



Photo by Camilla Greenwell

Akram Khan Company
Thikra: Night of Remembering

Sun, Oct 11, 2026 at 7 pm
Royce Hall

**CENTER
FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE
UCLA**

WELCOME TO THE 2026–27 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.

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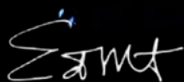
Mirlitons — Photo by Martin Argyroglo

Every season, I sit with the question: what does this particular moment ask of us?

The program you hold in your hands or are reading on a screen is my attempt at an answer. It is a season that resists easy summaries, but if I had to offer one, I would say this: It is a season about what it means to be alive, together, right now — to carry the past in our bodies, to long for connection across difference, to reckon with beauty and violence, and to find that joy and grief are rarely as far apart as we imagine.

The body remembers what the mind forgets. It carries history in its muscles, grief in its breath, joy in its feet. This season, we have built a program around that truth — and around the artists who know it most deeply. Our 2026–27 season is organized by a single conviction: that memory is not the past. It is the present, living within us. And what we do with it — how we mourn it, celebrate it, transmit it, resist it — is one of the most urgent questions of our time. Whose stories are told? Whose voices are heard? Whose lives are made visible? These are not abstract questions — they are the ones our artists answer every time they take the stage. I invite you to gather with us, to stay alert together, and to discover what we are capable of when we refuse to look away.

With hope and imagination,



Edgar Miramontes

Executive and Artistic Director





Photo by Camilla Greenwell

CAP UCLA presents

Akram Khan Company

Thikra: Night of Remembering

Sun, Oct 11, 2026 at 7 pm
Royce Hall

Program duration: 65 minutes
No intermission

Audience Advisory: This performance contains loud noises and harmless smoke effects



THE INN
AT UCLA

Support provided by Diane Levine. Additional support provided by the Royce Center Circle Endowment and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund.

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREDITS

Director & Choreographer: Akram Khan

Visual Director / Costume and Scenography: Manal AlDowayan

Narrative Concept: Manal AlDowayan & Akram Khan

Associate Artistic Director & Coach: Mavin Khoo

Music Composer & Soundscape Designer: Aditya Prakash

Sound Designer: Gareth Fry

Lighting Designer: Zeynep Kepekli

Associate Lighting Designer: Imogen Clarke

Dramaturge: Blue Pieta

Rehearsal Director: Angela Towler

Performed by: Laura Bufano, Amrita Doshi, Ekta Doshi, Shreya Kannan, Mythili Prakash, Nikita Rao, Joy Alpuerto Ritter, Rohini Shetty, Elpida Skourou, Lani Yamanaka

Producing Director: Farooq Chaudhry

Executive Director: Isabel Tamen

Technical Manager: Michael Cunningham

Production of Visual Direction: Carla Giachello

Company Manager: Svitlana Bil

Touring Production Manager: Harry Abbott

Technical Manager: Michael Cunningham

Sound Supervisor: Matt Armstrong

Lighting Supervisor: Stephane Dejours

Wardrobe Supervisor: Anne-Marie Bigby

Costume Maker: Peggy Housset

Set Builder: Tin Shed Scenery

Musicians (in recorded composition): Aditya Prakash, Ananya Ashok, Loulwa Al Sharif, Melanie Pappenheim, Sohini Alam, Zafer Tawil, Sumesh Narayanan, Layth Sidiq, Megan Shung, Jay Julio, Naseem Alatrash, Guhan Venkataraman, Doyeon Kim, Dimitris Menexopoulos, Isaac Alderson, Sushma Soma, Praveen Sparsh, V. Prakash Ilayaraja, N Deepan, N Vijay, M Rajendran, Chris Votek

Featured music in score:

“Gyura Beli Belo Platno” by London Bulgarian Choir
Directed by Dessislava Stefanova

“The Elephant’s Funeral” by Sushma Soma with Aditya Prakash

Commissioned by: Wadi AlFann, Valley of the Arts, AIUla

Primary Co-producing Partner: Bagri Foundation

Indoor adaptation co-produced by: Berliner Festspiele, Brown Arts Institute at Brown University, Montpellier Danse Festival, Pina Bausch Zentrum, Sadler’s Wells, Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Théâtre de la Ville Paris.

