

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE BLACK HOLE - Trilogy And Triathlon

Sat, Feb 15, 2025 at 8 pm Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater

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.



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.

Edgar Miramontes

Executive and Artistic Director



CAP UCLA presents

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE BLACK HOLE - Trilogy And Triathlon

Sat, Feb 15, 2025 at 8 pm Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater

Program duration: 80 minutes No intermission





Funds provided by the Royce Gala Endowment.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Concept Direction & Choreographer: Shamel Pitts

Performers: Shamel Pitts, Tushrik Fredericks, Marcella Lewis

Video Light & Mapping Designer: Lucca Del Carlo

Musician & Composer: Sivan Jacobovitz Artistic Production Manager: Rus Snelling Black Tarp Designer: Naomi Rapaport Costume Designer: Mirelle Martins

Photographer & Cinematographer: Itai Zwecker

Photographers & Cinematographers: The Adeboye Brothers

Spoken Word Text: Shamel Pitts
Stage Managers: Chanel Pinnock
Creative Director: Mirelle Martins
Artistic Administrator: E Katrina Lewis
Managing Director: Brittany Wilson
Digital Creative Associate: Pam Panozzo

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Worldwide Bookings: Lotus Arts Management,

 $Sophie\ Myrtil-McCourty, sophie\@lotusartsmgmt.com$

Additional Music: Sound Collage / Remixes Track ID:

Door Of The Cosmos / Sun Ra
AirFlow! Velocity / Keru Not Ever
Fever Dream / Daniel Avery
Funeral Canticle / John Tavener
Radiance / Tim Hecker
Heavy Snow / ChiHei Hatakeyama
Feeling Good / Nina Simone
Fever Dream / Daniel Avery
Funeral Canticle / John Tavener

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

BLACK HOLE – Trilogy And Triathlon is a multidisciplinary performance choreographed by the award-winning movement artist Shamel Pitts, co-created and performed by his Brooklynbased arts collective TRIBE. BLACK HOLE constitutes the final installment of Pitts' "BLACK Series" triptych.

Deeply inspired and infused by the spirit of Afrofuturism, this contemporary Gesamtkunstwerk combines dance, original sound, video projection, and light design in a tale of vitality and tenderness, darkness and light, personal growth and collective empowerment.

In *BLACK HOLE*, a trio of Black performers (all of African heritage) shares the stage in a narrative of unity, vigor, and unrelenting advancement. Their journey originates in the darkness of the titular Black Hole, understood not as a cosmic void but a metaphorical place of transformation and potential. Engulfed in an evocative soundscape of original music, sound samples, and spoken word, the dancers embark on an hour-long, uninterrupted journey in movement in which their tenacity and grace are emphasized by cinematic video projections and stark, monochromatic lights.

Choreographed by 2024 Doris Duke Artist Award Recipient, 2020 Guggenheim Fellow and 2021 Bessie Award winner Shamel Pitts who also performs in it, the piece features dancers Tushrik Fredericks and Marcella Lewis; video and lighting designed by Lucca Del Carlo; music composed by Sivan Jacobvitz; spoken word text by Shamel Pitts; and costumes by Naomi Rapaport and Mirelle Martins. Photography and cinematography for the piece are by Itai Zwecker and The Adeboye Brothers.

BLACK HOLE – Trilogy And Triathlon concludes the "BLACK Series" triptych, a series of deeply personal live performance pieces conceived and choreographed by Pitts since 2015. The first work of this collection, a solo BLACK BOX – Little Book of RED, introduced the recurring themes of this cycle: identity, search for the roots and community, and personal evolution of

the artist, born "young, gifted and Black." 2019 saw the New York premiere of *BLACK VELVET – Architectures And Archetypes*, "a haunting duet" (*The New York Times*) with Brazilian-born Mirelle Martins. Collaboration with her and other Black Series artists subsequently spurred the inception of TRIBE, a multidisciplinary collective of international creatives, united by Afrofuturistic ideals and shared goals. As an artistic hub and a nonprofit organization, TRIBE became not only a tool for producing works but a creative endeavor in its own right. Pitts explains: "By working with performers from different places within the African diaspora, my own understanding of the many facets of Blackness has evolved. Now, united by the feedback loop of ideas and empowered by shared resources, we can create and cultivate our own space."

