Dreamers’ Circus

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 8 pm
The Nimoy
WELCOME TO THE 2023–24 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
Dear audience:

I want to thank each and every one of you: the UCLA leadership and staff, our newly appointed Artistic Director at UCLA’s Center of the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA), Edgar Miramontes, the former Artistic Director Kristy Edmunds, family and friends in helping to make The Nimoy theater a reality.

My late husband, Leonard Nimoy, believed that art, music, dance and spoken word had the power to change lives. He had a passion for the theater in particular. Unlike film and television, theater is a high-wire act: there are no second takes, no zooms, no over-the-shoulders, no “let’s go again.” Theater unfolds like life. One gives it their best shot moment to moment, in the hope that it lands and resonates.

I hope that you consider becoming a part of The Nimoy’s future and supporting its programs. There are areas of the theater yet unnamed, such as the main lobby, the bar, the upper lobby, and the artist’s entrance, as well as our campaign to have seats in the theater named for family and friends.

Thank you all for going on this journey and celebrating together this momentous occasion. Keep coming back. May the UCLA Nimoy Theater, “Live Long and Prosper.”

With a full heart,

Susan Bay Nimoy
CAP UCLA Presents
Dreamers’ Circus

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Program duration: 105 minutes
15 minute intermission

Funds provided by the Henry Mancini Tribute Fund.

Please note that this evening’s performance will be introduced from the stage by the performers. The nature of Dreamers’ Circus’ music is essentially spontaneous and the band prefers to change and vary their program from show to show.
Hello and welcome to our performance as part of our Fall 2023 series of concerts. We are excited to be back travelling and touring internationally after what has been a challenging time for all of us. It’s been a while since we’ve been in the United States....What will you, the audience, think of what we play? How will you react? Well, we’re about to find out....

Firstly, let us tell you a little about Dreamers’ Circus, who we are and what we do.

Our approach to music sees us challenge the norms of the traditional music we were brought up with and attempt to shape it into how we imagine Nordic music can sound in 2023. We certainly do not seek to turn our back on our folk music roots and, having grown up with traditional music, we value it as an important part of our musical make-up. But we also discovered early on that traditional music cannot stay static, that change is inevitable and even, we might argue, beneficial. So, in a sense, we view our roots in the rich traditions of Danish and Swedish folk music as a point of departure and refuse to accept tradition as a straitjacket. We investigate new angles and consciously seek to challenge not just ourselves as performers and composers but also the norms and sometimes even the structures of the music we play. With Dreamers’ Circus, no two performances are quite the same and we enjoy the fact that today’s show can be quite different from yesterdays. We have learned to enjoy our curiosity about the music and have come to value the importance of listening. Close listening to what we each do is an important part of our engagement with the music and with each other. We hope that you, the audience, might also listen closely and join us as we react to one another’s playing and spontaneously respond. Our name hints at the possibilities and magic of the
imagination and we hope that you will open yourself up to the colors and images we seek to create with our soundscapes.
— Ale, Nikolaj, Rune.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The three members of Dreamers’ Circus first encountered each other at a late night, post-concert jam session in Denmark over ten years ago. They immediately hit it off both on a musical and a personal level. Since then, the band has toured all over the Nordic countries and Europe, they’ve played the Sydney Opera House in Australia and have made a number of tours to Japan. Dream-ers’ Circus has shared stages with folk luminaries such as The Chieftains, Sharon Shannon and Vasen and have been invited to compose and perform music for stage and television shows in Denmark. A Danish critic observed that, “playing violin, piano, accordion and cittern they dis-play a playful inventiveness allied with a Nordic sensibility that is at once refined and cool.”

