The Small Glories

Fri, May 12, 2023 at 8 pm
Royce Hall Terrace

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLLA
Welcome
TO THE 2022-23 SEASON

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 cultural platforms — by leading artists from around the globe.

Our mission aligns with UCLA’s mission of education, research and civic engagement by providing cultural and experiential programs that provoke inquiry and facilitate connection and creativity.

cap.ucla.edu
CAP UCLA Presents

The Small Glories

Friday, May 12 at 8 pm
Royce Hall Terrace

Program duration: 90 minutes
No intermission

Funds provided by the Merle and Peter Mullin Endowment.
The Small Glories

Roots powerhouse duo The Small Glories are Cara Luft & JD Edwards, a musical tour-de-force partnership planted on the Canadian Prairies. Thrown together purely by accident for an anniversary show at Winnipeg’s venerable West End Cultural Centre, The Small Glories could almost make you believe in fate.

With a stage banter striking a unique balance between slapstick and sermon, these veteran singer-songwriters have a way of making time disappear, rooms shrink and audiences feel as they are right there on the stage with the band — writing the songs, living the songs, performing the songs. It’s not uncommon for listeners to find themselves laughing, dancing, crying or caught up in a good ol’ fashioned sing-along. “We’re folk singers, we try to write stuff that people can relate to,” says Edwards, whose looming stage presence and penetrating eyes find him the yin to Luft’s petite, snort-laughing yang. The material of a Small Glories concert is welcoming in terms of subject, folk-pop melody and instrumentation — songs of love, loss, and environment, delivered with soaring, interwoven vocals on various combinations of stomping clawhammer banjo, guitar and harmonica. However, a Small Glories performance is really about what happens in-between the songs. “The feedback we get from a lot of audiences is that it’s not just about the music for them,” Luft says. “It’s the whole package.”

On record, The Small Glories take the musical synergy honed from hundreds of shows together, and expand it into a new soundscape amplified by pounding drums and other textural embellishments which only reinforce the magic of Luft and Edwards’ innate chemistry — a chemistry labeled the “Lennon-McCartney syndrome,” by Americana UK, writing, “Some things just work together... to witness a performance by The Small Glories is a rare opportunity to experience that indefinable quality that creates perfection.” But don’t just take a European reviewer’s word for it — the band’s debut album, 2016’s Wondrous Traveler was also praised in Pitchfork by legendary American rock critic Greil Marcus, who wrote, “…in moments (The Small Glories) find the darkening chord change the best bluegrass — from the Stanley Brothers to Be Good Tanyas — has always hidden in the sweet slide of the rhythm, the tiny shift where the person telling the story suddenly understands it.”

It’s this yearning for understanding which finds the band often taking more time to introduce a song than it actually takes to play it. Luft, an original member of harmony sweethearts The Wailin’ Jennys and whose parents were folksingers influenced by the great activist Pete Seeger, knows that sometimes a song is all you need to bring people together. But often, it is more. “(Seeger) was the
king of uniting people through singing,” Luft says. “There’s so much animosity and divisiveness in our world these days… as artists, part of our job is to somehow create unity.”

The Small Glories duplicate and reinforce each others’ many strengths and yet allow their distinct personalities to shine through, resulting in a live show that is as heartwarming as it is hilarious, as finger-picking proficient as it is relatable, and as Canadian as, well… it’s very Canadian. But that hasn’t stopped them from winning over audiences from Nashville to the Australian outback.

On the heels of winning International Folk Music Awards Artist of the Year in 2019, highly anticipated sophomore album Assiniboine & the Red was released on Compass/Red House Records, and went on to #1 Album of the Year (Penguin Eggs Magazine), and win Canadian Folk Music Awards Contemporary Album of the Year among four total nominations in 2020.
SUN, MAY 21 AT 7 PM

Matthew Whitaker
THE THEATRE AT ACE HOTEL

Matthew Whitaker performs selections from his newest album, *Connections*. This sixteen-track collection serves as a bold declaration of the Yamaha Artist's maturity as a player, composer and bandleader.

“Matthew Whitaker is music. To see and hear him play is to know that divine talent exists. Beyond his innate musical abilities is a sheer joy and passion to create music.” — *WBGO Radio, Newark, NJ*

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Art in Action

Art in Action is CAP UCLA’s free, public engagement program, where artists, educators, students and audiences come together to do stuff, make stuff and share ideas. It’s how CAP UCLA shares viewpoints and creative practices around the themes explored by artists in the current season.