FUNDING CREDITS

BLACK HOLE was developed with the kind support of Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU), American Dance Abroad, gloATL, PearlArts Studios, CrossAward (Italy), Dock 11 / Eden (Germany), Derida Dance Center (Bulgaria), Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, Artis, New York Live Arts, and 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center. The presentation of BLACK HOLE at the Belgrade Dance Festival was supported in part by Mid Atlantic Arts through USArtists International, a program in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Additional TRIBE commissioning, development and core operating support is provided by the Mellon Foundation; Arison Arts Foundation; the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; The Howard Gilman Foundation; Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund, made possible by the Howard Gilman Foundation and Ford Foundation; 92Y Harkness Dance Center; National Performance Network (NPN) Creation, Development & Artist Engagement Fund Project. The Creation, Development & Artist Engagement Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency); New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TRIBE - Multidisciplinary Visual Performances (founded in 2019) is a Brooklyn-based Afrofuturistic arts collective dedicated to creating, producing and sharing original art projects. Understanding that performance art and live art are practices of human connection, TRIBE projects include, but are not restricted to: movement-based work, live performance, video art, short film, video documentary, photography, exhibition, installation, commissioned dance choreography, art residencies, and workshops. With Artistic Direction by Shamel Pitts, TRIBE acts nationally and internationally developing art exchanges in collaboration with institutions and individuals, with a focus on the African diaspora. Ultimately, TRIBE aims to bring the audience and community into experiences that humanizes Black and Brown bodies and shares the colorfulness within Blackness that allows us to be multiplicitous. itsatribe.org/about

Shamel Pitts (Concept Direction, Choreographer & Performer) (Brooklyn, NY), a 2024 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, is a performance artist, choreographer, conceptual artist, dancer, spoken word artist, director, and teacher. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Pitts began his dance training at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and, simultaneously, at The Ailey School. He is a first prize winner in The National Arts Competition from YoungArts. Pitts went on to receive his BFA in dance from The Juilliard School and was awarded the Martha Hill Award for excellence in dance. He began his dance career in Mikhail Barvshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance and BJM Danse Montreal. Pitts danced with Batsheva Dance Company for seven years under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin and is a certified teacher of Gaga movement language. Pitts has created a triptych of award-winning multidisciplinary performances, with his arts collective TRIBE, known as his "BLACK series," which has toured extensively to many festivals & performance spaces around the world since 2016. He is an adjunct professor at The Juilliard School, a guest faculty member at Princeton University, New York University, Wesleyan University and has been an artist in residence at Harvard University. He is the recipient of a Princess Grace Award in Choreography, a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow,

a Jacob's Pillow artist-in-residence, and a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow. shamelpitts.com & itsatribe.org

Tushrik Fredricks (Performer) Tushrik Fredericks, recipient of the Princess Grace Award (Chris Hellman dance honor), nominated by TRIBE (Founding artistic director, Shamel Pitts) in 2021 is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa. Growing up he found himself drawn toward the style 'KRUMP.' He graduated from the Peridance Certificate Program in NYC in June 2015 and has had the opportunity to work with Ate9 dANCEcOMPANY (Danielle Agami, Artistic Director), Sidra Bell Dance New York (Sidra Bell, Artistic Director) and UNA Productions (Chuck Wilt). Fredericks was an assistant lecturer to Sidra Bell at The University of the Arts Philadelphia for Sophomore students (2016-2018). In May 2021 Fredericks received 3rd prize for dance at the SoloTanz Festival in Stuttgart for his first rendition of his self-choreographed solo '(territory) of the heart' and in May 2023 he showcased the completed rendition of the solo at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts in Brooklyn, NY. Fredericks also received the Baryshnikov Arts Open Fall 2023 residency for a cochoreographed duet with Rebecca Margolick. tushrikfredericks.com