Supported by: Arts Council England

North American Touring Representation is by Moon Artists Management, Allen Moon, President

Special thanks to Light Contrast, Mrs Khan, Yuko, Sayuri, Kenzo & Ayana Khan, Moon Artists Management Representatives: Allen Moon, Amanda Bryant, Marcela Giannini, Ursula Bohlen & David Lieberman



Photo by Camilla Greenwell

AKRAM KHAN COMPANY TEAM

Artistic Director: Akram Khan

Associate Artistic Director: Mavin Khoo

Producing Director: Farooq Chaudhry

Executive Director: Isabel Tamen

Finance Consultant: Emma Porteous

Technical Manager: Michael Cunningham

Learning & Engagement Producer: Emma Bellerby

Marketing & Communications Manager: Chelsea Robinson

Touring & Visa Manager: Svitlana Bil

Office & Legacy Manager: Emma Saville

Assistant Producer: Tala Lee-Turton

Operations Manager: Harriet Taylor

Manager to Akram Khan: Natalie Payne (Maternity Leave)

Manager to Akram Khan (Maternity Cover): Laura Boulter

Board of Directors

Ms. Dipali Sahni (Chair)

Ms. Anita Kirpal

Ms. Nicole Newman

Ms. Mary O'Reilly

Mr. Denis Shafranik

Company Secretary: Emma Porteous

ABOUT AKRAM KHAN COMPANY

In July 1999 in the foyer of the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, an animated and curiosity-filled conversation took place between the young gifted dancer/choreographer Akram Khan and an ambitious former dancer and just recently graduated arts manager Farooq Chaudhry. That conversation laid the foundation stone for a dynamic collaboration, culminating in the creation of Akram Khan Company one year later.

Inspired by Akram Khan's early training in the Indian classical dance form kathak, and the hybrid language that organically emerged when Akram's kathak training encountered contemporary dance in his teens, a vision began to form, fuelled by a desire to learn and create through collaboration with the very best people across all the disciplines in the arts.

The rules were simple: take risks, think big and daring, explore the unfamiliar, avoid compromise and tell stories through dance that are compelling and relevant, with artistic integrity.

In 25 years, Akram Khan Company is now undisputedly one of the foremost innovative dance companies in the world. The programmes range from kathak and modern solos to artist-to-artist collaborations and ensemble productions. The Company has a major international presence and enjoys busy tours that reach out to many cultures and peoples across the globe. Akram Khan has been the recipient of numerous international dance awards, the most notable being an Olivier Award for his solo production *DESH* in 2012.

A milestone in the Company's journey was the creation of a section of the London Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in 2012.

Akram Khan Company enjoys artistic association with Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, Curve in Leicester, and other leading venues and festivals around the world.

COMPANY PRODUCTIONS

Thikra: Night of Remembering (2025), *Jungle Book reimagined* (2022), *Chotto Xenos* (2020), *Outwitting the Devil* (2019), *XENOS* (2018), *Until the Lions* (2016), *Chotto Desh* (2015), *Kaash* (revival, 2014), *TOROBACA* (2014), *iTMOi* (2013), *DESH* (2011), *Vertical Road* (2010), *Gnosis* (2009), *In-I* (2008), *bahok* (2008), *Sacred Monsters* (2006), *zero degrees* (2005), *Variations for Vibes, Strings & Pianos* (2006), *Third Catalogue* (2005), *ma* (2004), *Ronin* (2003), *Kaash* (2002), *Polaroid Feet* (2001), *Related Rocks* (2001), *Rush* (2000), *Fix* (2000), *Loose in Flight* (2000)

SYNOPSIS

The Matriarch, the elder and leader of the gathering returns for one night of exchange. She understands the power of all its elements. Beside her stand two distinct forces: the Vessel and the Shaman - one who evokes, and one who becomes the ritual conduit. Together, they lead the tribe to summon their ancestor spirit from the Knowledge Rock.

