



Photo by Maria Baranova

## ***Disclaimer***

**Written by Tara Ahmadinejad  
Developed by Piehole**

**Fri, Oct 25, 2024 at 8 pm**

**Sat, Oct 26, 2024 at 2 pm and 8 pm**

**The Nimoy**

**CENTER  
FOR THE ART OF  
PERFORMANCE  
UCLA**

# WELCOME TO THE 2024–25 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](https://cap.ucla.edu)



# The poetics of movement and migration

Welcome to my inaugural season at CAP UCLA. Inspired by the diversity of Los Angeles and the city's ability to shape-shift, the 2024–25 season encompasses narratives of change, adaptation and a quest for new perspectives. The works presented speak to our universal urge for exploration and our innate desire for belonging. The visionary artists whose work will bring the season to life ask us to ponder our origins, our trajectory, and the nature of human existence.

Across thirty performances, scores of artists from Los Angeles, around the US, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, South Africa and the United Kingdom inspire thought-provoking conversations and seek to create a more just world together. Each performance adds another thread to the ever-evolving tapestry of existence, a testament to the resilience and beauty found in movement and migration.

The performing arts provide fertile ground for transformation and evolution, creating spaces that encourage reflection, connection, and action. My hope is that when you exit a performance, you will be transformed by the desire for a more dignified and empathic world.

In these times of global strife, we must create new ways of being with one another. I invite you to join us this season: ignite your curiosity, partner with us as we fuel new aspirations, and embrace the power and possibility of change.

I look forward to welcoming you.

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Edgar Miramontes".

Edgar Miramontes  
*Executive and Artistic Director*





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**CAP UCLA Presents**

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*Disclaimer* is supported by the Farhang Foundation, CAP UCLA's exclusive cultural partner for this program. Additional funds provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Written by Tara Ahmadinejad

Developed by Piehole

Directed by Jeff Wood and Tara Ahmadinejad

Assistant Director / Stage Manager: Eli Schleicher

Scenic Design: Alexandra Panzer

Lighting Design: Reza Behjat

Sound Design: Ben Vigus

Video Design: Jeff Wood and Ben Vigus

Hosted by Tara Ahmadinejad, with Ali Sohaili

Line Producer: Emilie Soffe

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Piehole** is a live arts collective that draws from a shared fascination with objects, media and handmade universes, to pursue delight, humor and beauty in unexpected places. Their work encourages audience agency, as well as an expanded sense of potential realities. Since 2008, Piehole has made sixteen major performance projects for live and virtual spaces. Recent works include *Christmas Mountain*, an interactive advent calendar media installation at WNYC's The Greene Space, and *Disclaimer* at Under the Radar (Drama League Award Nominee). Piehole also collaborated with the L.A.-based Tender Claws on award-winning XR games *The Under Presents* and *Tendar*. Piehole has received support from The Public Theater, New Georges, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York Theatre Workshop, The Drama League and The New Ohio, as well as NYC Women's Fund, Jerome Foundation, Puffin Foundation, NYSCA-A.R.T./New York, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Mental Insight Foundation and Puppeteers of America. To learn more or to make a donation, visit [pieholed.com](http://pieholed.com).

**Tara Ahmadinejad (writer/co-director/performer)** is an Obie award-winning NYC theater artist and co-founder of the live arts collective Piehole. Recent directing credits include *Grief Hotel* by Liza Birkenmeier (Clubbed Thumb / The Public, Obie,

Drama League Award Nominee), *μάχη* by Gelsey Bell (Prototype Festival, currently on tour in the US) and *Lunch Bunch* by Adrian Einspanier (PlayCo, Clubbed Thumb, *NY Times* Critic's Pick). With Piehole, recent works include *Christmas Mountain*, and their newest project, *For You Alone*, a current HARP project at HERE Arts Center. Tara teaches at Queens College, CUNY. New Georges Affiliated Artist; Pig Iron Resident Futurist; NYTW Usual Suspect. MFA Columbia University.

**Reza Behjat (lighting designer)** is an Obie award-winning lighting designer based in New York City. He began his career in Iran, where he worked with some prominent directors for several years. Reza's works have been shown on Off-Broadway and in regional theaters across the United States such as The Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, Atlantic Theater, Minetta Lane, Lucille Lortel, The Guthrie Theater, Actors Theater of Louisville, Berkeley Rep, Alabama Shakespeare and many more. Reza won an Obie Award in the design category for his work on two productions of *English* and *Wish You Were Here* in 2023. In addition, alongside the cast and the creative team of *English*, he received a Special Citation from the Obie Award. Also, he is the winner of the prestigious award of The Knight of Illumination for *Nina Simone: Four Women* in 2019.

**Ali Lopez-Sohaili (performer)** – Off-Broadway: *Power Strip* (Lincoln Center LCT3), *Disgraced*, (Alliance Theater, Suzi Bass nomination). Television/film: *Manifest*, *Law & Order SVU*, *The Unknown Country*, and the upcoming 2025 Netflix movie *Nonnas* opposite Vince Vaughn and Lorraine Bracco. Ali is an L.A. native. Juilliard 2013.

**Alexandra Panzer (scenic designer)** is an interdisciplinary artist based in Santa Cruz and New York City. She is a member of the live arts collective Piehole, with whom – as a performer, writer and designer – she has made eleven works for theaters, galleries, AR/VR platforms, video streams and installations. Her work with Piehole was most recently featured at WNYC's The Greene Space, The Public Theater and The Sundance New Frontier Lab. Panzer wrote, directed and performed *The Language of Birds*, a collaboration with composer Carolyn Chen and sculptor Natalie

Jenkins, presented by Indexical and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History (Evergreen Cemetery, Santa Cruz, 2022). Panzer is a producer and voiceover artist for TED-Ed.

