



Photo by Ray D. Shaw

**Dan Froot &
Company**
***Arms Around America:
Live Podcast Recording***

Thu, Jun 22, 2023 at 8 pm
Royce Hall Rehearsal Room

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

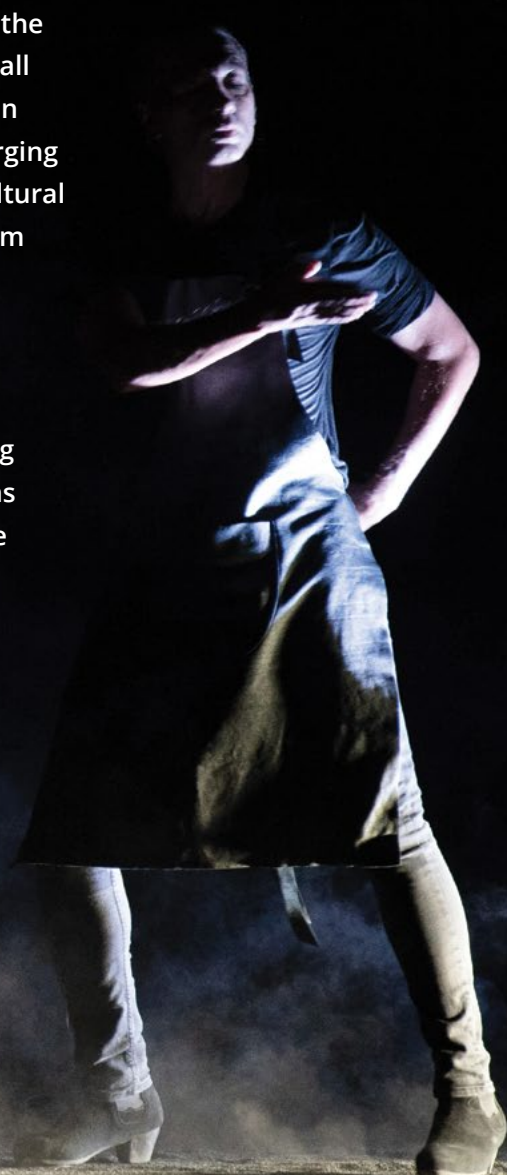
Welcome

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 and Dan Froot & Company Present

Arms Around America: Live Podcast Recording

Program:

Welcome

Scene 1: *Tiffany*

Based on the oral history of Jessica Huerta

[Write your impressions of *Tiffany*](#)

Discussion of *Tiffany*

Natalie Camunas

Sola Bamis

Jessica Huerta

Robert Ham

Tess Banko

[Neighborly chats](#)

Pause

Crowd Sounds (audience participation)

Scene 2: *June*

Based on the oral history of Leslie McCaddon

[Write your impressions of *June*](#)

Discussion of *June*

Natalie Camunas

Justin Alston

Leslie McCaddon

Ashley Cosgrove

Tess Banko

Closing

Collaboratively Created By

Producer/Writer/Director: Dan Froot

Actors: Natalie Camunas, Donna Simone Johnson, Christopher Rivas, Justin Alston, Sola Bamis, Anthony Rey Perez, Krysta Gonzales

Dramaturge: Bobby Gordon

Oral Historian/Archivist: Tula B. Strong

Composer: Julio Montero

Sound Designer: Duncan Woodbury

Performed by

Justin Alston

Sola Bamis

Natalie Camunas

Dan Froot

Krysta Gonzales

Anthony Rey Perez

Christopher Rivas

Musicians: Julian Gomez, Tom Moose, Isaac Rodriguez

Lighting Design: Antony Gutierrez

Additional Oral Historians: Jose "Rufio" Vasquez and Jordan Rogers

Content Advisory

This evening's performance deals with stories of lives shaped by guns. References are made to school shootings and suicide. Please consider your own wellbeing and care for yourself accordingly.

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal ideation, you can access support at Didi Hirsch, didihirsch.org.

Artist Statement

Arms Around America is a devised, community-based theater project investigating ways in which we enact fear, power, identity, loss and love through our relationships with guns. We conducted book-length oral histories of families whose lives have been shaped by guns, in South Florida, Western Montana and Southern California. For the *Arms Around America* podcast, we have written six short audio dramas based on those oral histories. Tonight we will be performing the two from California. By opening a window into families' lives, we hope to explore diverse perspectives and foster dialogue around the complex roles that guns play in our society. We hope that this project can help us all learn how to listen and talk to each other about gun-related issues, while maintaining each other's humanity.

You can check out our previous podcast *Pang!* wherever you listen to podcasts. *Pang!* is based on the stories of real families around the country living with food insecurity.

Funds provided by the James A. Doolittle Endowment.

Arms Around America is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by The Myrna Loy, Miami Light Project, UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, and NPN. The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information: npnweb.org

This program is made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and additional support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.



