

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA

CAP UCLA Presents Two Nights of Deep-Rooted Storytelling Through Music and Poetry at The Nimoy:

Martha Redbone Roots Project, Feb. 9

***Poetry Uncut: Part II*, J. Ivy Hosts Ursula Rucker and Abiodun
Oyewole, Feb. 10**



[LOS ANGELES — January 10, 2023] [UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](https://cap.ucla.edu) is pleased to present two nights of deep-rooted storytelling through music and poetry at The Nimoy with **Martha Redbone Roots Project** on Friday, February 9 followed by the continuation of the ***Poetry Uncut* series: *Part II*** as **J. Ivy** hosts performances by **Ursula Rucker** and **Abiodun Oyewole** on Saturday, February 10. Tickets are available now at cap.ucla.edu, by phone 310-825-2101 or at the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

Afro-Indigenous vocalist, songwriter, composer and educator Martha Redbone performs on Friday, February 9 at 8 pm for an evening of folk, blues and gospel. Redbone is known for music inspired by her childhood in Harlan County, Kentucky infused with the eclectic grit of Brooklyn, New York. The performance will be filled with songs that tell the story of her life experience as a Southeastern Cherokee/Choctaw Native, Black woman and mother with the purpose of giving voice to issues of social justice, bridging traditions from past to present, connecting cultures and celebrating the human spirit.

For her live shows, Redbone draws from her album *The Garden of Love - Songs of William Blake*, which fuses Redbone's voice and Blake's poetry for a combination of blues, bluegrass, soul and traditional Southeastern Woodlands. The work was produced by Nitty Gritty Dirt Band founder and Grammy winner John McEuen. Her debut album *Home of the Brave* was

recognized as a “stunning album” by “the kind of woman who sets trends” (*Billboard*) and garnered positive critical attention, while her sophomore album *Skintalk* was described as the soulful sound of “Earth, Wind and Fire on the Rez” (*Native Peoples Magazine*) and took her music to Europe and the Far East. From grassroots beginnings at powwows across Indian Country and in the underground clubs of NYC to nationally recognized acclaim, Redbone broadens the boundaries of American Roots music.

On Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm *Poetry Uncut*, a four-part series of curated poetry and music, continues with *Poetry Uncut: Part II* as Grammy Award-winning artist J. Ivy hosts an evening featuring performances by poet, activist and Pew Fellow Ursula Rucker along with founding member of the legendary Harlem-based Last Poets, Abiodun Oyewole. The series will continue with additional artists presented by Ivy on February 17 and culminate in a final poetry jam on April 6. Ivy is well recognized for his appearances on HBO’s *Def Poetry Jam* and his feature with Jay-Z on Kanye West’s Grammy-winning album *The College Dropout*. He was also instrumental in advocating for the Grammy Awards to add a new category dedicated to Poets and Spoken Word Artists worldwide and, in 2022, the Recording Academy finally created a new category for “Best Spoken Word Poetry Album.” Following this, Ivy received his second Grammy nomination and his first Grammy Award for his Spoken Word Poetry album, *The Poet Who Sat By The Door*. Ivy’s recent works include his third book, *Dear Father: Breaking the Cycle of Pain* and albums *The Poet Who Sat By The Door* and *CATCHING DREAMS: Live at Fort Knox Chicago*, which was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Spoken Word Album category.

Ursula Rucker has a longstanding history in the global music and poetry scene and has spent nearly three decades utilizing prose and imagery to engage and inspire her audience. She is known for her performance on HBO’s *Def Poetry Jam* as well as several solo albums with wide-ranging musical diversity including *Supa Sista*, *Silver Or Lead*, *Ma’at Mama*, *Ruckus Soundsysdom*, *She Said* and *No Stranger Here*. In 2022, Rucker had the distinct honor of being selected for the Philadelphia Cultural Treasures Fellowship in recognition of her continued commitment to the advancement of art and artist advocacy.

Abiodun Oyewole is a poet, author, teacher and founding member of the American music and spoken word group, The Last Poets, which laid the groundwork for the emergence of hip-hop. During the course of his 50 year career, Oyewole is one of several poets credited for liberating American poetry by creating open, vocal, spontaneous, energetic and uncensored vernacular verse. He has dedicated his craft to speaking out about the dangers of poverty and racism and uplifting his people. Oyewole is known for his albums created with The Last Poets including *Holy Terror*, *The Time Has Come*, *Understand What Black Is* and *Transcending Toxic Times* along with his poetry collections *The Beauty of Being* and *Naked*.

The CAP UCLA winter programs continue on Thursday, February 15 and Friday, February 16 with India Carney and Saturday, February 17 with *Poetry Uncut: Part III*: J.Ivy hosts Def Sound and Sunni Patterson.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

Martha Redbone Roots Project Friday, February 9 at 8 pm

Poetry Uncut: Part II, J. Ivy Hosts Ursula Rucker and Abiodun Oyewole: Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm

UCLA Nimoy Theater

1262 Westwood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90024

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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