

# **CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA**

## **CAP UCLA Announces 2026–27 Season: Where Art Meets the Moment**

**Experience visionary artists pushing boundaries and  
reshaping perceptions across music, movement, theater,  
film, and more**



**June 22: CAP UCLA Member presale**

**June 23: CAP UCLA Newsletter Subscriber presale**

**June 24: General public on sale at 10 am**

**[Watch the 2026-27 season trailer here](#)**

**CAP UCLA 2026-27 Season Highlights:**

- Internationally renowned dance company **Akram Khan Company** presents its final touring production, ***Thikra: Night of Remembering***, a journey through tradition imagined as an annual gathering where past and present converge. (October 10, 2026)
- ***Red All Night***, the second entry in a horror film trilogy by Los Angeles based artist duo **Beck+Col**, receives a screening accompanied by live performance elements followed by a Q&A. Starting as a traditional slasher set in suburbia, the film takes a psychedelic turn when one of the victims escapes into an eerie forest inhabited by monstrous plant life. (October 30, 2026)
- CAP UCLA launches **Far Away, Here**, a multi-year opera initiative presenting U.S. premieres of contemporary operas, with ***Kafka's Letter to His Father***, an ambient chamber opera transforming one of the 20th century's most powerful literary documents into a gripping theatrical experience. (November 12–14, 2026)
- Experimental pop artist **SPELLING** hosts ***The Unknown Exalted***, a live composition built from new and unreleased material performed with musicians responding in real time, offering a rare glimpse into the moment when songs are born. (December 12, 2026)
- A revolution comes to the stage with the world premiere of ***Pussy, King of the Pirates***, a punk operetta written by **Kathy Acker & the Mekons** starring **Kathleen Hanna** (Bikini Kill, Le Tigre), **Alice Bag** and **Adele Bertei** about a group of girls following their pirate dreams to escape oppressive social structures and conventional femininity. (January 8-9, 2027)
- Celebrated violinist **Jennifer Koh** and Grammy-nominated composer-pianist **Vijay Iyer** explore loss, healing and celebration in the new musical work, ***Scenes of Living and Dying***. (January 16, 2027)
- The pioneering **Kronos Quartet** performs an all-Glass program on **Philip Glass' 90th birthday**, honoring one of the defining composers of our time with an evening spanning his string quartets, film scores for *Mishima* and *Dracula*, and more. (January 31, 2027)
- Grammy-winning percussion quartet **Sō Percussion** joins forces with **Helado Negro** and **Kate Stables** (This Is the Kit) for ***Just Like the World***, an adventurous collaboration of songs moving between bilingual electronic folk, Latin-influenced grooves, alt-folk and unexpected instrumental colors. (February 10, 2027)
- Award-winning choreographer **Shamel Pitts** continues his research exploring Black embodiment, aliveness and human connection with ***Marks of RED***, a work of magical realism told through and featuring the viewpoints of six women. (February 27, 2027)
- Grammy-nominated Indian singer and flautist **Varijashree Venugopal** explores the musical inspirations that have shaped her 30-year journey, blending South Indian

Carnatic traditions, with harmonies, synth soundscapes, and bass-driven experimentation. (April 16, 2027)

**LOS ANGELES, CA, JUNE 16, 2026 — UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA)** announced today its [2026-27 season](#) under the leadership of **Executive and Artistic Director Edgar Miramontes** featuring performances at UCLA's Nimoy Theater, Royce Hall and the Freud Playhouse. With artists spanning generations, cultures and continents, this season highlights the power of art to foster connection and exchange. Audiences are invited to experience radically imaginative performances across dance, music, film, experimental opera, documentary theater, modern and multimedia presentations and more that entertain, inspire and challenge, while asking profound and urgent questions about the world we live in today.

