

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance Announces 2023 Spring Programs

Highlights include the return of Ukrainian quartet DakhaBrakha, dancer / choreographer Shamel Pitts, Grammy-winning ensemble Quinteto Astor Piazzolla, jazz piano virtuoso Matthew Whitaker, and more

Tickets on sale January 26, 2023

[LOS ANGELES – January 17, 2023] [UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](#) announces the 2023 spring program lineup bringing engaging live musical performances and multidisciplinary collaborations to the stages of UCLA's Royce Hall, Freud Playhouse and The Theatre at Ace Hotel. Tickets go on sale to CAP UCLA members on January 23 and will be available to the public starting January 26 at cap.ucla.edu, by phone 310-825-2101 or at the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

Touch of RED

March 3 & 4 at 8pm

Freud Playhouse

2020 Guggenheim Fellow, performance artist, choreographer, dancer and spoken word artist Shamel Pitts brings to the stage, *Touch of RED*, a new evening-length performance work that consists of a duet for two men inside of a contemporary ring. The work investigates how Black men can allow themselves to soften, even under extreme pressure and heat. The confined space references a futuristic and voyeuristic gladiator entertainment site in which a heat path between the two performers builds, not out of aggression or combat, but within an enhanced electrifying effeminacy that heals. *Touch of RED* is the newest work in Pitts' "RED Series," which explores the colorfulness within Blackness.

DakhaBrakha

March 11 at 8pm

The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Ukrainian quartet DakhaBrakha returns to The Theatre at Ace Hotel following their raucous sold-out 2022 engagement. Meaning "give/take" in the old Ukrainian language, their name signals the quartet's unique brand of musical "ethno-chaos." By breaking down stylistic barriers and exploring shared resonances, DakhaBrakha re-territorializes foreign timbres into their own folk theater vernacular, giving new form to old customs and creating an exuberant, entirely new,

trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture. Like expeditionary musical cartographers, DakhaBrakha remixes the map of world music, embodying an experimental, playful approach that cuts across traditional boundaries.

Sam Green

32 Sounds

March 25 at 8pm

The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Sam Green's *32 Sounds* is an immersive documentary and a profound sensory experience that explores the elemental phenomenon of sound. The film is a meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us. Presented in its "live cinema" form, *32 Sounds* redefines the experience of a sound bath and features live narration by Sam Green accompanied by live music composed and performed by JD Samson of Le Tigre.

Perla Batalla & Quetzal

April 29 at 8pm

Royce Hall

Two essential musical voices of Los Angeles, spellbinding singer-songwriter Perla Batalla and wildly innovative East LA Chicano rock group Quetzal, share the stage in a rare collaboration celebrating multi-ethnic LatinX culture through the unifying power of art and music. Described as "one of LA's most important bands" (*Los Angeles Times*), Grammy Award-winning ensemble Quetzal will perform songs from their latest album, *Puentes Sonoros*, an ode to their Jarocho music roots. Batalla will draw from her vast body of work, including selections from her original, bilingual song cycle, *Mestiza*, plus inspired arrangements of Spanish language classics, and of course, personal favorites from her long-time mentor, the great Leonard Cohen.

Dream House Quartet

Katia & Marielle Labèque, Bryce Dessner & David Chalmin

April 30 at 7pm

Royce Hall

Formed in 2018, the two piano/two guitar combo Dream House Quartet fuses decades of musical mastery of classical and contemporary forms, featuring luminaries Katia and Marielle Labèque on dueling pianos accompanied by acclaimed composer-guitarists Bryce Dessner and David Chalmin. Dream House Quartet's premiere U.S. tour features newly commissioned works, including Thom Yorke's (Radiohead) first compositions for classical music and concert halls for two pianos, electronics and modular synthesizer, Philip Glass, Bryce Dessner, Meredith Monk, David Chalmin and more.

Avery*Sunshine

May 7 at 7pm

The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Fluent in musical languages ranging from soul, R&B and house to jazz, hip-hop and gospel, Avery*Sunshine expresses herself with a powerful, enveloping voice that sweeps the listener up

in stories of love, loss and healing. Performing with her Grammy Award-winning creative/life partner guitarist Dana "Big Dane" Johnson, Avery's repertoire features soulful, in-the-pocket R&B grooves, sublime ballads and exuberant, life-affirming gospel.

