

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA

CAP UCLA Announces 2025-26 Season of Bold and Evocative Performances

**Acclaimed and emerging artists from around the world bring
fresh perspectives and fearless creativity to unite and inspire
us all**



**June 16: CAP UCLA Member presale
June 17: CAP UCLA enews presale
June 18: General public on sale at 10 a.m.**

[Watch the 2025-26 season trailer here](#)

[CAP UCLA 2025-26 Season Highlights:](#)

- Breakout 23-year-old jazz songstress **Lucía** weaves her Latin folk roots and American jazz influences into something entirely her own, performing music from her debut album and beyond (October 10, 2025)
- Celebrated dance-theater artist **David Roussève** presents his first full-length solo performance in over 20 years with the west coast premiere of **Daddy AF** — an intimate meditation on life's purpose, created and performed by a queer African American acutely aware of the finite time he has left on the planet (October 17 & 18, 2025)
- In the international hit **By Heart**, **Tiago Rodrigues** invites audiences to spend an evening learning a poem, a practice inspired by Rodrigues' grandmother's journey to blindness, creating a tapestry of storytelling, both personal and universal (October 24 & 25, 2025)
- Pulitzer Prize nominee **Jlin**, one of the most distinctive composers in America and one of the most influential women in electronic music, brings her thrilling, emotional, and multidimensional compositions to The Nimoy (November 15, 2025).
- **Laurel Halo** previews her upcoming 2026 album and latest work for piano and electronics — a transportive blend of ambient, drone, jazz, and synthesis (December 13, 2025)
- Powerhouse musicians **Seth Parker Woods**, **Julia Bullock** and **Conor Hanick** unite for an evening that showcases titan composers of lyricism and storytelling (January 15, 2026)
- Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **David Lang**'s chamber opera **note to a friend** draws inspiration from three texts by iconic Japanese writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa. Performed by the **Attacca Quartet** and vocalist **Theo Bleckmann**, *note to a friend* creates a powerful, emotional exploration of loss and reflection (February 28, 2026)
- Thirty years after its groundbreaking premiere during the AIDS epidemic, **Bill T. Jones's Still/Here** returns—a fearless, era-defining work that fused spoken text, video portraits, and dance to blur the line between personal and political, shaping a uniquely American form of dance theater (March 5, 2026)
- Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Tyshawn Sorey** joins forces with pianist **Aaron Diehl** and bassist **Harish Raghavan** in a genre-blurring jazz trio (April 10, 2026)
- **asses.masses** is a cheeky, live-play video game where the audience joins a herd of unemployed donkeys fighting to reclaim their jobs in a post-industrial world. Best described as *Animal Farm* meets *Pokémon* meets *Final Fantasy*, it's an immersive journey through labor, revolution, and the power of play (February 6 & 7, 2026)

LOS ANGELES, CA, JUNE 16, 2025 — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA)

announced today its [2025-26 season](#) under the leadership of **Executive and Artistic Director Edgar Miramontes**. Serving as a powerful testament to the role of the arts in shaping society and fostering unity, the season invites audiences to imagine a world built on connection and dialogue, where creativity serves as both an inspiring refuge and a catalyst for transformation. Through fearless and transformative theater, dance, and music, the season's bold lineup calls on audiences to engage more deeply in shaping a more compassionate and courageous society.

As borders become more intensified, Miramontes is committed to continued international exchange of ideas and learnings to encourage more empathy, connection, and shared understanding through presentations by acclaimed artists from around the world, spanning genre-defying jazz, Afro-Latin fusion, 21st-century classical music, and exciting new works in dance and theater. Highlights include Grammy-winning musicians **Arturo O'Farrill** and **Vijay Iyer**; rising stars jazz chanteuse **Lucía** and electronic musician and composer **Jlin**; Mexican collective **Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol** and Barcelona-based theatre company **Agrupación Señor Serrano**; and acclaimed visionaries such as **David Roussève**, **Tiago Rodrigues**, and **Charles Gaines**. Throughout the season, artists explore themes of identity, memory, resistance, grief, joy and family — offering moving reflections on the human experience, all while delivering electrifying jazz, big band swing and more.