“Every season is shaped by the question of what this moment asks of us,” said Edgar Miramontes. “CAP UCLA’s 2026–27 season is an attempt at an answer. It is a season about what it means to be alive together, right now, explored with artists whose works connect past and present, and reveal how joy and grief, beauty and struggle, are deeply intertwined. Together, through the art of performance, we are reminded that our shared moments are what unite us and help us imagine where we might go next.”

Contemporary classical music takes center stage this season, featuring some of the most compelling composers and performers of our time. Grammy Award-winning ensemble **Kronos Quartet** celebrates the 90th birthday of Philip Glass; **Wild Up** presents a program anchored by a new work by multi-instrumentalist and composer Patrick Shiroishi; **Piano Spheres** performs German composer Enno Poppe’s “Rundfunk”; Grammy-winning cellist **Andrew Yee** appears on two programs: one with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Caroline Shaw** featuring music from their new album, *Or, The Whale*, and with the **Rothko String Quartet**, performing music from composer **inti figgis-vizueta**’s debut record *Music for Transitions*; **Gloria Cheng** and **Ralph van Raat** perform a program of Boulez, Feldman, Cage and more; **Nadia Sirota** celebrates her new album, *Music For Violas*, and Grammy-winning ensemble **Roomful of Teeth** returns.

The season showcases a dynamic range of contemporary dance voices including a duo project from two-time Bessie Award-winning choreographer **Caleb Teicher** and master percussive dancer **Nic Gareiss**; a double bill from Taiwan-based **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre**; the return of choreographer and performer **Shamel Pitts** and UCLA’s own **Victoria Marks**, and London-based **Akram Khan Company**’s final touring production.

CAP UCLA continues to welcome today’s most provocative artists who push boundaries and challenge convention. Highlights include the world premiere of the punk operetta **Pussy, King of the Pirates**, written by **Kathy Acker and The Mekons** as both a novel and a musical album, starring **Kathleen**

**Hanna, Alice Bag, and Adele Bertei**; Cabaret artist **Meow Meow** and her unique brand of subversive and sublime art; theater makers **Cosme and Óscar Castro, Tiago Rodrigues, and Mohamed El Khatib** whose works shed light on the unseen; a film-opera collaboration by **Philip Miller and Tshegofatso Moeng** harnessing art as a tool for resistance; and a cinematic presentation by the L.A.-based multimedia collective **Beck+Col**. Globally renowned singer, flautist, and composer **Varijashree Venugopal** brings her distinctive fusion of South Indian Carnatic traditions and contemporary sounds to the stage in an L.A. premiere performance, **Yuka Honda's** multimedia performance draws inspiration from farming, **Yvette Janine Jackson** premieres new music, while **Dorian Wood** pays tribute to Sinéad O'Connor with a performance of her groundbreaking 1990 album, *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*.

## CAP UCLA 2026-27 SEASON PROGRAMS

Please [click here](#) for more information

### FILM

#### **Philip Miller and Tshegofatso Moeng**

#### ***Nkoli: A Fierce and Fabulous Life***

Fri, Oct 2, 2026 at 3:30 pm

The Nimoy

Presented in collaboration with the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music as part of the [Opera | Black | Queer symposium](#)

- Philip Miller's *Nkoli: A Fierce and Fabulous Life* is a groundbreaking theatrical production honouring the life and legacy of Simon Nkoli, a gay anti-apartheid freedom fighter. This film of the operatic work stands as testimony to the power of art as a tool for resistance.

### CONCERT PERFORMANCE, SOUND INSTALLATION

#### **Yvette Janine Jackson**

#### **With Radio Opera Workshop**

Fri, Oct 2, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Award-winning composer and sound artist Yvette Janine Jackson premieres new music with her Radio Opera Workshop, weaving together composed and improvised soundscapes into immersive experiences that journey through shared histories and speculative futures. The evening also features a conversation with the composer and sound installations in the lobby.

### DANCE

#### **Akram Khan Company**

#### ***Thikra: Night of Remembering***

Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 8 pm

Royce Hall

- In Akram Khan Company's final touring production, the past and present converge in a journey through tradition. This contemporary and Bharatanatyam dance performance is imagined as an annual gathering, a tribe of women come together for one night only to awaken the spirit of those who came before them.

