Poetry Uncut: Last Call
J. Ivy hosts Tongo Eisen-Martin, Get Lit and DJ Niéna Drake
Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy
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: Last Call**
J. Ivy hosts Tongo Eisen-Martin, DJ Niéna Drake and Get Lit

Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

Program duration: 120 minutes
No intermission
PERFORMERS

J. Ivy  
Tongo Eisen-Martin  
DJ Niéna Drake  
Get Lit poets:  
Pluto Saidkariev  
Maxine Moriwaki  
Ella Small

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

**Tongo Eisen-Martin:** Originally from San Francisco, Tongo Eisen-Martin is a poet, movement worker, and educator. His latest curriculum on extrajudicial killing of Black people, *We Charge Genocide Again*, has been used as an educational and organizing tool throughout the country. *He is the author of Someone’s Dead Already, Heaven Is All Goodbyes, Waiting Behind Tornados for Food*, and *Blood on the Fog*. In 2020, he co-founded *Black Freighter Press* to publish revolutionary works. He is San Francisco’s eighth poet laureate.

**DJ 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
Urban Bush Women

Legacy + Lineage + Liberation

Fri, Apr 19, 2024 at 8 pm
Royce Hall


“Triple threat performers who dance, sing and act with a sometimes searing sense of truthfulness.” — *The New York Times*

cap.ucla.edu/ubw
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
Luciana Souza / Trio Corrente
Cometa
Sat, Apr 27, 2024 at 8 pm
The Nimoy

“Brazil’s jazz greats Luciana Souza and Trio Corrente bring their bossa nova and jazz to The Nimoy stage. Enjoy new takes on classic sambas and original songs from their latest album, Cometa.

“Though often referred to as a jazz musician, Brazilian singer Luciana Souza does wonders bending genre restrictions and expectations.” — Pop Matters

cap.ucla.edu/cometa
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 UCLA STAFF

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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**
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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
House Manager: Melih Ercan
House Manager: Pia Shekerjian

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

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**General Questions**
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**Theater Rental Information**
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roycehall.org
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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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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 for Design for Sharing
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Shirley & Ralph Shapiro Director’s Discretionary Fund
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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
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 enthusiasts

Become a member
cap.ucla.edu/membership