"CAP UCLA's 2025-26 season is a testament to the power of the performing arts to connect and inspire," said Edgar Miramontes. "Even in challenging times, the arts stand as a lighthouse of resilience and exuberance, and a sanctuary of expression. Dance, theater, and music are forces of transformation, shaping history and forging the future. This season embodies that spirit with a lineup of trailblazing artists whose work fosters unity, dialogue, and possibility."

CAP UCLA 2025-26 SEASON PROGRAMS

Please [click here](#) for more information

[Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol](#)

[Centroamérica](#)

Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- The Mexican collective Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol explores Central America in their latest work, revealing a region marked by dictatorships, U.S. interventions, and cryptocurrency emergence. Integrating documentary elements and theatrical innovation, their performance vividly blends realism, fantasy, and political intimacy, challenging and reimagining the future.

[Arturo O'Farrill and The Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble](#)

Friday, October 3, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- A globally recognized force in the Latin jazz community, Arturo O'Farrill and The Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble are renowned for their musicality that bridges genres and cultures. The Grammy-winning group's sound is steeped in Latin jazz traditions and a history of collaboration.

[Joy Guidry](#)

Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Joy Guidry's new album, *Five Prayers*, is an intuitive convergence of sound, spirit, and radical self-expression. In the live performance, Guidry pairs the bassoon with low rumbling synths, warm electronic sounds, and poetry that reflects the artist's lived experience as a Black trans woman from the South.

[Lucía](#)

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Breakout 23-year-old jazz songstress Lucía, known for her collaborations with Natalia Lafourcade and Aloe Blacc, strikes out on her own with a debut album that is a perfect union of her Latin folk roots and American jazz influences.

[Vicky Chow performs *Surface Image* by Tristan Perich](#)

Presented in partnership with Piano Spheres

Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- New music superstar Vicky Chow presents the West Coast premiere of Tristan Perich's *Surface Image*, a concert-length work for solo piano and 40-channel 1-bit electronics.

[Milena Casado + Stephanie Richards Power Vibe](#)

Presented in partnership with the Angel City Jazz Festival

Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Called "a revelation" by *The New York Times*, trumpeter and composer Milena Casado is a compelling new voice in jazz. Blending fluid improvisation with acoustic and electronic experimentation, she bridges tradition and innovation. The evening opens with dynamic improviser and trumpeter Steph Richards, a dynamic improviser.

[David Roussève/REALITY](#)

[Daddy AF](#)

Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Celebrated dance-theater artist David Roussève's *Daddy AF* connects elements encoded in his body — including 600 years of genealogy, a roller coaster journey with HIV, and the shattering loss of a husband of 26 years — while revisiting movement from 35 years of dance-making.

[Tiago Rodrigues](#)

[By Heart](#)

Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- In the international hit *By Heart*, Tiago Rodrigues, the famed international director of the Avignon Festival, invites an audience to spend an evening learning a poem, a practice inspired by Rodrigues' grandmother's journey to blindness.

[Pony Cam Collective](#)

[Burnout Paradise](#)

Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- From Australia's award-winning collective Pony Cam, *Burnout Paradise* is a frenetic, physical, and darkly comedic showdown performed on treadmills. Four performers spiral through escalating tasks, confronting burnout, broken systems, and the struggle to set boundaries.

[Everyday of the Dead](#)

[Curated by Raquel Gutiérrez](#)

[L.A. Omnibus Series](#)

Fri, Nov 7, 2025, at 8 pm

The Nimoy

L.A. Omnibus is a forum for Los Angeles artists, writers, and thinkers to share ideas, pose questions, and uncover our unique communities. Deriving inspiration from the Latin meaning of Omnibus, "for all," these programs explore how our dynamic city is constantly shifting, settling, and remaking itself.

- Three visionary artists — **Carmina Escobar**, **Karen Tongson**, and **Megan Auster Rosen** — explore the rituals of love, grief and rebirth. Together, they reflect on how mourning shapes queer communities and celebrates the spirits of the departed.

[Wild Up](#)

[What I Call Sound](#)

Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

This performance will be available for purchase at a later date. Details to be announced.

- Wild Up at The Nimoy is a three-concert series celebrating ecstatic freedom in music, from improvisation to minimalism and beyond. Experience radical, expansive works by Eric Dolphy, Ornette Coleman, Cassandra Miller, Catherine Lamb and more. Full programs and special guests to be announced.

