

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA

CAP UCLA's 2023 Spring Programs Kick Off With Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

Touch of RED

Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at 8 pm in the Freud Playhouse



[LOS ANGELES — February 9, 2023] [UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](#) welcomes dancer-choreographer **Shamel Pitts** and the multidisciplinary artist collective **TRIBE** presenting their latest work *Touch of RED* on Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at 8 pm in the Freud Playhouse. Tickets are \$38 and are available now at cap.ucla.edu, 310-825-2101 and the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

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. As artistic director and founder of TRIBE, the Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary arts collective, Pitts is dedicated to creating a body of work that supports, shelters and cultivates an Afro-futuristic performance art landscape in which the multitude of Black diversity and capacity is realized, allowed, nurtured and shared within our complex humanity.

Funds provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund.

The CAP UCLA 2023 spring programs continue on Saturday, March 11 with Ukrainian quartet DakhaBrakha.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

[Touch of RED](#)

Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at 8 pm

Freud Playhouse, UCLA

Macgowan Hall, 245 Charles E. Young Dr. East, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Tickets are \$38.

PROGRAM NOTES:

Concept Direction and Choreography: Shamel Pitts

Performers: Shamel Pitts and Tushrik Fredericks

Artistic Production Manager and Lighting Designer: Rus Snelling

Video Light & Mapping Designer: Lucca Del Carlo

Scenic Design: Mimi Lien

Costume Designer: Dion Lee

Costume Stylists: TT Britt & Tushrik Fredericks

Original Musical Score: Sivan Jacobovitz

Dramaturge: Ashley Pierre-Louis

Lindy Hop Instructor: LaTasha Barnes

Artist's Website: [Shamel Pitts | TRIBE](#)

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.

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IMAGES: Images of *Touch of RED* are available for download [here](#).

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Full Crediting: itsatribe.org/touch-of-red/

Touch of RED is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow, YoungArts, Miami Light Project, UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, New York Live Arts, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and NPN. The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Office of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). *Touch of RED* is also made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Mellon Foundation; developmental support and the world premiere presentation is made possible by co-presenters Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) and Jacob's Pillow. We would also like to thank the Consulate General of Israel in New York, Trust for Mutual Understanding, GIBNEY, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and Artis. Bubble residency guidance provided by Duke Dang and medical consultant Dr. Wendy Ziecheck. For more information: www.npnweb.org

Additional TRIBE commissioning, development, and core operating support is provided by the Mellon Foundation; Arison Arts Foundation; the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; The Howard Gilman Foundation; Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund, made possible by the Howard Gilman Foundation and Ford Foundation; 92Y Harkness Dance Center; National Performance Network (NPN) Creation, Development & Artist Engagement Fund Project. The Creation, Development & Artist Engagement Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency); New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.