She symbolises the past, the ruins and the memory of generations that have lived through the cyclic flaws of humankind. She returns to her tribe for one night of exchange.

This night is a moment to reflect on their collective past. Through the memory of their history and a colonised past, the tribe finds space to heal, to transcend as they surrender to the ritual of life and death.

In this reconnection, there is release. And only then does the ancestral spirit return to rest, until another year.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Akram Khan

Director/ Choreographer

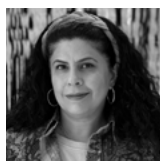
Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated and respected dance artists of today. In over 25 years, he has created a body of work that has contributed significantly to the arts in the UK and abroad. His reputation has been built on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and relevant productions such as *Thikra: Night of Remembering*, *GIGENIS: the generation of the Earth*, *Jungle Book reimaged*, *Outwitting the Devil*, *XENOS*, *Until the Lions*, *Kaash*, *iTMOi*, *DESH*, *Vertical Road*, *Gnosis* and *zero degrees*.

As an instinctive and natural collaborator, Khan has been a magnet to world-class artists from other cultures and disciplines. His previous collaborators include the National Ballet of China, actress Juliette Binoche, ballerina Sylvie Guillem, choreographers/ dancers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galván, singer Kylie Minogue, indie rock band Florence and the Machine, visual artists Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley and Tim Yip, writer Hanif Kureishi and composers Steve Reich, Nitin Sawhney, Jocelyn Pook and Ben Frost. Khan's work is recognised as being profoundly moving, in which his intelligently crafted storytelling is effortlessly intimate and epic. Described by the Financial Times as an artist "who speaks tremendously of tremendous things", a highlight of his career was the creation of a section of the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that was received with unanimous acclaim.

Khan has also built close collaborations with leading ballet institutions, including English National Ballet, for which he created *Dust*, his acclaimed reimaging of *Giselle*, followed by *Creature* and more recently The Royal Danish Ballet on *Lady Macbeth*.

Khan has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his career including the Laurence Olivier Award, the Bessie Award (New York Dance and Performance Award), the prestigious ISPA Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award at the Edinburgh International

Festival, the South Bank Sky Arts Award and ten Critics' Circle National Dance Awards for his Company (AKC). Khan was awarded an MBE for services to dance in 2005. In 2022, he was announced as the new Chancellor of De Montfort University, and he is also an Honorary Graduate of Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, University of London as well as Roehampton and De Montfort Universities, and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Khan is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London as well as Curve.



Manal AlDowayan

Visual Director / Costume and Scenography

Embracing diverse media, Manal AlDowayan's work encompasses black and white photography, sculpture, video, sound, neon and large-scale participatory installations. Her artistic practice revolves around themes of invisibility, active forgetting, archives, and collective memory, with a large focus on the status of women and their representation. In the past twenty years of her career she has been awarded several commissions that produced engaging work that both question the status of society and at the same time it tells its stories.

Manal holds a Master's Degree in Contemporary Art Practice in Public Spheres from the Royal College of Art, London and her works can be found in the collections of the British Museum, London; Centre Pompidou collection in Paris, Guggenheim Collection in New York and Abu Dhabi, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha. In 2024, AlDowayan represented Saudi Arabia at the 60th Venice Biennale.



Aditya Prakash

Composer & Soundscape Designer

Aditya Prakash, an award-winning singer and composer known for his powerful and expressive voice, is one of the foremost young practitioners of Carnatic music. At sixteen, Aditya became one of the youngest musicians ever to tour and perform with sitar maestro Ravi Shankar. He has collaborated with a diverse range of artists, including sitarist Anoushka Shankar, Jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan, electronic experimental artist Karsh Kale, and the acclaimed dancer and choreographer Akram Khan. He is mentored by two prolific Carnatic artists: T.M. Krishna and R.K. Shriramkumar. Aditya's current focus in composition is pushing boundaries within the classical tradition. In his latest solo album, *ISOLASHUN*, he explores the weight of privilege and the boundaries of tradition in an entirely new creative form. He is currently composing the music for three evening-length dance productions by Akram Khan as well as touring his own solo gig-theatre production *ROOM-i-Nation*, which explores themes of identity, migration and tradition.