Dreamers’ Circus have issued 5 CDs:
A Little Symphony (2013) released on GoDanish
Second Movement (2015) released on GoDanish
Rooftop Sessions (2018) released on Vertical Records
Blue White Gold (2020) released on Vertical Records
The Lost Swans (2022) released on Vertical Records and GoDanish

BIOGRAPHIES

Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen: violin and other instruments
Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen is from Roskilde on the outskirts of Copenhagen in Denmark. He started playing violin when he was five years old. In 2001, he founded the Danish String Quartet, which is one of the leading chamber music quartets
in Europe. This Grammy nominated ensemble has won many prizes and awards. Rune’s father is from the Faroe Islands that lie in the north Atlantic between the west coast of Norway and Iceland. His own upbringing was in a family that valued traditional music, song and dance. Before he devoted his life to full-time touring with Dreamers’ Circus and the Danish String Quartet, Rune was leader of the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra while still in his early twenties. Rune plays a Giovanni Baptista Guadagnini violin which is generously loaned to him by the Goof Foundation. His bow is by Eugene Sartory (1910).

**Nikolaj Busk: accordion, piano, synthesizers**

Danish born Nikolaj Busk has been a significant figure on the Danish music scene for a number of years now and is in much demand as a composer and music arranger across a number of musical genres. He has won no less than thirteen Danish Music Awards for his releases and collaborates with various artists. Nikolaj has written music for other ensembles, choirs, orchestras and theater performances.

Nikolaj’s accordion is by Pietro Mario.

**Ale Carr: cittern, kannel and other instruments**

Hailing from the southern Swedish region of Skåne, Ale Carr was raised in a family of folk musicians and dancers. His own style incorporates a strongly developed rhythmic drive coupled with a sensitivity that always seeks to serve the music. He is recognized as one of Scandinavia’s most talented folk musicians and leading innovators on plucked string instruments. Also a highly respected composer, he was presented with a Danish Music Award as Composer of the Year in 2015. Apart from his work as a member of Dreamers’ Circus,
he also toured with the folk music group Basco.

Ale plays a Nordic Cittern, designed by the Swedish luthier Christer Ådin. He uses Thomastik-Infeld strings.

Dreamers’ Circus acknowledges the support of The Danish Arts Foundation.

To contact Dreamers Circus please visit dreamerscircus.com or write to Tom Sherlock Management tom@dreamerscircus.com

Dreamers’ Circus is represented in North America by Kirshbaum Associates Inc: kirshbaumassociates.com
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.

cap.ucla.edu/dfs
Bill Frisell and Ambrose Akinmusire

Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 8 pm
The Theatre at Ace Hotel

Bill Frisell will perform with FIVE, comprised of collaborators Kenny Wollesen, Tony Scherr, Rudy Royston and Thomas Morgan. Trumpeter and composer Ambrose Akinmusire will lead his ensemble Owl Song, featuring Frisell and drummer Herlin Riley.

“Avant-garde jazz isn’t known for its gentleness, but Bill Frisell’s compositions are a fine-spun exception.” — Pitchfork

“Ambrose Akinmusire makes music that seems full of contradictions and yet is whole, consistent and coherent.” — London Jazz News

cap.ucla.edu/bill-and-ambrose
CAP UCLA has 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 immerses 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.

cap.ucla.edu/nimoy
We at UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance acknowledge the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and South Channel Islands).

As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Ancestors (Honuukvetam), Elders (Ahihirom), and relatives/relations (Eyoohinkem) past, present and emerging.
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
Wu Man

Sun, Oct 15, 2023 at 7 pm
The Nimoy

Called both “the Jimi Hendrix of the pipa,” and “…the pre-eminent ambassador for traditional Chinese music in the U.S.” Wu Man is recognized as the world’s finest player of this ancient Chinese lute-like instrument, whose inventive artistry is unparalleled.

“…the world’s finest player of the pipa…”
— The New York Times

cap.ucla.edu/wuman
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The opening of The Nimoy offers donors a rare opportunity to create a lasting legacy while celebrating their passion for contemporary performing arts at UCLA. Learn more about naming a seat in The Nimoy — CAP UCLA’s newest home for live performance — and other opportunities to become a part of this state-of-the-art theater.

cap.ucla.edu/give-nimoy
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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.

Become a member
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