Put your Art into Action.

*Always free! Always fun!*
Each year, Design for Sharing (DFS) brings thousands of K-12 public school students from across Los Angeles to CAP UCLA venues for free performances and interactive workshops with professional artists.

DFS programs are open to any public school in greater Los Angeles, and are always free to attend.
THU, JUNE 22 AT 8 PM

Dan Froot & Company

Arms Around America: Live Podcast Recording
Royce Hall Rehearsal Room

Arms Around America (AAA) is a collection of plays investigating America’s relationships with guns. AAA is based on oral histories from American families affected by guns, collected by Dan Froot and Company.

“Dan Froot is both imaginative and unclassifiable . . . a dancer, storyteller and actor who could be puckish one moment and poignant the next.” — The New York Times

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UCLA Nimoy Theater

CAP UCLA is building a new home for live performance in Westwood! Located near the UCLA campus on Westwood Boulevard, The Nimoy is a reimagining of the historic Crest Theatre as a flexible, state-of-the-art performance space.

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.

Opening fall 2023
There is no room for racism, intolerance, or inequity.

Anywhere
Not on our stages, in our offices, on our loading docks, in the box office lines, or on the dance floor.

With anyone
Not with our staff, crew, artists, volunteers, ushers, audiences or fans.
We uphold and embrace principles of antiracism, equity, diversity and AUTHENTIC inclusion as integral to our mission.
We must EMPOWER the historically underrepresented.
We must UPLIFT excluded voices.
We must RESIST structural racism.
We will COMMIT fiercely to our responsibility to observe, absorb, consider, contemplate, endure, share and engage in this change.
We STAND AGAINST all forms of discrimination.
We will STRIVE to make our organization more equitable and inclusive.

As part of UCLA’s School of Art & Architecture (SOAA), we — UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) and Theater Management Services (TMS) — are committed to connecting and creating space for the arts and for all communities.
We acknowledge our organizations’ histories as being predominantly white institutions. We are facing uncomfortable truths about systemic racism as we work to make the deep changes necessary to transform the organizational dynamics in our work culture and business practices and dismantle existing oppressive structures. We know there will be shortcomings, which we will face head on. We commit to continually addressing and adapting to changes as they arise. It is only in an improved, supportive work environment that everyone can be fully present, and respected as their true authentic selves.

This statement was drafted by a committee of staff members from both the Center for the Art of Performance and Theater Management Services, from a variety of backgrounds, viewpoints and perspectives.

Together we stand with UCLA’s School of Art and Architecture’s EDI statement.
CAP UCLA Council Leadership

CAP UCLA Executive Producer Council
The Executive Producer Council is CAP UCLA’s philanthropic leadership group, which develops and contributes resources vital to CAP UCLA’s programming and mission. The Council champions the creative development and presentation of live programs and public dialogue with contemporary performing artists by providing direct support for CAP UCLA’s annual programming. The Council is engaged in dialogue about the artistic and curatorial practices that inform annual programs, long-term initiatives and collaborative planning efforts which stand at the heart of CAP UCLA’s mission and public purpose.

Design for Sharing (DFS) Council
The Design for Sharing Council is a group of dedicated supporters whose efforts help to resource the K-12 arts education programs of DFS.

cap.ucla.edu/councils
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Artist Liaison Manager: Zarina Rico Production
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Human Resources Assistant: Erah Lulu

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Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity.

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Special Thanks

As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP UCLA would like to acknowledge the critical support we received from a Shuttered Venue Operators Grant. This historic initiative — part of the American Rescue Fund Act passed by Congress in March 2021 — represents a significant commitment to the arts and a recognition of the value of the arts and culture sector to the nation’s economy and recovery. We would especially like to thank members of Congress who supported the inclusion of university-based performing arts centers and helped make this vital funding possible.
Join the constantly curious

Become a member and support CAP UCLA’s ability to engage, challenge, and captivate diverse audiences through the shared experience of extraordinary artistry and the exchange of ideas. As a CAP UCLA member, we invite you to deepen your relationship with artists and ideas by attending special events and participating in activities with other arts enthusiasts, support the development of bold new work and help bolster contemporary performing arts in Los Angeles. And, enjoy priority access to discounted tickets and year-round savings from our dining, retail, and museum partners.

Become a member

cap.ucla.edu/membership

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