**Eli Schleicher (assistant director, stage manager)** (he/him) is an artist and arts administrator. He has collaborated on new work at/with The Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Araca Group, Kevin McCollum's Alchemation, Target Margin Theater, The Fire This Time Festival, National Black Theatre, New Saloon and Piehole, among others. Directing highlights include his immersive club production of *The Laramie Project* at the American Repertory Theater's OBERON, *d.ark/ness* at The Tank, and *Don't Laugh. It's Funny.* with The Strides Collective. He is also Director & Co-Founder of JETco., a company dedicated to creating extraordinary gatherings that inform and inspire. Recent works include *Alonely, Toda, The Myth of Creation* and *Starters*. Currently, Eli works as a strategic and tactical partner to nonprofits as a Project Manager at Advance NYC.  
[elischleicher.com](http://elischleicher.com)

**Emilie Soffe (line producer)** is an Asheville-based actor and director specializing in devised and experimental theater. As a member of the live arts collective Piehole, Emilie has co-authored and performed in original works for theaters, windows and digital platforms, including AR and VR collaborations with *Tender Claws Tendar* (Sundance 2018) and *The Under Presents* (Oculus, Emmy Finalist). Recently, she played the title role in *Richard II* with Montford Park Players in Asheville.

**Ben Vigus (sound designer/video designer)** is a New York-based sound designer and actor. Piehole core member (HARP recipient 2024, Jerome finalist 2021). Recent sound: *Lunch Bunch* (PlayCo), *Christmas Mountain* (Piehole in collaboration with New Georges, WNYC Greene Space), *Underground Fairy* (Japan Society), *Disclaimer* (Under the Radar 2021, NYC Women's Fund recipient), *Bad at Birthdays* (feature film by Jesse Thurston), *Clambake* (short film by Sammy Zeisel), *Unbearable* (animated short by Stephen Sues). Brooklyn College Sonic Arts MFA candidate.

**Jeff Wood (co-director/video designer)** is an interdisciplinary artist and educator in NYC. He is a co-founder of live arts collective Piehole, with whom he performs, designs handmade and media elements, and co-conceives original projects, most recently: *Christmas Mountain*, an interactive animatronic window installation (WNYC's Greene Space); *Disclaimer* (The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival); *The Under Presents*, an Oculus Quest VR experience incorporating live performers (with Tender Claws); and *Tread on Me Tread Softly*, an audio-guided group experience in collaboration with Celine Song. In his work at Beam Center, he coordinates collaborative, hands-on projects in NYC public schools to create radical spaces of youth agency and co-learning. He plays drums in the band Lame Drivers. MFA Performance and Interactive Media Arts, Brooklyn College.





# 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](https://cap.ucla.edu/dfs)





## **Madame Gandhi**

**Sat, Nov 2 at 8 pm**

**The Nimoy**

Madame Gandhi performs uplifting cuts from her extensive repertoire at The Nimoy. A TED fellow and Forbes 30 under 30 honoree, Gandhi is known for her ability to captivate an audience with her empowering music that centers gender liberation, personal power and a thriving humanity.

**“Gandhi is hard to pin down to just one thing. Her roles and titles are constantly expanding.”**

**– KEXP FM, Seattle**

**[cap.ucla.edu/madame-gandhi](http://cap.ucla.edu/madame-gandhi)**



# 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](https://cap.ucla.edu/nimoy)





**Dan Froot & Company**  
***Arms Around America***  
**(world premiere)**

Fri, Nov 15 - Sat, Nov 16, 2024 at 8 pm  
The Nimoy

*Arms Around America* is an evening of live radio plays based on stories of real families whose lives have been shaped by guns. Five years in the making, this world premiere is created by Dan Froot in collaboration with the company, with original music by Julio Montero.

**“Gut-wrenching performances.” – *New York Times***

[cap.ucla.edu/aaa](http://cap.ucla.edu/aaa)

# 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](http://cap.ucla.edu/councils)



**CAP  
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# CAP UCLA STAFF

## Director's Office

Executive and Artistic Director: Edgar Miramontes  
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  
Community Projects and Operations Managers: Mads Falcone  
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

Manager of Finance and Accounts: Stephanie Tarvyd  
Finance Analyst: Jodi Klein  
Finance Analyst: Ayesha Bulegoda

## Human Resources

Human Resources Assistant: Erah Lulu

## Ticketing

Director, UCLA Central Ticket Office: Gerardo Galeano  
Event Box Office Manager: Katherine Hernandez  
Assistant Director, Performing Arts & Customer Service:  
Jamal Johnson

## 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

## CAP UCLA Administrative Offices

B100 Royce Hall  
Box 951529  
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Tel: 310-825-4401  
Fax: 310-206-3843

## General Questions

info@cap.ucla.edu  
(please allow 48 hours for a response)

## UCLA Central Ticket Office

Tel: 310.825.2101  
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tickets@cap.ucla.edu

## Press Inquiries

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## Development Office

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## Design for Sharing/ K-12 Arts Education

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dfs@cap.ucla.edu

## The Nimoy Rental Information

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## Rental Information

Anthony T. Jones  
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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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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](http://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](https://cap.ucla.edu/membership)