Marcella Lewis (Performer) Marcella Lewis hails from Los Angeles, California where she began her dance training at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre. She then continued her studies at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts(LACHSA). She later received her BFA from the Purchase Conservatory of Dance in 2016, where she was awarded the Adopt-A-Dancer Scholarship. Marcella joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in fall 2016, as a dancer, soloist, and company liaison. While with A.I.M, she performed works by Kyle Abraham, Trisha Brown, Doug Varone and Andrea Miller. Marcella was featured with A.I.M in Dance Magazine in August 2017 and was a recipient of the 2018 Princess Grace Award in Dance. As a freelance artist, Marcella has performed works by Mariani Forte, Chris Emile, Micaela G. Taylor, Rosana Taverez, Genna Moroni, JA Collective and Jodi Melnick. Marcella has presented her own choreographic works at Dance Theatre Lab, Odyssey Theatre, Highways Performance Space, and Stomping Ground L.A. In 2023, Ms. Lewis performed her own solo

installation called "Movement Transference," as a part of Institute of Contemporary Arts Los Angeles "Infinite Rehearsal." In May 2024, Marcella was a featured artist in SHOUTOUTLA magazine as a part of "Local Stories." Marcella is currently a performing artist with TRIBE multidisciplinary visual performances led by Shamel Pitts and is a freelance artist, choreographer and teacher in Los Angeles and New York.

instagram.com/marcella_thecosmicmirror

Lucca Del Carlo (Video Light & Mapping Designer) Lucca Del Carlo is a graphic designer and video artist from São Paulo, Brazil, currently based in NYC. Lucca is a founding member of the Brooklyn/New York based multidisciplinary arts collective known as TRIBE. He has created the lighting and video mapping projections for numerous performance works and has toured and performed live with the collective in many countries all over the world. He specializes in transmedia, mixing cinema techniques, concepts of architecture, visual arts, light design, and technology, and integrating those into the direction and creation of scenography, immersive environments and visual live shows. In his view, all ways of visual communication have interlacing points, not only using technology but also using human cognition and its related censorial illusions. Del Carlo's specialty is mixing it in new ways to inspire and break common patterns in visual expression. luccadelcarlo.com

Sivan Jacobovitz (Musician & Composer) is a producer/musician living in NYC. Dance collaborations include: Kimberly Bartosik's "I Hunger For You" (BAM Next Wave) and "Through The Mirror of Their Eyes" (NYLA - Bessie Outstanding Production Honoree); Shamel Pitts' *Black Hole* (touring internationally), MENAGERIE (with Gibney Company) and *Touch of RED*; *ASSEMBLY* with GREYZONE. instagram.com/sivan_daniel

Rus Snelling (Artistic Production Manager) An Australian artist who has worked as a production, stage, site and tour manager, lighting and set designer, consultant, technical director and a fire sculptor with arts organizations, institutions and freelancing on events and installations around the world ranging from intimate theatrical works, shows on and off Broadway in NYC and on

London's West End.

His work includes large scale indoor and outdoor festivals, the Sydney Olympic Ceremonies, the Melbourne Commonwealth Games Ceremonies & Cultural Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festivals, Montreal Just for Laughs, Edinburgh Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festivals, Vancouver Winter Olympics Cultural Festival, MASS MoCA's Solid Sound, Centennial celebrations, river & street parades, tours and various music festivals.