## DANCE

**Victoria Marks**

***A Deer Walks into a Dance***

Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- In *A Deer Walks into a Dance*, choreographer Victoria Marks explores connection in a world of division, using movement, text and the deconstruction of a joke to question whether humans are truly capable of telling their own stories.

## DANCE/LIVE MUSIC

**Aymeric Hainaux and François Chaignaud**

**CCN de Caen en Normandie (FR)**

***Mirlitons***

Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- A graceful yet unrelenting duel of beatbox and percussions, *Mirlitons* is a marathon vocal and dance duet from musician Aymeric Hainaux and choreographer François Chaignaud. Set on an intimate stage reminiscent of an arena, this tour de force places rhythm, both in sound and movement, at the forefront. This performance will be staged in the round.

## FILM + LIVE PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

**Beck+Col**

**Red All Night**

Friday, October 30, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *Red All Night*, the second entry in a horror film trilogy, takes place in an alternate universe where the evil Smile finally meets his match in a collective of eerie, colorful forest monsters. When a figure from his past returns for revenge, the two battle it out while a horde of zombies swarms around them. The film will be accompanied by live performance elements

## OPERA

**FAR AWAY, HERE**, a new multi-year international opera initiative

***Kafka's Letter to His Father***

by Czech composer, conductor and educator Jiří Trtik,

with libretto by Czech poet Jan Škrob

in collaboration with Brightwork Ensemble and The Opera of Timur

Thursday, November 12

Friday, November 13

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *Kafka's Letter to His Father* is the inaugural production of Far Away, Here CAP UCLA's new multi-year initiative presenting U.S. premieres of contemporary opera from Europe, Asia, and Latin America, curated by Timur Bekbosunov with Edgar Miramontes. Performed in Czech with English subtitles.

## MUSIC

**Gloria Cheng and Ralph van Raat**

***Resonant Encounters: Boulez, Feldman, Cage & Beyond***

Presented in partnership with Piano Spheres

Friday, November 20, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Pianists and UCLA faculty Gloria Cheng and Ralph van Raat pay homage to the legacy of Pierre Boulez, the unparalleled French composer, conductor and cultural visionary who transformed postwar contemporary music and left an indelible mark on the sound of the 20th century.

## DANCE

### Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan *Blue Hour / Beckoning: A Double Bill*

Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 8 pm

Royce Hall

- A double bill of two foundational works by Artistic Director Cheng Tsung-lung, Cloud Gate's *Blue Hour* and *Beckoning* mark a shift in Tsung-lung's artistry, from quiet self-reflection to movement inspired by Taiwanese temple processions.

## MUSIC

### inti figgis-vizueta's *Music for Transitions* with Andrew Yee and Rothko String Quartet

Friday, December 4, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Composer inti figgis-vizueta presents her debut record *Music for Transitions*, with a performance featuring Grammy Award-winning cellist Andrew Yee and the Germany-based Rothko String Quartet. Exploring Indigenous heritage and trans identity through soundscapes, the album exemplifies figgis-vizueta's deep commitment to personal liberation through group improvisation.

## THEATER

### Meow Meow *Feline Festive*

Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- This holiday season, enter the gloriously off-kilter world of international chanteuse and comedic force of nature, Meow Meow. Part cabaret, part concert and part delightfully unpredictable audience encounter, *Feline Festive* wraps you in musical wonder, peals of laughter and just the right amount of chaos.

## FILM

### POOR Magazine and Green Diamond Projects present *Crushing Wheelchairs*

Friday, December 11, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- A film created by currently and formerly unhoused residents, *Crushing Wheelchairs* follows a community struggling to find hope amid gentrification, domestic violence and the growing brutality of the forces around them.

