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
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.
Suni 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
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
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 UCLA STAFF

**Director's Office**
Executive and Artistic Director: Edgar Miramontes
Deputy Director and Program Manager: Fred Frumberg
Director of Education and Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Production Manager: Bozkurt “Bozzy” Karasu
Artist Liaison Manager: Zarina Rico
Associate Technical Director/Audio & Video: Duncan Woodbury
Associate Technical Director/Lighting & Stage: Katelan Braymer
Assistant to the Executive and Artistic Director: Emily Davis

**Marketing and Communications**
Director of Marketing and Communications: Bahareh Ebrahimzadeh
Marketing Coordinator: Elvis Harold
Marketing Associate: Helene Griffin

**Development**
Manager of Institutional Giving: Erika Herran
Development Assistant: Zoey Mendoza

**Education**
Director of Education & Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Education Program Coordinator: Theresa Willis Peters
Student Arts Coordinator: Theo Bonner-Perkins

**Financial Management**
Manager of Finance and Accounts: Stephanie Tarvyd
Finance Analyst: Jodi Klein
Finance Analyst: Ayesha Bulegoda

**Human Resources**
Human Resources Assistant: Erah Lulu

**Ticketing**
Assistant Director Central Ticket Office: Gerardo Galeano

**Royce Hall**
Director of Operations: Heidi Snyder
Venue Manager: Evan “Otter” Wilkinson

**Royce Hall Production**
Production Manager: Jeff Wallace
Stage Manager: Lauren “Ren” Westbury
Event Manager: Thomas Colen
Audio/Video Supervisor: John Coleman
Audio/Video Assistant: Erich Schroeder
Lighting Supervisor: Antony Gutierrez
Lighting Assistant: Evan Drane
Rigging Supervisor: Robert Ory
Staff Stage Technician: Eric Erickson

**Royce Hall Patron Services**
Patron Services Manager: James Porter
House Manager: Ernie Ybarra
House Manager: Victoria Pereira
F.O.H. Staff: Melih Ercan
F.O.H. Staff: Pia Shekerjian

**Royce Hall Custodial**
Custodian Supervisor: Ranoya Exum
Senior Custodian: Brandi Jeffrey
Custodian Lead: Delshena Murphy
Custodian Lead: Montrell Calloway

**CAP UCLA Administrative Offices**
B100 Royce Hall
Box 951529
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1529
Tel: 310-825-4401
Fax: 310-206-3843

**General Questions**
info@cap.ucla.edu
(please allow 48 hours for a response)

**UCLA Central Ticket Office**
Tel: 310.825.2101
Fax: 310.206.7540
tickets@cap.ucla.edu

**Press Inquiries**
The ACE Agency
Hanya Bruner
PR and Marketing Specialist
hanya@theaceagency.com

**Development Office**
Tel: 310.267.4463
Fax: 310.206.3843
devinfo@cap.ucla.edu

**Design for Sharing/K-12 Arts Education**
Tel: 310.825.7681
Fax: 310.206.3843
dfs@cap.ucla.edu

**Theater Rental Information**
Anthony T. Jones
Tel: 310.825.4403
Fax: 310.206.8678
atjones@arts.ucla.edu
roycehall.org
CAP UCLA LEAD SUPPORTERS

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!

$500,000 AND ABOVE
Anonymous
The Ahmanson Foundation
Brenda R. Potter
Cindy Miscikowski / The Ring Foundation
The McGrath Abrams Family Foundation
Mellon Foundation
Susan Bay Nimoy
Nancy & Joe Walker
Whitney Family

$100,000-$499,999
Laura Donnelley/
The Good Works Foundation
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Kadima Foundation
Renee & Meyer Luskin

$25,000-$99,999
Anonymous
Diane Levine
Marla Mayer & Chris Ahearn
Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts
Hannah Montgomery & Aaron Bay-Schuck
Laura & Gregg Perloff/
Another Planet Entertainment
Rosenthal Family Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
John Archibald & James Costa Braymer Family
Valerie & Brad Cohen
Mariana Dietl & Ivan Markman Billie & Steven Fischer
Fariba Ghaffari
Jackie Gottlieb
Stefan Hastrup & Gary Schilling
Freyda & Jerry Miller
National Endowment for the Arts
Ralph & Shirley Shapiro Keith & Cecilia Terasaki
Karyn Wynne