[Jlin](#)

Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Pulitzer Prize nominee and proud resident of Gary, Indiana, Jlin (Jerrilynn Patton) has quickly become one of the most distinctive composers in America and one of the most influential women in electronic music. A sought-after collaborator, Jlin has been commissioned by heavy-hitting artists such as Kronos Quartet, Third Coast Percussion, the Pathos Quartet, choreographers Wayne McGregor and Kyle Abraham, fashion designer Rick Owens and the visual artists Nick Cave and Kevin Beasley.

[Third Coast Percussion and Salar Nader. tabla](#)

[Murmurs In Time](#)

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Third Coast Percussion pays tribute to the late Zakir Hussain with *Murmurs in Time*, his final commissioned work. Featuring tabla virtuoso Salar Nader, the program also includes solo tabla and new works by Jessie Montgomery, Tigran Hamasyan, and Jlin — honoring Hussain's enduring legacy at CAP UCLA.

[d. Sabela grimes](#)
[Parable of Portals](#)

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 8 pm

This performance will be available for purchase at a later date. Details to be announced.

- *Parable of Portals* is a creative constellation of dance, transmedia storytelling, and music that dreams Octavia E. Butler's professional and personal writings into an immersive and interactive live performance experience.

[Laurel Halo \(Live piano & electronics\)](#)

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Experience Laurel Halo's latest works for piano and electronics — an immersive blend of ambient, drone, jazz, and synthesis. These boundary-pushing pieces explore rhythm and harmony with mesmerizing depth, previewing her 2026 album. Join us for a transportive journey through sound, sensation, and imagined sonic landscapes.

[Seth Parker Woods, Julia Bullock, and Conor Hanick](#)
[From Ordinary Things](#)

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Powerhouse musicians Seth Parker Woods, Julia Bullock and Conor Hanick unite for an evening that showcases titan composers of lyricism and storytelling. The musicians perform works by George Walker, John Tavener, Ravel, Andre Previn, Nina Simone and Tania Leon.

[Agrupación Señor Serrano](#)
[Birdie](#)

Friday, January 23, and Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 8 pm

MacGowan Little Theater, UCLA

- *Birdie* is a multimedia performance with live video, Hitchcock's *The Birds* revisited, scale models, and over 2,000 mini animals. Blending themes of war, smuggling and mass migration, three performers navigate this chaotic world with sharp wit, critical insight and a deep commitment to humankind.

[Patrick Blenkarn + Milton Lim](#)
[asses.masses](#)

Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 1 pm

The runtime for this experience is 7 hours, including breaks with food, all of which are included in the ticket price.

The Nimoy

- *asses.masses* is a cheeky, custom-made video game played live by the audience. Join a herd of unemployed donkeys fighting to reclaim their jobs in a post-industrial world. Best described as *Animal Farm* meets *Pokémon* meets *Final Fantasy*, it's a bold, immersive journey through labor, revolution, and the power of play.

[Alfredo Rodriguez and Pedrito Martinez](#)

Friday, February 13, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Grammy-nominated Cuban artists Alfredo Rodriguez and Pedrito Martinez deliver an electrifying duo performance blending virtuosic piano, Afro-Cuban percussion, and powerful vocals. Expect irresistible rhythms, bold improvisation, and a high-energy show that turns every seat into a dance floor.

[Attacca Quartet and Theo Bleckmann](#)

[David Lang's *note to a friend*](#)

Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- In this 60-minute chamber opera, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang reimagines three texts by iconic Japanese writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa. The result is a stunning and haunting monodrama, *note to a friend*, addressing our eternal human fascinations with death, love and family.

[Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company](#)

[Still/Here](#)

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 8 pm

Royce Hall

- Thirty years after its premiere, the historic *Still/Here* by Bill T. Jones returns. Created during the AIDS epidemic, *Still/Here* broke boundaries between the personal and the political through spoken text, video portraits, and breathtaking dance. This fearless work exemplified a uniquely American form of dance theater, defining and ultimately transcending its era.

[Charles Gaines](#)

[Manifestos 6: Ben Patterson](#)

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- In *Manifestos 6: Ben Patterson*, world-renowned artist Charles Gaines interprets Fluxus artist Benjamin Patterson's *Variations for Double-Bass* (c. 1962) — a word-based score for performance — through a musical notation system Gaines devised in 2004. The resulting composition pays homage to Patterson while demonstrating Gaines's engagement with systems of language, notation and sound.