Artist Bios

Justin Alston (Actor/Collaborator) is a Brooklyn Born actor who is thrilled to a part of *Arms Around America*. Justin got his start studying theatre at Duke University before heading to L.A. in 2002. He has been nominated twice for an NAACP Theatre Award, and he recently Guest Starred on *9-1-1 Lone Star* opposite Rob Lowe and Gina Torres. His most important role to date is Dad to his daughter River who continually shows him the true meaning of love and growth.

Sola Bamis (Actor/Collaborator) is an actress, writer, performance artist and filmmaker. A SAG Award nominee, she has appeared in television shows, regional theatre world premieres and voiceovers in video games and commercials. She produced and starred in two short films shot in Nigeria. Her next film script *Crocodile* received awards from the 2021 Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival, Lecture Series Short Narrative Screenplay Competition, the 2018 Film Daily Screenwriting and Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competitions. Her one-woman show *The Tutorial* incorporates transformative storytelling, performance art and Revolutionary Theater to deliver a vital prescription for black women's self-love and expression. She received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

Natalie Camunas (Actor/Collaborator) is a Los Angeles native, USC Annenberg graduate and queer identified artist. As an actor, Natalie has worked regionally in theaters across the country, including originating the role of Gabby Orozco in the world premiere co-production of *American Mariachi* at the Old Globe Theatre & Denver Center for the Performing Arts. TV Credits: *Goliath*, *Speechless*, *Major Crimes*. As a writer, Natalie's plays have been produced in L.A., NYC and Ireland. Currently, she is working on a new play in development with The Vagrancy's Writers' Group. She is also in production of a podcast centered around Native Gardens, one of the most produced plays of 2019. nataliecamunas.com / [@thehappyactor](https://twitter.com/thehappyactor)

Dan Froot's (Producer/Lead Writer/Director/Foley Artist) work has toured internationally since 1983. Awards include a Bessie (New York Dance & Performance Award), a City of Los Angeles Artist Fellowship, and a Foundation for Jewish Culture Playwriting Fellowship. He has worked with Dan Hurlin, Yoshiko Chuma, Ping Chong, David Dorfman, Mabou Mines, Ralph Lemon, Cornerstone Theater Company and Victoria Marks, among others. He teaches at UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance. danfroot.com

Julian Gomez (Bassist) is a bassist/multi-instrumentalist active within Southern California. A native of Los Angeles, he studied music and bass performance at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and Pasadena City College, where he became immersed in the multitude of styles within jazz and Latin music. Apart from performing live and as a recording artist on bass, he has worked as a producer and composer for various groups and

independent projects. Currently, he is a member of the group Coras, a neo-Soul/Latin group, and the mambo revival big band, Los Chicos Del Mambo.

Krysta Gonzales (Actor/Collaborator) is a Texas-born, New York-trained, L.A.-based performer, writer and chingona. Most of the plays they've written are available to view/listen to online for free, thanks to the support of HowlRound, the VORTEX, Teatro Vivo, the Generic Ensemble Company and the Distilled Theatre Company. They're excited and grateful for the opportunity to support the artistry and community-building of *Arms Around America*. krystagonzales.com @itsmekrystag

Bobby Gordon (Dramaturg) is a Berkeley born dramaturg, Theater of the Oppressed multiplier and photographer with an M.A. in Applied Theater Arts from the University of Southern California (2012.) Recent credits include *FreeMind Free-Style* (2021) with Versastyle Dance Company and *Pang!* (2017) with Dan Froot & Company. Gordon lectured at UCLA for twelve years, where as staff of the UCLA Art & Global Health Center he co-founded the UCLA Sex Squad (a Sex-Ed theater troupe) and produced *Through Positive Eyes*, a participatory photo project to fight HIV stigma. Gordon will join UC Santa Cruz as a lecturer this Fall. www.bobbygordonphotography.com/ @bobbygordonphotography

Annie Kahane (Administrator) has worked as an arts administrator in various capacities since 2008 for organizations including Redmoon Theater, ODC, Zaccho Dance Theater and Hope Mohr Dance. She is also a performer and maker working in performance poetry, dance, song, and theater under the moniker Alive & Well Productions. In addition to supporting Dan Froot & Co with Arms Around America, this June she will share a new one woman show at the San Francisco International Arts Festival, in which she plays an orientation leader welcoming the audience as if they are aliens immigrating to planet earth.

Julio Montero (Composer) is a musician and producer born in Ecuador, but grew up in New York City. He is founder and songwriter for Latin Alternative Folk band Cuñao as well as co-founder of Latin Alternative Electro group Beboluz. In addition to bands, Julio has collaborated with filmmakers, choreographers and many performance artists in Los Angeles and New York City.