Gareth Fry

Sound Designer

Gareth Fry is a multi-award-winning sound designer, best known for his cutting-edge work in theatre. His dance credits include *The Language of Kindness* (Wayward), *Stones of Venice*, *Invisible Cities* (MIF, 59 Productions & Rambert), *Othello* (Frantic Assembly), *John* (DV8). Other production credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*; *Complicité's The Encounter*; *Bedknobs & Broomsticks*, and the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games. He is the author of *Sound Design for the Stage*. His awards for best sound design include three Olivier Awards, two Tony Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, two Helpmann Awards and an Evening Standard award.



Zeynep Kepekli
Lighting Designer

Zeynep Kepekli is a London-based lighting designer whose work spans dance, theatre, opera, ballet, and site-specific projects and installations worldwide.

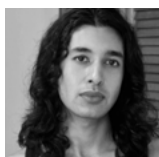
With a background in art and design, her creations are deeply influenced by nature, architecture, and the interplay of bodies in space, often exploring themes of geography, belonging, and the relationship between natural light and landscapes. Recent credits include *The Little Mermaid* (Miranda Cromwell), *Gigenis: The generation of the Earth* (Akram Khan), *Festival of New Choreography* (The Royal Ballet), *California Connections* (Yorke Dance Project), *The Meaning of Zong* (Tom Morris), and *Common Grounds* (Pina Bausch Foundation).



Mavin Khoo
Associate Artistic Director / Coach

Mavin Khoo is internationally recognised as a dance artist, teacher, choreographer and artist scholar.

Khoo is considered one of the few Bharatanatyam male soloists to have carved a niche for himself as an international touring solo artist, whilst still regularly dancing at all major venues in India. As a contemporary dance artist he has worked with Wayne McGregor, Akram Khan, Shobana Jeyasingh, Ivan Perez Aviles and others. In his role as Associate Artistic Director at Akram Khan Company, he acts as lead rehearsal director and stager for Akram Khan's repertoire. He also acts as repetiteur to Akram Khan's work with ballet companies, coaching and staging productions such as *Dust*, *Giselle* and *Creature* for English National Ballet, and most recently *Lady Macbeth* for the Royal Danish Ballet.



Blue Pieta
Dramaturge

Blue Pieta is an artist, writer, director and dramaturge based in the UK. They explore themes of mysticism, the absurd and mythology, merging practices of ancient storytelling with contemporary expression. They foreground the epistemologies of the Global South to invoke a 'New Surrealism' rooted in ancestral, ecological and

pre-colonial world views. They previously worked on *Nine Songs* (2022), directed by Farooq Chaudhry OBE with music by Jocelyn Pook, which premiered at Wadi Al Fann, AlUla. Their ongoing collaboration with T.S. Eliot Prize-winner Bhanu Kapil stages poetry through dance, theatre and music. Their work has been featured by Serpentine Galleries, Courtauld Gallery, and Britten Pears Arts, and presented at venues including The Place, Royal Court Theatre and the Horse Hospital. Blue studied History of Art at the University of Cambridge and Fine Art at Central Saint Martins.



Angela Towler
Rehearsal Director

Angela trained at London Contemporary Dance School and went on to have a long professional career dancing with Richard Alston Dance

Company and Rambert Dance Company. Working under the direction of Christopher Bruce, she danced leading roles in the much-loved *Ghost Dances* and *Rooster*. During her time at Rambert, she performed many leading roles by internationally celebrated choreographers, including Wayne McGregor, Mats Ek, Jiří Kylián, and Merce Cunningham, to name a few. She formed her own company and choreographed many works for Rambert, the BBC, ITV, and live events. She continued her work with Rambert as Rehearsal Director before leaving in 2019. She then joined the artistic team at The Royal Ballet School and Elmhurst Ballet School, teaching contemporary technique. In 2021, Angela was invited to join Akram Khan Company as Rehearsal Director, a role that sees her touring both across the UK and internationally, alongside working independently with Akram Khan to restage his repertoire. Deeply passionate about education, Angela continues to work extensively with leading companies and vocational schools worldwide, delivering technique classes and workshops.



