



Photo by Derrick Kakeribo

H.Sinno

Poems of Consumption

Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 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



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, appearing to read 'Edgar Miramontes', is positioned to the left of the photograph.

Edgar Miramontes
Executive and Artistic Director





Photo by Derrick Kakembo

CAP UCLA presents

H.Sinno

Poems of Consumption

Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Program duration: 60 minutes

No intermission



Funds provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund.

PROGRAM NOTES

Poems of Consumption turns Amazon customer reviews into “pop songs” written, composed, arranged, and produced by H.Sinno and their collaborators. The harsh electronica and lush string quartet are accompanied by video work by Sinno and Matteo Zamagni which further saturates the performance with a relentless barrage of phantasmagorical visuals. Inspired by Mark Fisher’s *Capitalist Realism*, polymath H.Sinno searches for fugitive intimacies and poetic temporalities by jamming Amazon’s 5-star rating system with poetry about their own consumer behavior. Commissioned by the Barbican Centre and Shubbak Festival in July 2023, *Poems of Consumption* is a multimedia anti-spectacle that marks H.Sinno’s first lyrical excursion into the English language, as well as the former pop-star’s first solo work since *Mashrou Leila*.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

H.Sinno is a composer, writer and performer. Their research explores vocalities as sites of political negotiation. They have been the lyricist and front-person for *Mashrou Leila* since 2008, agitating conversations around representation, free speech, and sexual freedoms in the Middle East. H has a BFA from the Department of Architecture and Design at the American University of Beirut, and an MA in Digital Musics from Dartmouth College. Their debut full-length opera, *Westerly Breath*, was in development at The Industry Los Angeles, and opened at the New York Met Museum in January 2024. Their solo debut, *Poems of Consumption*, is a song cycle built around poems written in Amazon customer reviews, exploring the overlaps of consumerism, mental illness and environmental crisis. *Poems of Consumption* debuted at London's Barbican Centre in July 2023, and is currently on tour in the US. Their writing has been published by Poetry Project, Frieze Magazine, The Derivative, Theater Magazine, Bard College and others.

Ethan Philbrick is a cellist, artist, and writer. He holds a PhD in performance studies from New York University and has taught at Pratt Institute, Muhlenberg College, New York University, Wesleyan College, Yale University, and The New School. He is currently curator-in-residence at The Poetry Project.

JD is a violinist, performance artist, composer, arranger, producer and studio musician. Their music ranges from classical to groove and EDM. JD's work as a multi-media performance artist and storyteller focuses on inner voice, resonance, queer identity, trauma, triumph and mental illness. They most recently performed as Concertmaster of Disney's Aladdin The Broadway Musical First National Tour and as a member of the Orchestra at Radio City Music Hall for the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. JD studied violin

performance at the New England Conservatory of Music (BM '07, MM '09). They are an avid quilter and native of Salt Lake City Utah.

Eylem Basaldi is a Turkish-born violinist, composer and educator and performs in a wide array of settings featuring Balkan, Middle Eastern, North African and Southeast Asian musical traditions. She is a member and collaborator in various music groups, including Dolunay and Sandaraa and is a sought-after improvising violinist in world, rock and jazz music settings. Classically trained at the New England Conservatory, Basaldi has played and recorded with many groups including Grammy winner Snarky Puppy, Dave Brubeck, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and various on and off Broadway shows.

Joanna Mattrey is a NYC/Dublin based violist, composer, improviser, and multimedia artist, whose works blend installation, video, sound, and movement, and are often site-specific. Her compositions use multimedia elements to create visual and sonic environments that convey the themes of transformation, memory, politics, social connection, loss, and spiritual journeys. Working in free improvisation, new music, and classical music, she uses extended techniques, modern compositional approaches, and electronic alterations to challenge conventions in sound. Mattrey has performed with icons Tyshawn Sorey, Henry Threadgill, Marc Ribot, John Zorn, Billy Martin, Elliott Sharp, Miya Masaoka, and The Crash Ensemble, the International Contemporary Ensemble, and Irish National Opera.

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





Ant Hampton / Time Based Editions

Borderline Visible - Collective Experience

Sat, Feb 8, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Borderline Invisible brings a photobook to life in this performance that fuses soundscape and narration. A 77-minute experience, scored with music by Oren Ambarchi and Perila, *Borderline Invisible* explores atrocities at the eastern edge of Europe and asks audiences to find community in the process.

cap.ucla.edu/ant-hampton



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





Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

BLACK HOLE – Trilogy And Triathlon

Sat, Feb 15, 2025 at 8 pm

Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater

BLACK HOLE, the finale of Shamel Pitts' *BLACK* Series, is an Afrofuturism-inspired performance that fuses dance, sound and visuals to celebrate empowerment, unity and transformation. Featuring three performers, this piece marks a significant milestone in Pitts' artistic journey and the establishment of the collective TRIBE.

“These are dancers of strong presence and control.”
– *The New York Times*

cap.ucla.edu/black-hole

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.

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**CAP
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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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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