Tom Moose (Guitarist) is a Los Angeles-based multi-instrumentalist and composer. A classically trained violinist, he holds a B.A. in Music and Theater Performance. He was nominated for a Horton award for his work as a composer for dance. He performs a variety of music, including Bluegrass (his band Ikes Creek won the 2019 Topanga Fiddle Festival), Alternative South American Folk (Cuñao), Classical, Jazz (cool beat borscht), Django Jazz, Neo Soul and Klezmer (Mostly Kosher). Venues Moose has performed at include REDCAT's NOW Festival, Highways, UCLA, Disneyland (and -world) and The Golden Globes. @tommoosemusic

Anthony Rey (Actor/Collaborator) is originally from Miami. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Florida State's conservatory-style theater program. Over the years in Los Angeles and New York he has worked in various film, television and commercial projects, including significant voice-over work, as well as appearing Off Broadway. He most recently played a young Andy Garcia in the new Latine centered *Father Of the Bride*. Anthony; the son of immigrants (and loving Husband of one) doesn't take lightly the opportunity to represent a fuller, more rich representation of Americans in the mainstream narrative for the next generation, including his beautiful daughter Luna.

Christopher Rivas (Actor/Collaborator) is one of the most sought after multi-hyphenates as an actor, author and storyteller. His book *Brown Enough* explores what it means to be Brown in America. The book is part memoir and part social commentary. He also developed two shows with SiriusXM's Stitcher: *Brown Enough*, which explores the parallel themes of his book; and *Rubirosa*, a 10-episode documentary-style investigation of Porfirio Rubirosa, a Dominican diplomat who is believed to be the inspiration for the famous character 'James Bond.' On screen, Rivas is known for his work on the Fox series, *Call Me Kat*.

Isaac "El Rabioso" Rodríguez (Percussion) is a multi-instrumentalist born and raised in Puerto Rico, who discovered his passion for music at a very early age. The Music has taken him to many stages around Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, México, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and many States of the American Nation. Isaac has worked on countless projects and recordings, comprising thus multiple musical genres, but especially: Nova-Trova, World Music, Latin and Folk. Besides many local artists from every place he has lived, he has also worked with renown artists like Wisin & Yandel, Carlos Baute, Vicente García, Bersuit Vergarabat, Shadmehr Aghili, Sie7e, Yaire and El Twanguero. @Isaxito

Tula B. Strong (Oral Historian/Collaborator) is a Liberian-American performance artist, educator and arts producer. As an artist, Tula has been honored to receive support and recognition from Blavity's BlavityTV, the National Black Arts' Festival, San Bernardino Arts Connection, the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute and more. Within the production capacity, Tula has served artists and organizations such as LA Dance Calendar, By Jade Charon Company, Kara Jenelle, CONTRA-TIEMPO, Dan Froot & Company and the UCLA Department of World Arts & Cultures/ Dance. Currently, Tula also serves as a lecturer in Black Dance & Performance Studies at Cal State University, Fullerton.

Duncan Woodbury (Sound Designer) is a sound designer, and composer based in Los Angeles working on a range of creative projects including music, theatre, dance, installation and podcasting. Duncan currently serves as Associate Technical Director of the UCLA Nimoy Theater. His previous collaborators include Lars Jan/Early Morning Opera, Andrew Schneider, Zoe

Aja Moore, and Milka Djorjevich among others. He is a graduate of Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts in Music Technology.

Special Thanks

Victoria Marks, Ann Carlson, Ken Foster, Torange Yeghiazarian, Fred Frumberg, Meryl Friedman, Bozzy Karasu and the entire staff of CAP UCLA; Arsenio Apillanes, Janet O'Shea and the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.

Donations to the continuation of *Arms Around America* and the work of Dan Froot & Company are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Via Paypal: danfroot@me.com



Photo by Ray Shaw



NEW SEASON NEW THEATER

CAP UCLA PRESENTS

The 2023-24 Season

This season brings over fifty artists in a variety of voices and creative expressions in music, dance, theater, literary arts and collaborative disciplines.

We hope you will join us at Royce Hall, The Theatre at Ace Hotel and our new venue, the UCLA Nimoy Theater, opening September 2023.

Ticket on sale dates:

CAP UCLA Members: Jun 20-21, 2023

CAP UCLA Enews Presale: Jun 22, 2023

General Public: Jun 23, 2023

UCLA Faculty and Staff: Jun 23, 2023

UCLA Students: Sep 26, 2023

cap.ucla.edu/23-24



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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!

Design for Sharing (DFS)



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.

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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





YOUR TICKET TO ALL-STAR DINING

Before you take your seat, take time to eat. A special PRE-SHOW, PRIX FIXE DINNER at Plateia, our award-winning restaurant in the UCLA Luskin Conference Center, just a short walk from Royce Hall, is the perfect opening act.

Reservations required: 310-794-3563

P L A T E I A

Proud partner of the UCLA Center for the Art of Performance (CAP)

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
Associate Technical Director: Duncan Woodbury

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Royce Hall Staff

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Venue Manager: Evan "Otter" Wilkinson

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Crew Coordinator: Don Kidd
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Lighting Supervisor: Antony Gutierrez
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Custodian: Ranoya Exum

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

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(please allow 48 hours for a response)

UCLA Central Ticket Office

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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.

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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

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