



Photos by Daniel Johnson and
Josh Walker

Poetry Uncut: Part III
J. Ivy hosts Def Sound and
Sunni Patterson

Sat, Feb 17, 2024 at 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





Photo by Cam Be

CAP UCLA Presents

Poetry Uncut: Part III

J. Ivy hosts Def Sound and Sunni Patterson

Sat, Feb 17, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Program duration: 90 minutes
No intermission



PERFORMERS

J. Ivy
Def Sound
Sunni Patterson
DJ Niéna Drake
Marlee Porter
Brianna Macklin

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

J. Ivy: J. Ivy is a three-time Grammy, Peabody, Clio, Telly and NAACP Image Award-winning poet, spoken word artist, actor and songwriter, widely known for his appearances on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam* and for his feature with Jay-Z on Kanye West's Grammy-winning album *The College Dropout*. Ivy poetically narrated, acted and starred in the award winning B.E.T. documentary *Muhammad Ali: The People's Champ* and the NAACP nominated documentary *Martin: The Legacy of a King*.

After being commissioned by Michael Jordan and Deepak Chopra, J. Ivy wrote and narrated the Clio Award-winning promo for Beyoncé's *Black Is King* for the 2020 return of the NBA. He is also the Resident Poet for the foundation of famed visual artist Ernie Barnes. Fun fact: J. Ivy is who gave John Stephens the stage name John Legend, as told on *Oprah's Next Chapter*.

J. Ivy's latest works include his sixth album *The Poet Who Sat By The Door*, his third book *Dear Father: Breaking the Cycle of Pain* and his fifth album *CATCHING DREAMS: Live at Fort Knox Chicago*, which was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Spoken Word Album. He was the halftime entertainment for the New York Knicks MLK Day at Madison Square Garden and he appeared on NBC's new hit show *Grand Crew*. J. Ivy was the lead writer for the

Netflix documentary *jeen-yuhs: A Kanye West Trilogy*, which chronicles the career of the hip-hop megastar. J. Ivy is also featured on the 2022 *Ebony* Power 100 list.

After six years of advocating for something dear to his heart, J. Ivy spearheaded the charge and authored a proposal for the Grammys to add a new category strictly dedicated to poets and spoken word artists worldwide. In 2022, the Recording Academy finally announced that it would make this historic addition. That new category is called the Best Spoken Word Poetry Album. Not only was J. successful with helping the Academy make this monumental change, he received his third Grammy nomination and his third Grammy, with two of the Grammys being for Best Spoken Word Poetry Album for the albums *The Poet Who Sat by the Door* and *The Light Inside*.

After becoming the first poet in the history of the Recording Academy to serve as a Chapter President (Chicago), J. Ivy also became the first Poet to ever hold a National Trustee's seat.

For more, visit j-ivy.com and follow J. Ivy on Instagram and Twitter @j_ivy and Facebook @j.ivypoet

Def Sound: Def Sound (pronouns they/them) is an Afro-Caribbean conceptual word artist born and based in South Central LA. Def is a postbinary contemporary hip-hop artist, producer, poet and award-winning academic. Def is Grammy nominated for their work as a producer on Aja Monet's debut album *when the poems do what they do*.

Def's work as a poet has been included in Saul Williams' anthology *Chorus*, while their music has been featured in season four of ABC's *Grownish*, *LA Weekly*, *LA Record*, *The L.A. Times*, The Frieze Art Fair, LACMA's poetry series *Poetry In Color*, the art exhibition *The Black Index* (curated

by Bridget Cooks), the Emmy nominated television series *Music Diaries* and the Emmy winning *Artbound* on KCET. Def is currently teaching Hip Hop/Black Critical Theory at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).

Def is a word worker whose favorite medium is memory. When speaking about their practice Def spoke, “Every truth is a dare. Let’s dare to tell it.”

Def’s song ‘I BEEN’ made KCRW’s list for Best Songs of 2022. Def synthesizes hip hop, poetry, Black critical theory and storytelling into healing mechanisms decorating time and space.

Follow Def Sound’s journey on IG @def.sound or at defsoundla.com.

Sunni Patterson: New Orleans native and visionary Sunni Patterson is an internationally acclaimed poet, performer, workshop facilitator, certified spiritual life coach/consultant, and an initiated priestess and Minister. She began her career as a full-time high school teacher, and much of her life since has been devoted to serving as cultural worker and activist. Armed with an engaging story and voice, Sunni deliberately uses art, poetry and praise (ancestral remembrance) to encourage dialogue, connectivity, spiritual awareness and healing. She has had the privilege of studying under great scholars and teachers, allowing her to become a diligent student in the healing and spiritual arts. Her artistry and gift has allowed her to grace a plethora of stages and platforms. Whether speaking at TEDWomen, featuring on Grammy award winning hip-hop albums, officiating a wedding or cooking up breakfast for families in the community, you can rest assured, Sunni’s way and words bring us all to a place of recollection, remembrance and hope.

