyn-based artist Robin Frohardt; or, a limited number of tickets are available to the ‘live immersive experience’ where a puppet film, performers and handmade sets tell the darkly comedic story of how the plastic waste left behind today might be interpreted by future generations.

Frohardt states, “*The Plastic Bag Store* is a visually rich and humorous experience that hopefully encourages a different way of thinking about the foreverness of plastic, the permanence of the disposable and that there is no “away” when we throw something out. There is great humor to be found in the pitfalls of capitalism—humor and satire can be powerful tools for social criticism especially with issues that feel too sad and overwhelming to confront directly.”

Co-produced by Frohardt and Pomegranate Arts, *The Plastic Bag Store* premiered in the heart of New York’s Times Square, a surprise success story in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. *The Plastic Bag Store* was created over several years by Frohardt in collaboration with her puppetry ensemble and features original music by long-time creative collaborator, the award-winning composer Freddi Price.

“This has been years in the making, and Robin Frohardt has created something that is singular and amazing. *The Plastic Bag Store* is the story – one with purpose – of an artist who put a lot of small things into a rather big thing, thanks in part to friends stockpiling plastic material for her,” said Kristy Edmunds, Executive and Artistic Director of CAP UCLA. “CAP UCLA took up the idea of bringing *The Plastic Bag Store* to L.A. – not exactly a small gesture, but I have learned so much about how to even comprehend the scale of plastics from working on this project. When we introduced *The Plastic Bag Store* to organizations working on the environmental side – for me it was like stepping across a threshold of feeling overwhelmed to feeling empowered. When an artist’s creativity is conjoined with research, knowledge and enthusiasm – which is exactly what has happened with our extended collaborators in the advocacy and sustainability communities – the impossible becomes incredibly possible!”

Timed entry to visit *The Plastic Bag Store* will be open on a set schedule each day. Advance reservations and a suggested donation of \$10 per person is requested. Due to health protocols, at the time of this release, up to 20 people, each half-hour can explore inside *The Plastic Bag Store: Installation*. Patrons will be greeted by rotisserie chickens, cupcakes, sushi and popular products such as Yucky Shards cereal and Bagorade sports drink all made from discarded, single-use plastics. Then several times each day, the “store” transforms into *The Plastic Bag Store: Immersive Film Experience*. This 60-minute experience is currently limited to 20 people per show for a \$35 adult or \$15 student advanced ticket.

In association with CAP UCLA and *The Plastic Bag Store*, there are numerous ancillary events taking place online and in person. In advance of the official opening of *The Plastic Bag Store*, CAP UCLA has partnered with the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific for a

special film screening and talk with the artist Robin Frohardt on Sunday, June 27 in the Honda Pacific Visions Theater at 7pm. Tickets are limited, and will benefit the Aquarium. Additional activities, experiences and special events will be available from Art at the Rendon; The Skirball Center; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA); Plastic Pollution Coalition, Friends of the LA River and CAP UCLA's Art in Action space, next to the installation, will provide a dive into local and environmental issues with a mobile pop-up library and art-making tables.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA) Presents

Screenings of 'A Guided Tour of Robin Frohardt's *The Plastic Bag Store*' and *BAG*

BAG is an all-cardboard short film created by Robin Frohardt with original music by Freddi Price, *BAG* follows the journey of a plastic bag from the present day to the far off-future.

June 19 - July 11, 2021

Wed-Sun, 11 AM - 5 PM

ICA LA Annex

1717 E 7th St, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Free

[More Info](#)

CAP UCLA & Aquarium of the Pacific present

Plastic Bag Store: The Film

By Robin Frohardt

Sun, Jun 27, 2021, at 7 PM

Honda Pacific Visions Theater, Aquarium of the Pacific

100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach 90802

Post-show discussion with the artist immediately following the screening

Advanced tickets required: \$17; \$15 for Aquarium members

Recommended for Ages 12+ due to current health protocols

[More Info](#)

CAP UCLA Presents

The Plastic Bag Store: Installation

Wednesday, June 30 – Sunday, July 11

Tue-Fri 2:30 – 5 PM (last entry 4:30 PM)

