Omar Offendum, Ronnie Malley and Thanks Joey

The Little Syria Show

Fri, Nov 3, 2023 at 8 pm
Sat, Nov 4, 2023 at 3 pm and 8 pm

The Nimoy

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA
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
CAP UCLA’S new home for live performance

It’s an honor and a privilege to welcome you to CAP UCLA’s stunning new home for the performing arts: the UCLA Nimoy Theater. Through our diverse programs, and by providing vital opportunities for artists and partner organizations to develop contemporary work, The Nimoy is poised to make a lasting contribution to the performing arts, UCLA and our Los Angeles communities.

The Nimoy’s inaugural season launches with an interdisciplinary array of projects by influential and groundbreaking local, national and international artists. Together they will share their unique perspectives and crucial visions, creating an opportunity for our audiences to see the world in different and extraordinary ways.

This is your invitation to experience the beauty of sitting in a dark theater, among strangers or loved ones illuminated by the possibilities of the imagination. In this shared space, through the power of the arts, our ideas are challenged and our horizons are broadened — we are transformed.

I look forward to seeing you at The Nimoy!

Edgar Miramontes
Executive and Artistic Director
CAP UCLA Presents

Omar Offendum, Ronnie Malley and Thanks Joey

The Little Syria Show

Fri, Nov 3, 2023 at 8 pm
Sat, Nov 4, 2023 at 3 pm and 8 pm
The Nimoy

Program duration: 90 minutes
No intermission

Funds provided by the Sally & William A. Rutter Endowment for the Performing Arts.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Omar Offendum is a Syrian-American rapper, spoken word poet and theatrical storyteller with a unique ability to draw in audiences from various backgrounds and generations through his signature blend of hip-hop and Arabic poetry. Over the course of his twenty-year career, he’s been featured on prominent world news outlets (Aljazeera, BBC, PBS, LA Times), lectured at a number of prestigious academic institutions (Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Northwestern, UT-Austin, SOAS, Georgetown, American University of Beirut), collaborated with major museums and cultural organizations (LACMA, Penn Museum, Ithra, Shangri-La, Arab-American National Museum, The Brooklyn Museum) and helped raise millions of dollars for various humanitarian relief groups (UNRWA, Islamic Relief, Karam Foundation, ANERA, Syrian-American Medical Society).

In 2022 Offendum was invited by the Qatar Foundation to perform at over a dozen matches during the FIFA World Cup festivities in Doha. He was also named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow (2018-19), an Arab America Foundation “40 Under 40” award recipient (2020) and a member of both the Pillars Fund fellowship cohort for Muslim Narrative Change (2021) and the Race Forward Butterfly Lab cohort for Immigrant Narrative Strategy (2022). His recent foray into theater with the off-Broadway hit production Little Syria has earned him a spot in The Public Theater’s distinguished “New York Voices” commission program for the 2023-24 season, while selling out multiple runs at iconic venues across the United States (Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, The Center for the Art of
Performance at UCLA, HERE Arts Center in SoHo, and Joe’s Pub at The Public Theater in NYC).

After spending 17 beautiful years in Los Angeles, Offendum currently resides in the great state of New York with his wife and two little children, whilst forever daydreaming about the jasmine tree-lined streets of Damascus.

Ronnie Malley is a Palestinian-American multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, sound designer, producer, actor, playwright, educator and executive director of Intercultural Music Production. With a focus on various musical styles from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and medieval Spain, Ronnie has performed with several artists including Allos Musica, Apollo’s Fire, Diwan al-Han, EMME, Huzam, Lamajamal, Mucca Pazza, Newberry Consort, Picosa, Omar Offendum, Surabhi Ensemble, University of Chicago Middle East Music Ensemble and Yves Francoi & Rocambu Jazz.

Ronnie has worked on award-winning theatrical plays, films and TV series including The Band’s Visit (Broadway, Tony Awards, Grammy Awards), Mo (Netflix), The Jungle Book (Disney, Goodman Theatre) and The New Mother (Eleva Singleton). He has recorded on over twenty albums and has co-produced several works and staged productions including Little Syria, Karim Nagi’s Huzam, The Reminders, Yves Francois and The Andalusian Trail. Ronnie was the recipient of the 2023 Chamber Music America Michael Jaffee Visionary Award. He holds a BA in Global Music Studies from DePaul University and is currently pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Chicago.
Thanks Joey was born in Brooklyn, New York to Syrian immigrants. Having a classical Arabic musician as a grandfather already set the palette for what Thanks Joey would be exposed to — Fairouz, Om Kalthoum, Abdel-Halim Hafez with a little bit of Jay-Z, Biggie Smalls, Nas etc. Thanks Joey met his long time collaborator/artist/friend, NIKO IS at thirteen years old in Orlando, Florida and the two immediately began creating music together. In 2009, Joey established the Colours Of The Culture label on which the 2015 NIKO IS album BRUTUS was released in collaboration with Talib Kweli’s label, Javotti Media.

In 2018, Joey released his first instrumental album inspired by the works of Khalil Gibran entitled On Beats. He also produced the 2018 NIKO IS album UNIKO which was also released in collaboration with Talib Kweli and featured artists from around the world including Curren$y, Tego Calderón, HAIKAIISS and more. He is currently working on multiple projects set to be released on Colours Of The Culture in the near future.
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
Nella

Sat, Nov 11, 2023 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Venezuelan-born singer Nella has a lush, soulful voice that belies the sweetness of youth and the strength of being far from her troubled homeland. Singing in Spanish, her style blends her native country’s folklore, the sounds of her generation, and Andalusian influences.

“As a [Latin Grammy] nominee in the category of Best New Artist, Venezuelan artist Nella knows she not only carries her own story, but also that of her homeland to the ceremony when she attends.” — NPR

cap.ucla.edu/nella
UCLA NIMOY THEATER

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
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.
Karim Sulayman and Sean Shibe

*Broken Branches*

Sun, Nov 12, 2023 at 7 pm
The Nimoy

Lebanese-American tenor Karim Sulayman praised for his “lucid, velvety tenor and pop-star charisma”, and sensational Scottish guitarist Sean Shibe known for innovative approach and the 2022 Leonard Bernstein Award, team up in *Broken Branches* to explore their mixed identity through Monteverdi, Britten and Fairuz’s songs.

[cap.ucla.edu/broken-branches](cap.ucla.edu/broken-branches)
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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UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members whose gifts directly support the vitality of contemporary performing arts. Thank you!

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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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NAME YOUR SEAT

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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We invite you to become a CAP UCLA Member and support our ability to create a space for shared experiences, extraordinary artistry and the exchange of ideas.

- Enjoy priority access and discounts
- Support extraordinary artistry
- Deepen relationships with artists and other arts enthusiasts

Become a member
cap.ucla.edu/membership