Laura Bufano

Dancer

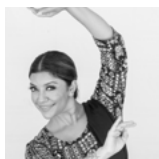
Laura Bufano was born in Italy and began studying Bharatanatyam at a very young age at the Sangam Academy under the guidance of Lucrezia Maniscotti. At the same time, she pursued classical and contemporary dance training at the École Supérieure de Danse Rosella Hightower in Cannes, where she earned both her diploma and degree in dance. During the 2024/2025 season, she joins the Hungarian company Székesfehérvár Balett Színház as an apprentice, focussing on contemporary repertoire. In the summer of 2025, she performed as a member of the corps de ballet at the Sferisterio Theatre in Macerata.



Amrita Doshi

Dancer

Amrita Doshi is a New York-based Bharatanatyam dancer who has trained extensively under Gurus Viji Prakash and Mythili Prakash. She has toured nationally and internationally with the Mythili Prakash Dance Ensemble, Jiva Dance (Sonali Skandan, with mentorship from Maya Kulkarni), Shakti Dance Company (Viji Prakash), and Prakriti Dance Company (Kasi Aysola), with performances presented at festivals including Jacob's Pillow and Drive East. Her artistic practice is shaped by dance as a medium for connection, healing, spirituality and storytelling. Rooted in a deep commitment to community, Amrita co-founded NYC Adavu in 2018 and has produced and curated performances that uplift emerging South Asian artists. Most recently, she created her first dance film, *Aharya*, supported by Jiva Dance and IMGE Dance. Beyond dance, Amrita is also a co-founder of South Asian SOAR, a national organisation committed to preventing and ending gender-based violence.

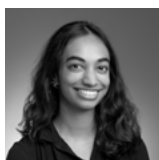


Ekta Doshi

Dancer

Ekta Doshi is a Bay Area-based dance artist whose practice is rooted in Bharatanatyam and shaped by contemporary movement, theatre and jazz-based forms. She trained under Viji Prakash and Mythili Prakash, and

grew up performing and touring with Shakti Dance Company in Los Angeles, experiences that grounded her work in rigour, musicality and ensemble practice. Her artistic interests lean toward work that engages complex and challenging themes. She is currently also an artist with Ishami Dance Company, an Indian contemporary dance company and is very excited to be joining Akram Khan Company for *Thikra: Night of Remembering*. Based in the Bay Area, Ekta's work is informed by cultural hybridity and a respect for both tradition and evolution, with a focus on work driven by intent.



Shreya Kannan
Dancer

Shreya Kannan is a Bharatanatyam dancer based in Los Angeles with nineteen years of classical training. She trained for eight years under Guru

Subhashini Rajgopal before continuing her classical education with Gurus Viji Prakash and Mythili Prakash. She has also trained with esteemed guest teachers Bragha Bessel and Sheejith Krishna. Shreya has performed across California with the Shakti Dance Company, contributing to stage productions *Shyama* (2018) and *Meera* (2019) that bridge narrative and expressive movement. In 2018, she toured India with Shakti Dance Company during the Marghazhi Maasam season, performing at venues in Chennai, Bangalore and Bombay. From 2019–2023, she was a member of an award-winning classical Indian dance competition team at UCLA. Shreya joins Akram Dance Company for its international touring production of *Thikra: Night of Remembering*.