## MUSIC

### SPELLLING

#### *The Unknown Exalted*

Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *The Unknown Exalted* is a live composition built from new and unreleased material in its earliest form. Featuring a small ensemble of musicians responding in real time without prior knowledge of the material, the performance offers a rare glimpse into the moment where songs are born.

The work draws from SPELLING's (Chrystia "Tia" Cabral's) recent practice as a creative instructor, where she has developed methods to help artists access intuition through personalized prompt systems inspired by Brian Eno's oblique strategies, encouraging risk, spontaneity, and new ways of thinking.

## **PUNK OPERETTA**

### ***Pussy, King of the Pirates***

**Written by Kathy Acker and the Mekons**

Friday, January 8 & Saturday, January 9, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *Pussy, King of the Pirates*, the punk operetta, features a group of girls dreaming of a buried treasure and becoming pirates as they escape oppressive social structures and conventional femininity. Written by Kathy Acker and The Mekons as both a novel and a musical album, it was performed only once a few months before Acker's death in 1997. The operetta will present a revolution on stage, unleashing the visceral power of live punk with fearless experimental theater to create a transgressive, provocative, genre-obliterating experience. Starring Kathleen Hanna, Alice Bag, and Adele Bertei.

## **MUSIC**

### ***Music from Scenes of Living and Dying***

**Jennifer Koh, violin**

**Vijay Iyer, composer, piano, electronics**

Saturday, January 16, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Celebrated violinist Jennifer Koh joins Grammy-nominated composer-pianist Vijay Iyer for *Scenes of Living and Dying*, a new musical work about loss, healing and celebration, that offers a sense of communion across life's existential divide.

## **THEATER**

### ***Cuervo***

Friday, January 22, 2027 at 8 pm

Saturday, January 23, 2027 at 8pm

The Nimoy

- Cosme and Óscar Castro, sons of the late Chilean playwright Óscar "Cuervo" Castro, bring their father's unpublished theatrical autobiography to life. Blending the audiovisual with storytelling, *Cuervo* traces their father's time in Chilean concentration camps, serving as a testament to the power of art as resistance.

## **MUSIC**

### **Kronos Quartet**

Sunday, January 31, 2027 at 4 pm

Freud Playhouse, UCLA

- On Philip Glass' 90th birthday, Kronos Quartet performs an all-Glass program honoring one of the defining composers of our time. The evening spans his string quartets, film scores for *Mishima* and *Dracula*, and the Quartettsatz from *50 for the Future*, plus reimaginings by Jlin, Aftab Darvishi and others.

## **THEATER**

### ***Catarina***

Friday, February 5 & Saturday, February 6, 2027, at 8 pm

Freud Playhouse, UCLA

- Playwright Tiago Rodrigues introduces audiences to a family with a unique tradition: killing fascists. When the youngest of the family, Catarina, refuses to kill her fascist, familial chaos and debate breaks out.

## **MUSIC**

### **Helado Negro, Kate Stables and Sō Percussion**

#### ***Just Like the World***

Wednesday, February 10, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *Just Like the World* brings together Sō Percussion with Helado Negro and Kate Stables (This Is the Kit) for an evening of songs built through rhythm, texture and shared invention. Moving between bilingual electronic folk, Latin-influenced grooves, alt-folk and unexpected instrumental colors, the program reveals Sō Percussion as an adventurous engine of collaboration.

## **MUSIC**

### **“Rundfunk” by Enno Poppe**

February 13, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Presented in partnership with Piano Spheres

- Piano Spheres presents “Rundfunk,” a tour de force work for nine synthesizers that revels in the historic sounds from the ‘60s and ‘70s originating from the music studios of European broadcasting services – a declaration of love to the medium of radio. (US premiere)

## **MUSIC**

### **Wild Up at The Nimoy**

*after it's over, it's gone in the air.*

Saturday, February 20, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- In a program anchored by a new composition by multi-instrumentalist and composer Patrick Shiroishi, Wild Up becomes an improvising ensemble, creating a gateway between jazz, improvisation, and contemporary classical music — a seamless alchemy of sound shaped by Shiroishi with music director Christopher Rountree.

