



Photos by Sven W Fenzel and Hollis King

Poetry Uncut: Part II
**J. Ivy hosts Ursula Rucker
and Abiodun Oyewole**

Sat, Feb 10, 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.

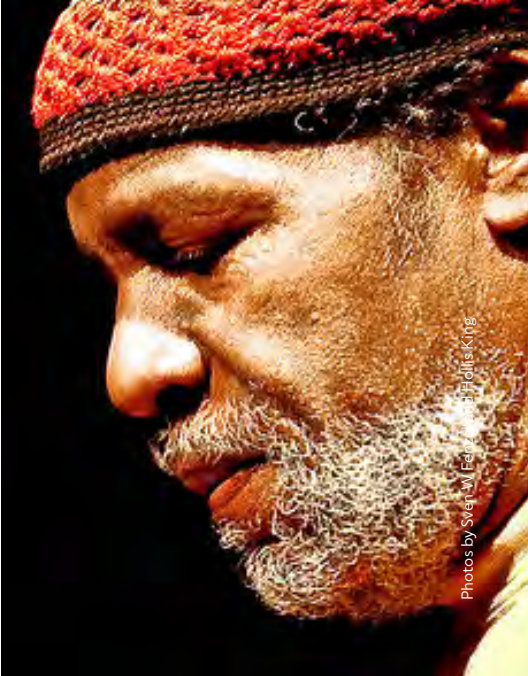
I look forward to seeing you at The Nimoy!



Edgar Miramontes

Executive and Artistic Director





CAP UCLA Presents

Poetry Uncut: Part II

**J. Ivy hosts Ursula Rucker
and Abiodun Oyewole**

Sat, Feb 10, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Program duration: 90 minutes
No intermission



PERFORMERS

J. Ivy
Ursula Rucker
Abiodun Oyewole
Wendel Patrick
DJ Niéna Drake
Dharma Lemon (Get Lit)
Brianna Macklin (Get Lit)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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

Ursula Rucker: Poet, recording artist, activist, teacher and revolutionary, Ursula Rucker is a certified veteran of the global music and poetry scene. A skilled writer and dynamic performer, Rucker's rich and textured voice is one of the world's great, living instruments. For nearly three decades, Rucker has used her fiery prose and invigorating imagery to excite and inspire listeners around worldwide. Her solo albums are brimming with power and wide-ranging musical diversity and she has built an equally impressive catalog as a collaborator. Rucker can be heard on dance floors across the world, as the voice of many House and Dance music

classics. She has toured with her live performance memoir, *My Father's Daughter*, which she describes as “90 minutes of self-truth and discovery.” She was a 2018 recipient of the prestigious fellowship from the Pew Center for Arts & Change. In 2020, she released *big/small poems for pockets*, a chapbook of haikus.

In 2021, Ursula collaborated with artist Vince Fraser on his exhibit *Ase Afro Frequencies* which debuted at Artechouse Miami and was recognized as Best Art Exhibit 2021 by *TimeOut Miami*. At the close of 2022, Ursula had the distinct honor of being selected for the Philadelphia Cultural Treasures Fellowship, recognizing her continued commitment to the advancement of art, and artist advocacy, and an endorsement from her community that her legacy is essential to the cultural fabric of Philadelphia.

Whether she's on the stage, in print, or on record, Ursula Rucker is an artistic force of nature.

Abiodun Oyewole: As one of the founding members of the legendary Harlem group The Last Poets, Abiodun Oyewole has dedicated almost sixty years to using his poetry to articulate, glorify and protest the impurities of the Black experience worldwide, and in America particularly. He has become a fixture in the landscape of Black consciousness, using uncompromising verse to scold a nation whose inclination to maintain the colonial yoke around the neck of the disenfranchised has always been at issue. For that, he has been honored and appreciated by millions.

Since Abiodun's first recording with the Last Poets, his work has had a profound influence across the hip-hop landscape, having been sampled by the likes of the Notorious B.I.G., N.W.A, A Tribe Called Quest and countless others. Phrases he coined like “Party and Bullshit” have become a mainstay in the Hip Hop lexicon. Today he continues to spread his

message, as a performer touring the world with the Last Poets, as an educator teaching kids arts education in NYC public schools, and as an artist collaborating with notable rappers such as Nas, Common and Dead Prez on award-winning album projects.

Abiodun has also made an unwavering commitment to the next generation of conscious young minds. A labor of love for over 40 years, 'Brother Dune' has opened his home every Sunday to poets, rappers, singers, philosophers, teachers, students, fans and everyday people who have an appreciation for the arts and yearn to be around love and black consciousness. The initial purpose of 'Open House Sundays at 110' was to give aspiring poets a platform to share their work and receive feedback from a giant in the arts. Over the years, Open House Sundays at 110 has grown into so much more, becoming a cultural institution in the Harlem community, with food, political conversation, music and a fellowship that has touched thousands of people over the years. Prominent artists who have walked through those famed doors at 110 Morningside Drive span from Melle Mel to Doug E. Fresh to Erykah Badu. Moreover, notable institutions such as Def Poetry Jam and celebrated poets such as Jessica Care Moore were born out of Open House Sundays at 110. Undeterred by the pandemic, Open House Sundays has now moved to a virtual space, as Abiodun continues to mentor the next generation of brilliant young artists.

Wendel Patrick: Wendel Patrick is a professor, composer, producer, beatmaker, pianist, sonic architect, photographer and videographer. He has been referred to as "David Foster Wallace reincarnated as a sound engineer" by *Urbanite Magazine* and as "wildly talented" by the *Baltimore Sun*. He has been referred to by *XLR8R Magazine* as "a hip-hop producer that could easily make any fan of Squarepusher, Boards of Canada, or Madlib flip out." The alter-ego of

classical and jazz pianist Kevin Gift, Wendel Patrick has made a name for himself internationally as a music producer of remarkable vision, skill and talent. His five albums: *Sound*, *Forthcoming*, *JDWP*, *Passage* and *Travel* were all produced without the use of sampling, with Patrick playing every note of every instrument. What is perhaps most astounding and perplexing to listeners is that there are actually no instruments ... he crafts all of the instruments, and plays every note, electronically.

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**





India Carney

Riding the Rollercoaster: An Artist's Life in Los Angeles

Feb 15 – 16, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Singer / songwriter India Carney curates and performs in a two-night celebration of music, featuring some of L.A.'s trailblazing young musicians. India is a graduate of UCLA and an alum of the YoungArts program, a national initiative that identifies exceptional young artists. Feb 15 highlights India and her band while Feb 16 is a showcase of past YoungArts winners living in Los Angeles, hosted by India.

cap.ucla.edu/carneynightone

cap.ucla.edu/carneynighttwo



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





Poetry Uncut: Part III

**J. Ivy hosts Sunni Patterson, Def Sound
and DJ Niena Drake**

**Sat, Feb 17, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy**

Spoken-word artist J. Ivy hosts the third program in our Poetry Uncut series. L.A.'s Def Sound traverses the worlds of hip-hop and poetry; and Sunni Patterson explores the poetic and spiritual traditions of her native New Orleans. The evening opens with Get Lit.

cap.ucla.edu/poetry_partthree

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

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
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F.O.H. Staff: Melih Ercan
F.O.H. Staff: Pia Shekerjian

Royce Hall Custodial

Custodian Supervisor: Ranoya Exum
Custodian Lead: Delshena Murphy
Custodian Lead: Montrell Calloway

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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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