Sat & Sun 12:30 – 2 PM (last entry 1:30 PM)

Mon, July 5: noon – 7 PM (last entry 6:30 PM)

Closed Sun, July 4

661 Imperial Street

Time reservations are required

There is a suggested \$10 donation per person

Recommended for Ages 12+ due to current health protocols

[More Info](#)

CAP UCLA Presents

The Plastic Bag Store: Live Immersive Experience

Wednesday, June 30 – Sunday, July 11

Tue-Fri 1 PM and 6 PM

Sat & Sun 11 AM, 3 PM and 5 PM

Closed Sun, July 4

661 Imperial Street

Advanced tickets required: \$35 general admission/ \$15 student (ages 12+ with ID)

Recommended for Ages 12+ due to current health protocols

[More Info](#)

CAP UCLA & ICA Present

More Art, Less Plastic:

*a conversation with innovative environmental activists about art, education,
and single-use plastics*

Wednesday, June 30 – Sunday, July 11

CAP UCLA Online

Free

[More Info](#)

CAP UCLA & ICA Present

Puppet-Making Workshop for Adult People with Eli Presser

Friday, July 9 from 6-8 PM

Location TBD

FREE; RSVP Required

[More Info](#)

CAP UCLA & ICA Present

Puppet-Making Workshop for Young People with Moira MacDonald

Saturday, July 10 from 3-5 PM

Location TBD

FREE; RSVP Required

[More Info](#)

Art at the Rendon Presents

Daily Film Screening of *BAG* with an installation of scenic elements from the film

July 9, 2021 from 1:30-6 pm

July 10-11, 2021 from 11:30 AM - 3 PM

2055 E 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021

[Free](#)

[More Info](#)

PRESS REQUESTS: Senior Communications Manager Geena Russo, geena@arts.ucla.edu.

IMAGES: Photos for *The Plastic Bag Store* are available for download [here](#).

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Credits:

The Plastic Bag Store is commissioned by Times Square Arts with generous support provided by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the National Endowment for the Arts; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Additional commissioning support has been provided by Carolina Performing Arts, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was developed with support from: MANA Contemporary, The

Made in NY Women's Film, TV & Theatre Fund by the City of New York Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment in association with The New York Foundation for the Arts; Olson Kundig; The Jim Henson Foundation; and is sponsored, in part, by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC). The Plastic Bag Store is a project of Creative Capital.

The Plastic Bag Store film segments were commissioned by UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance with additional support by the Adelaide Festival.

Co-Produced by Robin Frohardt and Pomegranate Arts

The Plastic Bag Store has been made possible by a community of supporters who are reimagining the world. CAP UCLA is very grateful to everyone who conjoined our efforts to bring this ambitious project to Los Angeles audiences.

CAP UCLA would like to thank all partners and collaborators, and the incredible support that made this project possible including:

Situating *The Plastic Bag Store* in the vibrant Arts District of Downtown Los Angeles was due to the tireless effort and generosity of Yuval Ben-Zemer, who not only provided the venue but enlisted his team and associates into the effort. We simply could not have done this without Yuval, along with the critical and early support of Paul Solomon and the Len Hill Family Trust. The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment at CAP UCLA provided seed funding in the early stages of imagining this project. And the Plastic Pollution Coalition has been an incredible partner, sharing expertise, ideas and connections that have deepened the impact of this project.

CAP UCLA gratefully acknowledges our partners and supporters, whose energy, resources and expertise amplified the meaningful impact of *The Plastic Bag Store*: Anonymous (2); Aquarium of the Pacific (Peter Kareiva); Art at the Rendon (Cindy Schwarzstein and Michelle Homami); Abby Sher; CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council; Diane Levine; Elsa Longhauser; Friends of the Los Angeles River (Marissa Christiansen) Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (Anne Ellegood and Asuka Hisa); Jon Christensen and Ursula K. Heise, UCLA Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies; M-K O'Connell; Maria Greenshields-Ziman & Ralph Ziman; Onni Group; Pomegranate Arts (Linda Brumbach, Alisa Regas, Rachel Katwan and Jeremy Lydic); Phil and Monica Rendon Media; Skirball Cultural Center (Nina Silver); The Borman Group; The Broad Stage (Rob Bailis); Tomi Jean and Sia Yaghmai; UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability and Vera R. Campbell Foundation.