## **DANCE**

### **Shamel Pitts | TRIBE**

#### ***Marks of RED***

Saturday, February 27, 2027 at 8 pm

Royce Hall

- A work of magical realism told through and featuring the viewpoints of six women, *Marks of RED* continues award-winning choreographer Shamel Pitts’ research exploring Black embodiment, aliveness and human connection. *Marks of RED* is an Afrofuturistic meditation on the “womb space,” divining the effect that memory has on our experiences, senses, bodies, reality, and our imaginative possibilities.

## **THEATER**

### **Mohamed El Khatib**

#### ***La Vie Secrète des Vieux***

Thursday, March 4 & Friday, March 5, 2027, at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Mohamed El Khatib gathers the testimonies of a group of elders from all walks of life in a documentary theater work that explores love, intimacy and desire in the aging body.

## MUSIC

### Roomful of Teeth

Saturday, March 20, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Roomful of Teeth is a Grammy-winning, genre-defying vocal group dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice. By engaging collaboratively with artists, thinkers, and community leaders from around the world, the group seeks to uplift and amplify all voices while creating and performing meaningful and adventurous music.

## MUSIC

### Andrew Yee and Caroline Shaw

#### *Or, The Whale*

Saturday, March 27, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Caroline Shaw and Andrew Yee perform works that reflect both a musical partnership and a deep friendship, featuring music from their new album, *Or, The Whale*, alongside recontextualised works by other composers.

## MUSIC

### Nadia Sirota

#### *Music for Violas*

Saturday, April 10, 2027 at 8pm

The Nimoy

- Acclaimed violist Nadia Sirota celebrates her new album, *Music For Violas*, with a performance of solo and ensemble works that reveal the viola's astonishing range. Joined by a virtuosic ensemble of Los Angeles-based violists, the concert presents an expansive portrait of an often-misunderstood instrument.

## MUSIC

### Varijashree Venugopal

#### *Vari - Live*

Friday, April 16, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Varijashree Venugopal's full length original work *Vari* brings together the musical inspirations that have shaped her 30-year journey as a student, singer, composer, songwriter, performer and flautist. This collective of Vari's original music and songwriting is deeply rooted in the Raaga and Taala (Melody and Rhythm) concepts of Carnatic music, whilst Vari explores the new sonic worlds of modern music. The South Indian traditional sounds of the Mridangam and Morsing, blend in with synth soundscapes and bass lines, resulting in a meaningful confluence of two worlds.

## MUSIC

### Dorian Wood

#### *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*

Saturday, April 24, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Anti-disciplinary artist Dorian Wood performs Sinéad O'Connor's groundbreaking 1990 album *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got* in its entirety, reimagined in an intimate, emotionally raw piano-and-voice format that pays tribute to the late singer-songwriter.

## DANCE

**Caleb Teicher and Nic Gareiss**

***Ear to the Ground***

Saturday May 15, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- Two-time Bessie Award winner Caleb Teicher joins forces with Nic Gareiss for *Ear to the Ground*, an evening-length duo collaboration that finds the performers intermingling tap, swing, Appalachian clogging and Irish step dance, constructing a singular, genre-defying encounter of percussive movement.

**MULTIMEDIA/MUSIC**

**eucademix**

***A Mouth Full of Dirt***

Saturday, May 22, 2027 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

- *A Mouth Full of Dirt* is a multimedia performance by Yuka Honda, co-founder of Cibo Matto, performing as eucademix. Inspired by her work with Star Route Farm in the Catskills, the piece transforms the farmer's life into a sensory meditation on struggle, nourishment, pleasure and renewal through electronic music and live visuals.

Please [click here](#) for complete details and information about CAP UCLA's 2026-27 season.

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[ABOUT CAP UCLA](#)

[ABOUT EDGAR MIRAMONTES](#)

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