Rus has worked with many artists over thirty years of which some include Shamel Pitts|TRIBE, Merce Cunningham, Laurie Anderson, John Leguizamo, Phillip Glass, Brian Eno, Tim Robbins & The Actors Gang, Taylor Mac, Patti Smith, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Bandaloop, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, DeLanna Studi & Octopus Theatricals, Abraham.In.Motion, Streb & Phantom Limb Company and on projects and tours through Australia, USA, Canada, Tunisia, Europe, Asia and South America. Rus worked at PS122 many moons ago and was the founding Production Manager & Resident Lighting Designer at Oz Arts in Nashville TN, before continuing to freelance around the world. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Mirelle Martins (Costume Designer, Creative Director) originally from Brazil, Mirelle Martins received her Bachelor Degree in Social Communications (UnB 2002-06). She has worked as an artist, independent curator and art producer since 2010. In 2013, Mirelle started to research her own artistic expression in performance art with the intensive summer course of Gaga.people.dancers in NYC. Since 2015, she has been producing Gaga courses yearly in Brazil, so far reaching over 1200 students. In 2016, as a 32-year old, Mirelle made her dancing debut in "BLACK VELVET", a duet by Shamel Pitts, with light designer Lucca Del Carlo. The show toured in the US and internationally from 2017 to 2020, and has received the Audience Choice Award in Stockholm Fringe Festival (Sweden, 2017), and Best out of Town Production by ArtsATL (Atlanta, 2018). The partnership with Pitts continued with "BLACK HOLE" (2018), where Mirelle has collaborated as performer and costume designer. Since 2019, Mirelle is one of the

founding artists of TRIBE, Brooklyn-based arts collective led by Pitts, where she also acts as Creative Director.

mirellemartins.com

Naomi Rapaport (Black Tarp Designer) is a Dutch-born, Israel-based EcoFashion Designer with over thirty years of experience creating upcycled re-designed fashion pieces. Naomi made her first piece for her daughter out of worn out jeans. Her garments are fashioned from either her own collection of high end materials, or out of materials supplied by her clients. Her brand line has since evolved into a high-end recycled – albeit high fashion – line worn by Israeli artists and celebrities. "Memories, events, joy, happiness, sadness are all parts of the materials I use, blended to create a unique garment with a story on its own," Rapaport says. naomimaaravi.com

Itai Zwecker (Photographer & Cinematographer) is an Israeliborn director of cinematography, photographer, and video editor, collaborating with Shamel Pitts and later TRIBE since 2018. His photography has been featured in *The New York Times, The Brooklyn Rail*, and other outlets. Zwecker is based in Brooklyn and Tel Aviv, where he works shooting film, dance, music, documentary and commercial projects.

The Adeboye Brothers (Photographers & Cinematographers) are a director duo based in New York City. Their work expands from documentaries, narrative, animations, commercials, and experiential design. Together they have produced and directed documentaries, commercials and animations for The Woodruff Arts Center, Pepsi, Spotify, and have been frequent collaborators of Shamel Pitts and TRIBE since 2018; contributing film and photography for *BLACK HOLE* and *Touch of RED*. thepalettegroup.com

Chanel Pinnock (Stage Manager) Chanel Pinnock currently serves as the Production Manager for New York Live Arts, bringing her expertise and dedication to the forefront of every production. With a solid background in production management, Chanel has worked in a variety of production environments including on- and

off-Broadway productions, as well as music videos, significantly contributing to the success of these projects.

Originally from the Bronx and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Chanel's passion for theater led her to earn a B.A. in Theater from the University of Georgia. Since graduating in 2018, she has furthered her education by completing a Master of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee-Martin, enhancing her managerial skills and business acumen.

Chanel is thrilled to be a part of the TRIBE team and is grateful for the trust they've placed in her.



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





JJJJJerome Ellis Aster of Ceremonies Sat, Feb 22, 2025 at 8 pm The Nimoy

JJJJJerome Ellis, a boundary-pushing Grenadian Jamaican American artist exploring stuttering, Blackness and divinity through his art, is celebrated for his album *The Clearing*. Ellis's work—encompassing music, performance and visual art — has earned global acclaim, including a Fulbright fellowship. Discover the transformative power of Ellis's artistry, where every performance becomes a unique exploration of silence, sound and the richness of human experience.

cap.ucla.edu/ellis



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





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



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.

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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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Design for Sharing/ K-12 Arts Education

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The Nimoy Rental Information

Mads Falcone m.falcone@arts.ucla.edu

Royce Hall Rental Information

Anthony T. Jones Tel: 310.825.4403 Fax: 310.206.8678 atjones@arts.ucla.edu roycehall.org

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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

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