[Brokentalkers](#)

[Bellow](#)

Friday March 20 & Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *Bellow* is a unique and astonishingly beautiful theater performance that tells the true story of Danny O'Mahony, the acclaimed accordionist who has dedicated his life to the preservation of traditional Irish music and to the mastery of his craft. Featuring an original electronic composition by Valgier Siggurdson, Bellow paints a portrait of one man's artistic journey.

[Wild Up](#)

[Perfect Offering](#)

Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

This performance will be available for purchase at a later date. Details to be announced.

- Wild Up at The Nimoy is a three-concert series celebrating ecstatic freedom in music, from improvisation to minimalism and beyond. Experience radical, expansive works by Eric Dolphy, Ornette Coleman, Cassandra Miller, Catherine Lamb and more.

[Tyshawn Sorey Trio](#)

Friday, April 10, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Tyshawn Sorey joins forces with pianist Aaron Diehl and bassist Harish Raghavan in a genre-blurring jazz trio. Celebrated for their bold reinterpretations and original works, the trio delivers emotionally charged performances that reshape the American Songbook with elegance, edge, and stunning musical chemistry.

[Sullivan Fortner Trio](#)

Friday, April 24, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Grammy-winning pianist, composer and bandleader Sullivan Fortner's massive talents have earned him a reputation as an inimitable and versatile artist. Fortner gained global acclaim for his work with Grammy-winner Cécile McLorin Salvant, cementing his status as one of today's most prolific and masterful jazz musicians.

[Luciana Souza](#)

[New Moon](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Grammy-nominated vocalist Luciana Souza and guitarist Marcel Camargo unite for *New Moon* — a spellbinding journey of voice, guitar, and strings. Blending Brazilian roots with bold new compositions, they create an intimate, soul-stirring sound that invites you to listen closely — and feel deeply.

[Jeremy Nedd](#)

[From Rock to Rock from rock to rock... aka how magnolia was taken for granite](#)

Sat, Mar 28, 2026, at 8 pm

Freud Playhouse, UCLA

- Inspired by a rapper's copyright lawsuit against a video game company, choreographer Jeremy Nedd's work explores "the Milly Rock," a viral dance move inspired by the rapper 2 Milly. In this study of the Milly Rock, Nedd and company question if any singular entity can own dance.

[Ain Gordon and Josh Quillen](#)

[Relics and Their Humans](#)

Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Anchored by family relics — a journal, a playlist, an interview — Josh Quillen and Ain Gordon craft a moving portrait of a father's ALS diagnosis, brought to life through bold performance and design. Through music and storytelling, audiences are drawn into a powerful journey of family, legacy, and the stories that shape us.

[Wild Up](#)

[The Center is Between Us](#)

Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

This performance will be available for purchase at a later date. Details to be announced.

- Wild Up at The Nimoy is a three-concert series celebrating ecstatic freedom in music, from improvisation to minimalism and beyond. Experience radical, expansive works by Eric Dolphy,

Ornette Coleman, Cassandra Miller, Catherine Lamb and more. Full programs and special guests to be announced.

Vijay Iyer and Wadada Leo Smith

Defiant Life

Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Composer-pianist Vijay Iyer and composer-trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith unite forces for an evening of duets that defy categorization in pursuit of an evocative, arresting sound. Deeply attuned and grounded in the present, Iyer and Smith perform cuts from their latest album, *Defiant Life*.

Design for Sharing

[Design for Sharing](#) (DFS), CAP UCLA's K-12 arts education program, provides free matinee performances and interactive art-making activities to young people from Los Angeles public schools. Thousands of students will experience the joy of live performance at The Nimoy and other CAP venues, or explore their own creativity with our in-class arts residencies. Most DFS programs also include the opportunity to explore the UCLA campus, providing our community's youth a first hand look at a public university.

Please [click here](#) for complete details and information about CAP UCLA's 2025-26 season.

June 16: CAP UCLA Member presale

June 17: CAP UCLA Newsletter Subscriber presale

June 18: General public on sale

[ABOUT CAP UCLA](#)

[ABOUT EDGAR MIRAMONTES](#)

Media Contact:

Lisa Bellamore

Crescent Communications

lbellamore@gmail.com

###