Mythili Prakash
Dancer

A second generation Indian and American artist, Mythili is trained by her mother and teacher dance exponent Viji Prakash and mentored

by Bharatanatyam dancer Malavika Sarukkai and dancer/choreographer Akram Khan. Mythili has toured her own solo productions globally, performing at venues such as Sadler's Wells (London), Music Academy (India), Jacob's Pillow (USA), Esplanade Theatres (Singapore), to name a few. She is a United Artists Fellow, and the recipient of the Artistic Innovation Grant (Center

for Cultural Innovation), and the National Dance Project touring Grant (NEFA) for her work *She's Auspicious*, which was nominated in 2026 for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production. Nominated by Akram Khan as Choreographer of the Future for Dance Umbrella's (UK), Mythili premiered her solo work *HERE and NOW* at their 2019 Festival. She toured as a principal dancer in Akram Khan Company's production *Outwitting the Devil*. Mythili's work *ARJDHA* was commissioned and presented by Jacob's Pillow, featured in the America(na) – I am festival at the Pillow in June 2022. Her dance film *Mollika* (Sadlers Wells digital commission) was nominated for a 2025 National Dance Award. Her latest dance-theatre work, *Durga's Daughters*, was commissioned by the Stanford Institute for Advancement of Just Societies in collaboration with Zocalo Public square. Mythili also worked with director Ang Lee, as a choreography assistant and played the role of Pi's wife in his award-winning film *Life of Pi*.



Nikita Rao
Dancer

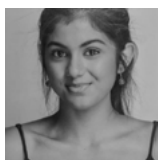
Nikita Rao is a Los Angeles-based Bharatanatyam practitioner. She began her training at the age of eight and completed her arangetram in 2011.

Nikita trained under Viji Prakash at the Shakti School of Bharata Natyam in Los Angeles, where she developed a strong technical foundation and appeared in over twenty productions. For more than a decade, she has been trained and mentored by renowned choreographer and dancer Mythili Prakash with whom she continues to tour internationally. Nikita has also trained in Chennai under the guidance of Malavika Sarukkai and Bragha Bessell. She has participated in numerous solo and company productions, most recently appearing in Mythili Prakash's *She's Auspicious*, which toured the United States, London and Singapore. She has performed at prestigious venues across the globe, including the Esplanade in Singapore, Sadler's Wells East in London and the Ford Theatre in Los Angeles.



Joy Alpuerto Ritter **Dancer**

Joy Alpuerto Ritter was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. In her youth she was trained at the Ballettschule Armin Krain and learned Philippine Folk Dance in the cultural dance group led by her mother. In 2004 Joy graduated at the Palucca School in Dresden, Germany with a dance diploma. She started working as a freelance dancer with choreographers like Christoph Winkler, Heike Hennig, Wangramirez and Yui Kawaguchi. Her passion for the communal aspect of dance made her connect to the street and club culture scene in Berlin. In 2011 she joined Cirque du Soleil as a dancer and aerial artist for the Michael Jackson *Immortal World Tour*. Since 2013 she has been a dancer, rehearsal director and movement advisor of the Akram Khan Company where she continues her touring life all around the world. In 2016 she was nominated as “Outstanding Female Dancer” (Modern) for her performance in AKC’s *Until the Lions* by the National Dance Awards UK. Since 2016 she has found international success as a choreographer and creates works for film and own dance theatre pieces.

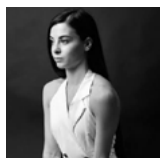


Rohini Shetty **Dancer**

Rohini Umesh Shetty began dancing at age three at The Temple of Fine Arts (TFA) Malaysia, guided by her grandmother Ratha Shetty and inspired by her late grandfather Gopal Shetty, a founding figure of TFA. Mentored by her father Umesh Shetty, she made her Bharatanatyam debut at age four in India before His Holiness Swami Shantanand Saraswati.

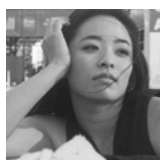
Trained in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi and Contemporary dance, she is also a protégé of Kathak maestro Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj. Rohini has performed locally and internationally with TFA Inner Space Dance Company, exploring intersections of classical and contemporary movement. She completed a BA in Dance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2021 and continues artistic work with Saraswati Mahavidhyalaya, Australia. Her Kathak solo *Sadhana*:

The Grace Through Kathak won the Kakiseni Boh Cameronian Award for Best Featured Lead Performer (Dance) in 2022. She further deepens her practice through Odissi residencies and advanced Kathak training while also teaching and creating new work.



