



Photo by Cameron Kelly McLeod

# **JJJJerome Ellis** ***Aster of Ceremonies***

Sat, Feb 22, 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](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, appearing to read 'Edgar Miramontes', is positioned to the left of the photograph.

Edgar Miramontes  
*Executive and Artistic Director*





**CAP UCLA presents**

# **JJJJerome Ellis** ***Aster of Ceremonies***

**Sat, Feb 22, 2025 at 8 pm**

**The Nimoy**

**Program duration: 80 minutes**

**No intermission**



**PALIHOTEL**  
WESTWOOD VILLAGE

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JJJJerome Ellis (any pronoun) is a disabled Grenadian-Jamaican-American animal, artist, and person who stutters. Through music, performance, writing, video, and photography, the artist asks what stuttering can teach us about justice.

Born in 1989 in Groton, Connecticut, USA the artist lives in Norfolk, Virginia, USA with their wife, poet-ecologist Luisa Black Ellis. JJJJerome dreams of building a sonic bath house!

Concepts that organize the artist's practice include: unknowing, improvisation, inheritance, opacity, prayer, gap, contradiction, aporia, eternity, unpredictability, interruption, and silence. Ellis researches relationships among blackness, disabled speech, divinity, nature, sound, and time. The artist's body of work includes: contemplative soundscapes using saxophone, flute, dulcimer, electronics, and vocals; scores for plays and podcasts; albums combining spoken word with ambient and jazz textures; theatrical explorations involving live music and storytelling; and music-video-poems that seek to transfigure archival documents.

Their debut album, *The Clearing* (2021), was called "an astonishing, must-listen project" (*The Guardian*). It was co-produced by NNA Tapes and The Poetry Project, and it was released with an accompanying book published by Wendy's Subway. Poet/essayist/playwright Claudia Rankine said of the book: "*The Clearing* is many things: a lyrical celebration of and inquiry into the intersections of blackness, music, and disabled speech; a restless interrogation of linear time; an intimate portrait of the author's real-time experience of his stutter; a baptism in syllable and sound; and a manuscript illuminated by The Stutter. At its core, Ellis' metaphor of the clearing becomes a place of possibility and "momentary, transitory, glimpsed liberation." He invites us to meet him there." *The Clearing* won the 2022 Anna Rabinowitz Prize.

The artist has received a Fulbright Fellowship (2015), a United States Artists Fellowship (2022), a Foundation for Contemporary Art Grants to Artists Award (2022), a Creative Capital Grant

(2022). The artist has received residencies at MacDowell (2019, 2022), Ucross (2021), Lincoln Center Theater (2019), ISSUE Project Room (2021), and La MaMa (2021).

JJJJerome's solo and collaborative musical/performance work has been presented by Lincoln Center, The Poetry Project, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Sawdust, WNYC, and ISSUE Project Room (New York); Venice Biennale 2023; Haus der Kunst (Munich); Rewire Festival (The Hague); Schauspielhaus Zürich; Chrysler Hall (Norfolk, Virginia); MASS MoCA (North Adams, Massachusetts); Arraymusic (Toronto); and the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), among others. The artist's visual work (video and photography) has been presented by Oklahoma Contemporary (Oklahoma City), Juf (Madrid), Artspace New Haven (New Haven, Connecticut), and Ballroom Marfa (Marfa, Texas). They have received commissions from the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, The Shed, and REDCAT.

Ellis is a signed artist with NNA Tapes and is represented by Michaël Bardier at Heavy Trip, Pascal Mungoli at Stay Service, and Ben Izzo at A3 Artists Agency. The artist's work has been covered by The Guardian, This American Life, Pitchfork, Artforum, Black Enso, and Christian Science Monitor.

Ellis has been a lecturer in Sound Design at Yale University. They received a fabulous music education in the Virginia Beach public school system, and they continued their studies at Columbia University as an undergraduate.

Ellis collaborates with James Harrison Monaco as [James & Jerome](#). Their recent work explores themes of border crossing and translation through music-driven narratives. They have received commissions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Ars Nova.

# 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)





## Cha Wa

Sat, Mar 1, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Cha Wa embodies New Orleans's spirit and its freedom struggle through vibrant brass and Mardi Gras Indian rhythms. Described as "a grand gumbo of . . . deep funk grooves" by Popmatters, Cha Wa's music is a powerful celebration of resilience and unity.

**"Cha Wa intertwines Mardi Gras Indian Rhythms and chants, brass band horns, funk grooves and other strands of New Orleans music to create something both familiar and fresh" – *The New Orleans Advocate***

[cap.ucla.edu/cha-wa](http://cap.ucla.edu/cha-wa)





# 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)





## **Inua Ellams** ***Search Party***

Sat, Mar 8, 2025 at 8 pm

The Nimoy

Award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams (*Barber Shop Chronicles*, *The Half-God of Rainfall*) brings his chaotic, audience-led poetry event to The Nimoy. Prompted by audience suggestions, Ellams will search through his extensive archive of work and perform a reactive and spontaneous selection.

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



LA ARTS COMMUNITY

Fire  
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# 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  
UCLA**



# CAP UCLA STAFF

## Director's Office

Executive and Artistic Director: Edgar Miramontes  
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  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1529  
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

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## Press Inquiries

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## Development Office

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## Design for Sharing/ K-12 Arts Education

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## The Nimoy Rental Information

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## Royce Hall Rental Information

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atjones@arts.ucla.edu  
roycehall.org

# CAP UCLA LEAD SUPPORTERS

**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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**Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity.**

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## NAME YOUR SEAT

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)