Sunni is a 2020/2021 John O’Neal Cultural Arts Fellow. She currently serves as a Resident Artist for both the City of New Orleans’ Claiborne Corridor Cultural Initiative and Junebug Productions. She is also co-founder, along with scientist and atmospheric chemist, Cherelle Blazer, of Environmental Arts and Public Health Organization, Breath is Lyfe.

Niéna Drake: Niéna Drake is a highly respected Emmy Award-Winning executive producer, director, founder, philanthropist and DJ. Her media and television work includes on-camera appearances, hosting, developing and producing for ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, OWN, Disney, Showtime, Paramount, Apple, Netflix, Complex Media, iHeart Media and many more. *The Chicago Tribune* named her “one of the most influential” Chicagoans. Drake is currently starring as the official DJ for the new TV show *Celebrity Squares* hosted by DC Young Fly on VH1, including celebrity guests Babyface, Bobby Brown, Tiffany Haddish, and Taye Diggs.

Get Lit: Get Lit is a non-profit in Los Angeles designed to ignite young people through the power of literacy and spoken word. Get Lit’s mission is to increase literacy, empower youth, and energize communities through poetry, and their programs include in-school and after-school programs, summer camps, competitions, a performance troupe, leadership and job training, and a media content and production studio. Visit getlit.org for more information or follow @getlitpoet.

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



**CAP
UCLA**





Dan and Claudia Zanes

Sat, Feb 24, 2024 at 2 and 8 pm
The Nimoy

Come as you are to experience the soulful joy of “All-Ages Social Music” with Grammy-winning performer Dan Zanes and Haitian-American vocalist Claudia Zanes. Their highly interactive electric folk concerts invite audiences to dance and sing along in a festive and relaxed atmosphere!

“The family-music genre’s most outspoken and eloquent advocate.” – *Time*

cap.ucla.edu/zanes-matinee
cap.ucla.edu/zanes



UCLA NIMOY THEATER

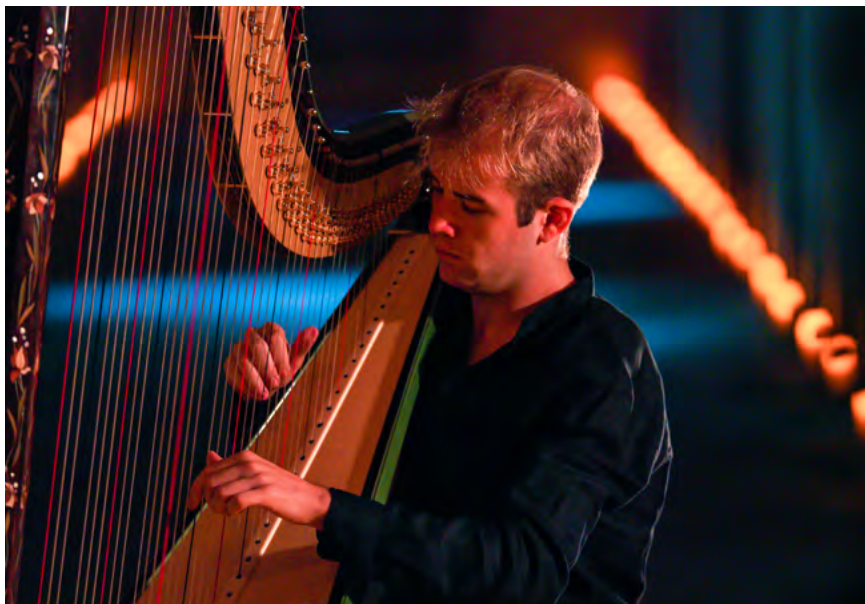
CAP UCLA has a new home for live performance
in Westwood!

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





Nico Muhly and Alice Goodman's *The Street*

**Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy**

The Street is a new work by composer Nico Muhly and librettist Alice Goodman, performed by harpist Parker Ramsay and soprano Jennifer Ellis Kampani. Narrated by Mia Barron, it portrays a man's wrongful condemnation and suffering in Jerusalem, exploring everyday violence.

"Sublime storytelling." – *BBC Music Magazine*

cap.ucla.edu/thestreet

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.



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



**CAP
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Royce Hall

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Production Manager: Jeff Wallace
Stage Manager: Lauren "Ren" Westbury
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Lighting Supervisor: Antony Gutierrez
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Royce Hall Custodial

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Senior Custodian: Brandi Jeffrey
Custodian Lead: Delshena Murphy
Custodian Lead: Montrell Calloway

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General Questions

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(please allow 48 hours for a response)

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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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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

Become a member
cap.ucla.edu/membership

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