



Photo by Camila Falquez

Orquesta Akokán

Sat, Mar 29, 2025 at 8 pm

The United Theater on Broadway

**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





CAP UCLA presents

Orquesta Akokán

Sat, Mar 29, 2025 at 8 pm
The United Theater on Broadway

Program duration: 60 minutes
No intermission



Funds provided by the Evelyn & Mo Ostin Endowment for the Performing Arts.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Orquesta Akokán burst onto the global music scene in 2018, with their no-holds-barred 21st century take on the venerable Cuban mambo lighting up stages around the world with a fierce and unremitting joy. Chulo Records producer and multi instrumentalist Jacob Plasse, and arranger Michael Eckroth joined forces with a carefully curated selection of Havana's most extraordinary musicians as Orquesta Akokán, polishing Cuban mambo's golden sound to a luminous, contemporary sheen. Along the way Orquesta Akokán imbued these legendary Cuban grooves with a renewed vitality and powerful sense of akokán – the Yoruba word used by Cubans to mean “from the heart” or “soul.”

Caracoles, their third album, presents a glorious return to the iconic grooves of an era indelibly marked by Benny Moré, Perez Prado and Machito in New York bands and Cuba's orquestas gigantes of the mid-twentieth century. For their third release, bringing together artists from New York, Miami and Cuba, the group returned to Cuba to record at the renowned Abdala Producciones studios. This became a time to deepen and integrate the lessons learned in the previous two albums, the musicians playing together live in a room, carefully listening, interweaving their parts into a richly-textured whole, much like it might have happened in classic recordings from the 40s and 50s. The horns drive the tunes, making them irresistibly danceable, and foregrounding the emblematic sonic qualities that uniquely identify the mambo; yet as the musicians trade solos, they articulate an advanced bebop language, bringing to mind Charlie Parker – but in 2024 Havana. And despite the fact that the band's original tunes may live sonically in the era of Benny Moré and Machito, nothing those fabulous maestros ever created sounds like these songs.

Jacob Plasse continues his extensive exploration of Latin music, faithful to a path that began in 2007 when he co-founded salsa brava band Los Hacheros.

Michael Eckroth, renowned as a renaissance musician, applies his profound knowledge of Cuban music and a longstanding history of collaborating with iconic greats from the Latin music and the jazz worlds, from Pedrito Martinez to John Scofield .

Papote Jimenez singing style is a masterful fusion of raw power and intricate phrasing, blending Cuban son, Puerto Rican Bomba, and Afro-Caribbean influences with effortless improvisation. His rich, gritty tone and explosive energy, honed during his tenure with Los Hacheros, make him one of the most dynamic and soulful voices in contemporary Latin music.

A light joyousness permeates the tunes' radiant riffs, thanks to the spellbinding virtuosity of percussionists who revel in the same rhythmic fleetness of the Cuban maestros while adding their own stamp to the beats: **Keisel Jimenez** (Havana d'Primera, Arturo O'Farrill, Alain Pérez, Pedrito Martinez) and **Yuya Rodriguez** (daughter of renowned musician and percussionist Octavio Rodriguez Rivera, and winner of Cuba's Fiesta del Tambor in 2019).

Grounding the percussionists is the formidable bassist **Lino Piquero Bueno**, who has performed and recorded with luminaries such as Alain Pérez, Issac Delgado, Habana d' Primera, Omara Portuondo, Buena Vista Allstars, Danay Suarez, and more.

The fierce, dynamic horns are led by alto saxophone player **Roman Filiu**, former member of Chucho Valdés 'l Irakere, Cuba's greatest jazz band; tenor sax **Jamil Schery**; baritone saxophonist **Jose Cruzata**; father and son trumpeters, **Reinaldo "Molote" Melián** (Chucho Valdés, Gonzalo Rubalcaba) and **Reynaldo Melián** and trombonist **Heikel Fabian**.



Photo by Casey Liu

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





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



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





Sai Anantam Devotional Ensemble Presented by CAP UCLA and Hammer Museum

Sun, Apr 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm

The Nimoy

The Sai Anantam Devotional Ensemble presents an evening of music, readings, and film dedicated to the legacy of musician and spiritual leader, Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda. The ensemble includes students of her former Ashram, with featured performers Sita Michelle Coltrane, Radha Botofasina, Surya Botofasina and Shyam Reyes.

cap.ucla.edu/sai-anantam



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



**CAP
UCLA**



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Production Manager: Jeff Wallace
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Royce Hall Custodial

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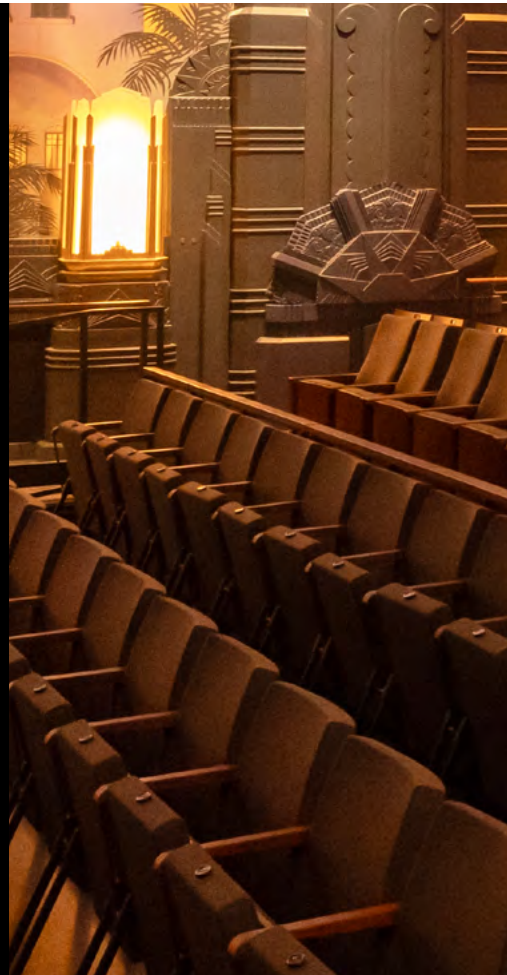
Over time, many generous individuals have initiated leadership gifts to establish endowments that support the performing arts at UCLA in perpetuity. We gratefully acknowledge:

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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



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

