



***The Art of Grief Podcast  
and Carmina Escobar***  
**L.A. Omnibus Series**

Thu, Mar 27, 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**

***The Art of Grief Podcast and  
Carmina Escobar*  
L.A. Omnibus Series**

**Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 8 pm  
The Nimoy**

**Program duration: 60 minutes  
No intermission**

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Karen Tongson** is the author of *Normporn: Queer Viewers* and the *TV That Soothes Us* (2023), *Why Karen Carpenter Matters* (2019), and *Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries* (2011). In 2019, she was awarded Lambda Literary's Jeanne Córdova Prize for Lesbian/Queer Nonfiction. She directs the Mellon-funded Consortium for Gender, Sexuality, Race and Public Culture at USC Dornsife, where she is Chair and Professor of gender & sexuality studies, with joint appointments in English, and American studies & ethnicity. She currently co-hosts the podcasts *The Art of Grief* with Dr. Megan Auster-Rosen, and *The Gaymazing Race* with Nicole J. Georges. Tongson is a Presidential Visiting Fellow at Yale University for the 2024-25 academic year, as well as the spring 2025 LeBoff Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Media, Culture and Communication at NYU.

**Dr. Megan Auster-Rosen** is a writer, performer and clinical psychologist who specializes in trauma and grief. Her work has included writing asylum reports for international torture survivors (many LGBTQ+), inpatient therapy for psychosis and addiction, and working with family survivors of suicide. She holds a Masters in Performance Studies from NYU's Tisch, and has co-produced multiple theater projects with international refugee populations. She recently left her job of seven years as Associate Medical Director of Mental Health at Cedars Sinai, and now has a small private practice, co-hosts the podcast *The Art of Grief*, and is working on a memoir about grief, psychiatry and magic. She lives in Los Angeles with her wife and two children.

**Carmina Escobar** is a Los Angeles-based extreme vocalist, improviser, performer, and sound and intermedia artist whose work explores the boundaries of voice and sound to investigate emotions, politics, alienation, and human connection. Through performances, installations, and video works, she challenges conventions of musicality, gender, queerness, race, language, and communication. As an immigrant from Mexico, her practice often examines suspended states between worlds, politics, and borders. Her work has been presented internationally and supported by prestigious residencies and awards, including recognition for sound innovation and experimental art. She remains focused on creating thoughtful and boundary-pushing work while staying rooted in the exploratory and collaborative nature of her practice.



# 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)





## Orquesta Akokán

Sat, Mar 29, 2025 at 8 pm

The United Theater on Broadway

Chulo Records producer and multiinstrumentalist Jacob Plasse, along with arranger Michael Eckroth, joined forces to form Orquesta Akokán. This ensemble features a carefully curated selection of Havana's finest musicians, polishing Cuban mambo's golden sound with a contemporary sheen.

**“A groove as intense as a runaway train, calling to mind the full bodied sound of past masters Perez Prado and Tito Puente.” –NPR**

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



# 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)







## **Andy Akiho Trio**

**Thu, Apr 3, 2025 at 8 pm**

**The Nimoy**

Andy Akiho is a Grammy-nominated composer and Pulitzer Prize finalist whose work redefines the classical music landscape. The trio features himself and artists known for their adventurous spirit and stylistic fluidity, showcasing the talents of classically trained musicians who are at the forefront of new music.

**Described as “trailblazing” (*LA Times*) and “an imaginative composer” (*NY Times*), Andy Akiho is a GRAMMY® nominated composer and performer of new music.**

**[cap.ucla.edu/andy-akiho](https://cap.ucla.edu/andy-akiho)**



LA ARTS COMMUNITY

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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)



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# 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  
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Fax: 310-206-3843

## General Questions

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(please allow 48 hours for a response)

## UCLA Central Ticket 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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Fax: 310.206.8678  
atjones@arts.ucla.edu  
roycehall.org

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

**CAP UCLA gratefully acknowledges our donors, sponsors and members. This list reflects donations and commitments to the UCLA Nimoy Theater campaign as well as annual gifts made from Jan 1, 2024 to Jan 31, 2025.**

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# ENDOWMENTS

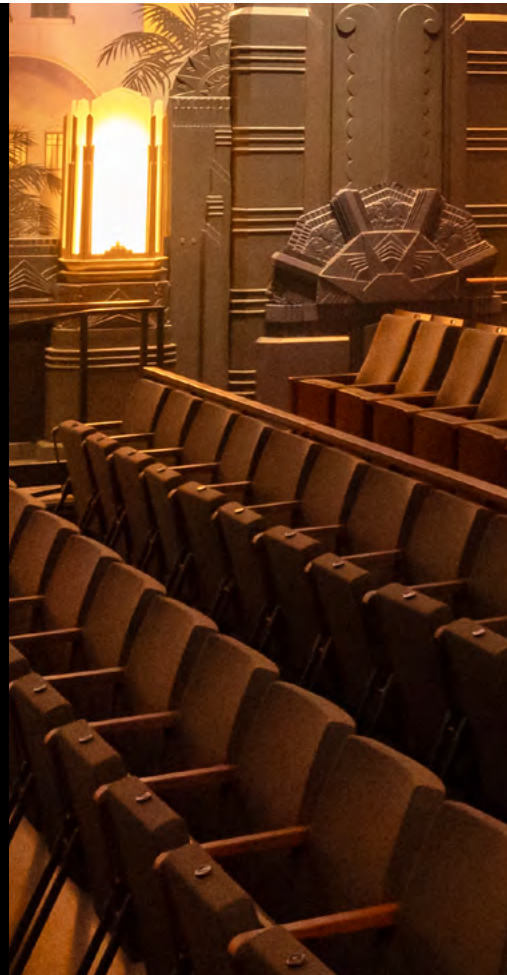
**Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity. We gratefully acknowledge:**

Barbara and Bruce Dobkin, James A. Doolittle, Arthur E. Guedel, Kevin Jeske, Henry and Ginny Mancini, Merle & Peter Mullin, José Luis Nazar, Evelyn & Mo Ostin, Beatrix F. Padway, Mimi Perloff, Lloyd E. Rigler, Sally & William A. Rutter, Shirley & Ralph Shapiro, Roslyn Holt Swartz & Allan J. Swartz, and Mimi & Werner Wolfen.

## 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](https://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](http://cap.ucla.edu/membership)