Quinteto Astor Piazzolla

May 11 at 8pm

Royce Hall

Latin Grammy Award-winning ensemble Quinteto Astor Piazzolla is the quintessential interpreter of the music of the late, great Argentine composer and tango legend, Astor Piazzolla. A performer with a near unparalleled mastery of the bandoneon, Piazzolla borrowed from jazz and classical music to create an entirely new harmonic and rhythmic vocabulary dubbed "nuevo tango." Founded by Piazzolla's widow in 1998 to promote and preserve his musical legacy, Quinteto Astor Piazzolla's members are virtuoso musicians whose mission is to share Piazzolla's music with a new generation, bringing fresh interpretations to the maestro's unique sound.

The Small Glories

May 12 at 8pm

Royce Hall Terrace

Roots duo, The Small Glories, is a powerhouse musical partnership planted on the Canadian Prairies. Thrown together by accident, the musical bond formed by veteran folk singers Cara Luft and JD Edwards is almost enough to make you believe in fate. Delivering songs of love, loss and the natural environment with soaring, interwoven vocals and the traditional instrumentation of stomping clawhammer banjo, guitar and harmonica, The Small Glories have a way of making time disappear, rooms shrink and the audience feel like they're on stage with the band.

Matthew Whitaker

May 21 at 7pm

The Theatre at ACE Hotel

Jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker has been garnering acclaim for almost as long as he has been making music. At 13 years old, Whitaker became the youngest artist to be endorsed by Hammond Organs in their 80+ year history. At 15, he was named a Yamaha Artist, the youngest musician to join a stellar roster of jazz pianists. Now 21 years old, Matthew has a career that has taken him all over the world, playing on some of the world's most famous stages. Whitaker will perform music from his third and latest album, *Connections*, a sixteen-track collection that serves as a bold declaration of his maturity as a player, composer and bandleader.

Dan Froot & Company

Live Recording of DF&Co's *Arms Around America: The Podcast*

June 22 at 8pm

Royce Hall Rehearsal Room

Following on what *The New York Times* called a "gut wrenching" debut podcast, Dan Froot & Company's *Arms Around America* (AAA) podcast investigates how Americans enact fear,

power, identity, loss and love through our relationships with firearms. The company conducted oral histories of diverse American families whose lives have been shaped by guns. Award-winning performance artist Dan Froot and actors/collaborators Donna Simone Johnson, Christopher Rivas, Natalie Camunas, Sola Bamis and Justin Alston will perform short audio-dramas inspired by the stories of two Southern California families, accompanied by Julio Montero of the band Cuñao. The performance will be captured for Episode 1 of the AAA podcast, premiering in Fall 2023, and allows the audience to participate in the recording of crowd scenes and sound effects for the episode.

TICKETING

Create-Your-Own series of two or more events and save 10%.

CAP UCLA Members get access to priority presale for tickets to all spring programs and also enjoy 15% off all ticket purchases.

Purchase online at cap.ucla.edu, by phone (310) 825-2101, and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office, M-F, 10 am – 4 pm.

Individual ticket on sale dates:

- CAP UCLA Members: Mon, Jan 23
- CAP UCLA Enews Subscribers: Wed, Jan 25
- General Public: Thu, Jan 26
- UCLA Faculty and Staff: Thu, Jan 26
- UCLA Students: Thu, Jan 26

In September 2023 CAP UCLA will open the doors of the UCLA Nimoy Theater, a state-of-the-art performance space named for artist, actor, director and philanthropist Leonard Nimoy. This dynamic and intimately scaled venue will immerse audiences in a profoundly engaging experience of live performance — while providing contemporary performing artists from Los Angeles and around the world expanded opportunities to develop and present new work.

For more information about CAP UCLA and the 2023 spring programs, visit cap.ucla.edu. To learn more about the UCLA Nimoy Theater, visit cap.ucla.edu/ucla-nimoy-theater.

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](http://cap.ucla.edu) (CAP UCLA) is the public-facing performing arts research and presenting organization of the University of California, Los Angeles — one of the world's leading public research universities. CAP UCLA's central purpose is to sustain and nourish the diversity of contemporary performing artists both from Los Angeles and from around the world while celebrating their contributions to culture. We acknowledge, amplify and support artists working in dance, theater, music, literary arts, digital media arts and collaborative disciplines through major presentations, commissions and creative development initiatives, while offering audiences a direct connection to the ideas, perspectives and concerns of living artists. Informed by diverse cultural backgrounds, artists and audiences come together in our theaters and public spaces to explore new ways to expand and share our understanding of the world we live in. Housed within the UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture, CAP UCLA is one of UCLA's

three public-facing arts research and presenting organizations, along with the Hammer and Fowler museums.

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