$5,000-$9,999
Eric and Hilary Donnelly
Linda Essakow & Stephen Gunther / Herbert McLaughlin
Children’s Trust
Olivia & Nicolas Gentin
Bonnie Moss
National Performance Network
New England Foundation for the Arts
Melissa Rivers
Nancy & Miles Rubin
Doug Upshaw
Bonnie & Paul Yaeger

$2,500-$4,999
Barbara Abell
Anna Wong Barth & Donald Barth, Jr.
Carla Brand Breitner & Gary Woolard
Roberta Conroy
Harriett & Richard Gold
Lori & Robert Goodman
Karen Hohman Almeida & Edgilson Almeida
Sandra Jacoby Klein & Don McCallum
Joseph Kaufman
Milly & Robert Kayyem Esq.
Alicia Miñana
Claude Petite
Eleanor Portilla
Stephanie Snyder
Anne-Marie Spataru
Debra Vilinsky & Michael Sopher

$1,000-$2,499
Diane & Noel Applebaum
Ruth Bachofner
Scott Beasley
Marjorie Blatt
Keith Brownfield & Micheal C. Trinity
Jay and Nadege Conger
Olga Garay–English
Vance Garrett
Deborah Irmas / Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation

$500-$999
Fidelity Charitable Johnston / Lesser Charitable Trust Fund
Sandra & Lewis Kanengiser
Joanne Knopoff
Martha Koplin
Joan Lesser & Ronald Johnston
Bea & Leonard Mandel
Willard L. Marmelzat Foundation
Weston Milliken
Linda Gach Ray Esq & Stephan Ray Esq
Kathleen Riquelme
Lorraine Ross
The Raskin Family Foundation
Yolanda Robinson
Sylvia & James Rothman
Suzie & Michael Scott
Muriel & Neil Sherman
June Shoji
James Sie & Doug Wood
Edith Stoell
Kathleen & John Quisenberry

$500-$999
Natsuko Akiyama
Robert Anderson
Digna & Scott Beasley
Karen Bizzini & Michael Neal
Ronda & Stanley Breitbard
Katherine Browning
Patti & Paul Eisenberg
Georgina Huljich & Marcelo Spina
Don Karl
Sandra Klein
Joy & Robert Penner
Jill Lawrence & Paul Koplin
Leslie Mitchner Esq.
Sherrill Luke
Lynn & Neville Ostrick
Sharon Oxborough
Simran Foundation
Srila & Man J. Singh
Mary Terrall & Ted Porter
ENDOWMENTS

Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity.

Arthur E. Guedel Memorial Lectureship Fund
Barbara and Bruce Dobkin Endowment Fund
Beatrix F. Padway Endowed Fund for Design for Sharing
Design for Sharing Endowment
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund
Evelyn & Mo Ostin Endowment for the Performing Arts
Ginny Mancini Endowment for Vocal Performance
Henry Mancini Tribute Fund
James A. Doolittle Endowment
José Luis Nazar Endowment for the Performing Arts
Kevin Jeske Young Artists Fund
The Lloyd E. Rigler Emerging Arts Fund
Merle & Peter Mullin Endowment for the Performing Arts
Mimi Perlof Endowment for Design for Sharing
Mimi & Werner Wolfen Endowment for Design for Sharing
National Endowment for the Arts Challenge Grant Endowment
Plitt Theaters Fund for Design for Sharing
Roslyn Holt Swartz & Allan J. Swartz Endowment for the Performing Arts
Royce Center Circle Endowment Fund
Royce Gala Endowment
Sally & William A. Rutter Endowment for the Performing Arts
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Director’s Discretionary Fund
Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Endowment for Design for Sharing

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
JOIN THE CONSTANTLY CURIOUS

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