And finally, CAP UCLA wishes to thank the artist Robin Frohardt, whose vision and fortitude brought all of us together through the act of making a seemingly impossible idea real.

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is the public-facing research and presenting organization for the performing arts at the University of California, Los Angeles—one of the world's leading public research universities. We are housed within the UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture along with the Hammer and Fowler museums. The central pursuit of our work as an organization is to sustain the diversity of contemporary performing artists while celebrating their contributions to culture. We acknowledge, amplify and support artists through major presentations, commissions and creative development initiatives. Our programs offer audiences a direct connection to the ideas, perspectives and concerns of living artists. Through the lens of dance, theater, music, literary arts, digital media arts and collaborative disciplines, informed by diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, artists and audiences come together in our theaters and public spaces to explore new ways of seeing that expands our understanding of the world we live in now.

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

ABOUT AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

The nonprofit Aquarium of the Pacific is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and where important challenges facing our planet are explored in search of sustainable solutions. The Aquarium is dedicated to conserving and building nature and nature's services by building the interactions between and among peoples. It is home to more than 12,000 animals from rescued sea otters to sea birds and more than 100 exhibits, including *Coral Reefs: Nature's Underwater Cities*, the Sea Otter Habitat, the interactive Shark Lagoon and Lorikeet Forest, and the June Keyes Penguin Habitat. In 2019 the Aquarium opened Pacific Visions, a 29,000-square foot, two-story expansion that includes an art gallery, orientation gallery, culmination gallery, and the Honda Pacific Visions Theater. The new theater has over 300 seats and features an immersive 130-foot-wide by 32-foot-tall screen that curves in a 180-degree arc. Beyond its exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages, including guest speakers on a variety of topics. The Aquarium offers memberships with unlimited FREE admission for 12 months and other special benefits. To visit, advance reservations are required for everyone and can be made at aquariumofpacific.org or by calling (562) 590-3100. The Aquarium of the Pacific is located at 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802.

				
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ABOUT ART AT THE RENDON

An ongoing series of creative programs featuring musical performances, lectures, artist residencies and film screenings, all designed to celebrate and support the arts. In keeping with the rich history of the site, Art at the Rendon seeks to continue fostering creativity in the Downtown Los Angeles Arts District by generating a dynamic space for art, performance and celebration. Art at the Rendon kicked off in June, 2018, with HIDDEN ROOMS, an immersive experience that featured more than 50 artists, muralists, musicians and performers. Together, they transformed every corner of The Rendon into an interactive community-centric installation. Since then, it's held several more several more art events as fundraisers for local non-profit organizations. In 2019, it launched The Rendon Gallery, and began holding gallery shows to benefit the community. Through fundraising events, Art at the Rendon and The Rendon Gallery have raised more than \$100,000 for local non-profits, including Art Share L.A., The Brady Campaign, Cornerstone Theater Company, Inner-City Arts, Industrial District Green, Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA, LA), Las Fotos Project, Play with Music and The Ron Finley Foundation.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER

Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) is thrilled to bring the largest urban river cleanup in the nation back to the banks of the LA River this summer! It's been a long year – one in which FoLAR was unable to mobilize their volunteers due to the pandemic – so the River needs us now more than ever. The Great LA River CleanUp will recruit +2,500 Angelenos of all walks of life to meet on the riverbanks and remove unwanted waste from the river channel. Each piece of trash removed from the LA River improves current habitat for the birds, fish, and frogs who inhabit the River, and prevents harmful pollutants from washing out of the river and into the Pacific Ocean. This year marks the 31st annual cleanup – since 1989 and estimated 70,000 volunteers have attended a FoLAR River CleanUp, removing hundreds of tons of trash from our urban waterway. This year FoLAR is providing in-person, socially distanced opportunities at 15 sites from Sepulveda Basin to Long Beach over the course of 9 weekends. FoLAR retooled their event to ensure public health and safety. Each site has limited shifts available, with caps on how many volunteers can participate at a time, in compliance with CDC guidelines. Online registration is open now at folar.org/cleanup. Friends of the LA River is a nonprofit advocacy and engagement organization that has been elevating the LA River since 1986. Our mission is to ensure an equitable, publicly accessible, and ecologically sustainable Los Angeles River by inspiring River stewardship through community engagement, education, advocacy, and thought leadership.

ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION COALITION

Plastic Pollution Coalition is a global alliance of more than 1,200 organizations, businesses, and thought leaders in 75 countries working toward a more just, equitable world free of plastic pollution and its toxic impact on humans, animals, waterways, oceans, and the environment. Join the Coalition and get involved by visiting plasticpollutioncoalition.org.

ABOUT POMEGRANATE ARTS

Founded in 1998, Pomegranate Arts is an independent production company dedicated to the development of international performing arts projects. As creative producers, Linda Brumbach and Alisa Regas work in close collaboration with contemporary artists and arts institutions to bring bold and ambitious artistic ideas to fruition. With a hands-on approach, Pomegranate creates unique structures and partnerships in all performance mediums. Since its inception, they produced the Olivier Award winning production of *Einstein on the Beach* (Philip Glass, Robert Wilson, Lucinda Childs), *Shockheaded Peter* (The Improbable Theater), *Came so far from Beauty* (Hal Willner, Leonard Cohen), *Available Light* (John Adams, Frank Gehry, Lucinda Childs), *24-Decade History of Popular Music* (Taylor Mac) and most recently *The Plastic Bag Store* (Robin Frohardt). Over the last several decades, they have been the touring producer for Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Goran Bregovic, Bassem Youssef, Batsheva, Sankai Juku, Machine Dazzle and Taylor Mac. In 2020, they launched *Favorite Fruit*, a new company dedicated to the production of performance objects and released their first object, Taylor Mac's *Holiday Sauce* record.

ABOUT ROBIN FROHARDT

An award-winning artist, puppet designer, and director living in Brooklyn, NY. Frohardt's performance and puppetry-based work has been presented at St. Ann's Warehouse and HERE in New York City, as well as national venues including the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts and the NEXTNOW Festival in Maryland. Her films have been screened at the Telluride Film Festival, Aspen Shortsfest, Maritime Film Festival at the Parish Museum and Puppets on Film Festival at BAM. Her original play *The Pigeoning*, which debuted in 2013 and was hailed by the New York Times as "a tender, fantastical symphony of the imagination," continues to tour in the US and abroad, and has been translated into German, Greek, Arabic and Turkish. She has received a Creative Capital Award and a DisTil Fellowship from Carolina Performing Arts for *The Plastic Bag Store*, which premiered in partnership with Times Square Arts in 2020. She has been the recipient of Made In NY Woman's Fund Grant Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is a MacDowell Fellow and a longtime member of both the Walgreens and CVS Rewards Programs.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (ICA LA)

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (ICA LA) is an epicenter of artistic experimentation and incubator of new ideas. Founded in 1984 as the Santa Monica Museum of Art (SMMoA) and reestablished in 2017 with a new identity and home in Downtown Los Angeles, ICA LA builds upon a distinguished history of bold curatorial vision and innovative programming to illuminate the important untold stories and emerging voices in contemporary art and culture. The museum's 12,700 square-foot renovated industrial building—designed by wHY Architecture under the leadership of Kulapat Yantrasast—features ample space for exhibitions, public programs, retail pop-ups, integrated offices, and special projects. ICA LA's mission is to support art that sparks the pleasure of discovery and challenges the way we see and experience the world, ourselves, and each other. ICA LA is committed to upending hierarchies of race, class, gender, and culture. Through exhibitions, education programs, and community partnerships, ICA LA fosters critique of the familiar and empathy with the different. ICA LA is committed to making contemporary art relevant and accessible for all. Admission is free.