Elpida Skourou
Dancer

Elpida Skourou, born in Athens, began dancing at age four, training in ballet and contemporary before exploring hip hop and Latin styles. She graduated from the Greek National School of Dance in 2018 and became a certified Pilates instructor. Her performance credits include Antony Lachky's work with the Hellenic Dance Company, Christos Papadopoulos' *Exercise 27* at the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, and Netflix's *MOVE*. Since joining AKC in 2019, she performed *Father: Vision of The Floating World* in Bangladesh and toured globally with Akram Khan's *Jungle Book reimagined* and *Outwitting the Devil*, including a performance at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus. In 2021, she was Assistant Choreographer and dancer in RootlessRoot's *Finality* with the Greek National Opera.



Lani Yamanaka
Dancer

Lani Yamanaka is a fourth-generation Japanese American artist based in California. She began her training in Judo and Dance and graduated from UC Irvine with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography. At UCI, she was honored to learn and perform legendary works from the late Donald McKayle as part of UCI's Etude Ensemble. Upon graduating, Lani started her freelance career as an original ensemble dancer in *Pearl* by Daniel Ezralow, which premiered at Lincoln Center. As a freelance artist, she has performed works by Edward Clug, Yin Yue, Bryan Arias, Alba Castillo, Kat Burns, Kate Weare, Yayoi Kambara, Shanda Sawyer, Laura O'Malley, and as a company member with SF Danceworks, Entity Contemporary Dance, and ODC Dance. In 2018, she was Dance Captain for the off-broadway production *Dragon Spring Phoenix Rise*, her first time working with choreographer Akram Khan and Joy Alpuerto Ritter. She went on to collaborate with

AKC as Lead Dance Artist for *Father: Vision of the Floating World* and is featured in *MOVE*, a Netflix documentary series. Beyond performing, Lani has taught masterclasses across the US and internationally at USC Kaufman School of Dance, University of Chicago Dance, Towards Vivencia, Shift Dance Hong Kong, Millennium Dance OC, and the AKC Dhaka Training Program, along with numerous Dance Studios in California. Lani is a NASM-certified personal trainer and collaborates with DancePrehab to educate artist athletes on injury prevention and wellness. She is working towards her next black belt degree in Judo in her free time.



Photo by Camilla Greenwell



Victoria Marks
A Deer Walks into A Dance

Fri, Oct 16, 2026 at 8 pm

Sat, Oct 17, 2026 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Using movement, text and the deconstruction of a (bad) joke, choreographer Victoria Marks and four performers – Rian Alcid, Maya Billig, Karen Chuang and Aaron Mason – morph into multiplicities of identities, featuring an original score by Simon Chernow.

“Marks is one of the LA’s best-kept secrets.” – *LA Weekly*

cap.ucla.edu/marks

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.

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**CAP
UCLA**





Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan
Blue Hour/Beckoning: A Double Billing

Sat, Nov 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.

"Emotionally charged and deeply poetic." –
Taipei Times

cap.ucla.edu/cloud-gate

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Sign up for our newsletter, sent twice a month, or choose genre-specific lists — dance, music, theater and more — at cap.ucla.edu/enews.



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 STAFF

Director's Office

Executive and Artistic Director: Edgar Miramontes
Senior Director of Artistic and Production: Patricia Garza
Director of Education and Special Initiatives: Meryl Friedman
Artist Liaison Manager: Zarina Rico
Associate Technical Director/Audio & Video: Duncan Woodbury
Associate Technical Director/Lighting & Stage: Katelan Braymer
Community Projects and Operations Manager: Mads Falcone
Assistant to the Executive and Artistic Director: Emily Davis

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Director of Marketing and
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Marketing Coordinator: Elvis Harold
Marketing Associate: Helene Griffin

Development

Associate Director of Development: Erika Herran

Education

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Event Box Office Manager: Katherine Hernandez
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Royce Hall

Director of Operations: Heidi Snyder
Venue Manager: Evan "Otter" Wilkinson
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Royce Hall Production

Production Manager: Jeff Wallace
Stage Manager: Lauren "Ren" Westbury
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Custodial

Custodian Supervisor: Ranoya Exum
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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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