



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

UCLA Live

DAVID SEFTON, DIRECTOR

www.uclalive.org

"David [Sefton] is making L.A. a much more culturally important city by bringing us what we don't have here or anywhere else in America."— **Los Angeles Times**

"UCLA Live's Sixth International Theatre Festival once again secures David Sefton's reputation as one of the most important artistic directors on the international cultural scene." — **Los Angeles Magazine**

"Sefton has been responsible for turning UCLA's performing arts series into a showcase for some of the most daring theatre work in the world."— **Back Stage West**

"the dominant player on the scene ... the King-Kong of Southern California performance."
—**The New York Times**

"the hub of the hip ... the avatar of the avant-garde"—**Vanity Fair**

Under the leadership of director David Sefton, UCLA Live has become one of the most influential performing arts presenters in the country. Unrivaled in its breadth and mix of genres, UCLA Live celebrates excellence in many forms, whether it be theater, music, dance, spoken word or a genre-bending fusion.

At UCLA Live, concert hall divas, post-modern chamber orchestras and hip-hop artists share the season with contemporary dance companies, world music superstars, urban storytellers and rock 'n' roll mavericks.

Now entering its sixth season, the International Theatre Festival serves as a major U.S. launch pad for world-class artists and groundbreaking productions from around the globe. The 07/08 Festival features the U.S. premiere of the Iraq war drama "Black Watch," presented by the National Theatre of Scotland in its American debut. One of the season's most anticipated events is the Royal Shakespeare Company in the exclusive West Coast engagement of "King Lear" and "The Seagull," starring Sir Ian McKellen and directed by Trevor Nunn.

The Festival has also showcased U.S. and West Coast debuts of important companies such as London's Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Italy's Societas Raffaello Sanzio, and Berlin's Volksbühne, among others. Presenting approximately 150 performances each year to audiences of more than 150,000, in six years, UCLA Live has presented 5 world premieres, 12 exclusives and debuts, 17 U.S. premieres, and 26 L.A. premieres.

History

UCLA kicked off its first performing arts season in 1937. Within a few short years, such leading lights as George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Arnold Schoenberg, and Jimmy Dorsey had all graced the stage of the campus's legendary Royce Hall. Since then, the list of illustrious artists who have performed on Royce Hall's stage reads like a Who's Who of performing arts in the 20th and 21st centuries, including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, Twyla Tharp, Frank Zappa, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Yo-Yo Ma and Meredith Monk, to name a few.

In 2000, UCLA Performing Arts was re-named UCLA Live by its newly-appointed director, David Sefton. With the new name came a major programming shift that has helped put Los Angeles on the cultural map. In addition to adopting the name UCLA Live, he immediately introduced several initiatives, most notably the groundbreaking UCLA International Theatre Festival. Over the past five years under Sefton's direction, the Festival has produced and presented the dramatic work of Robert Wilson, Societas Raffaello Sanzio, Complicite, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Cheek by Jowl, Isabelle Huppert, The Royal Court, Volksbühne, Forced Entertainment, Wooster Group and Heiner Goebbels and many others—the majority for the first time in Los Angeles, some for the first time in the United States.

One of the first campus structures, Royce Hall was built in 1929 and was modeled after San Ambrogio, a church in Milan that was built between the tenth and eleventh centuries. In 1936, University of California President Robert Gordon Sproul appointed a committee to oversee programming and in 1937, Royce Hall's first performing arts season was launched. The inaugural subscription series included the great contralto Marian Anderson, the Budapest String Quartet and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

From the beginning, dance constituted an important element of UCLA Performing Arts. Trudi Schoop and her company appeared on the artists series as early as 1939, and subsequently nearly every important dance troupe, from the American Ballet Theatre and Martha Graham to the Ballet Russe, Bejart Ballet, Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal, Robert Joffrey and Bella Lewitzky, has performed on its stage.

Like Carnegie Hall in New York, Royce Hall is one of America's great concert halls—distinguished not only for its impeccable beauty and refined acoustics, but also for the ghosts of magnificent past performances. As the jewel-in-the crown of UCLA Live's performance venues, Royce Hall and UCLA Performing Arts' legacy has always been to present artists at the height of their careers and to nurture those shaping the cultural climate. Today, Royce Hall is regarded as an icon of the University and a symbol of the creative and expansive program epitomized by UCLA Live.

Other UCLA Live venues include Schoenberg Hall, Freud Playhouse and Macgowan Little Theater, all located on the UCLA campus.

Laboratory of New Ideas

As part of the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture, UCLA Live is known as a catalyst for new works and collaborations. As a producer of stellar events, it has positioned itself at the crossroads of the arts in America, sharing the best of classical music, contemporary performance, dance, jazz, world music and theatrical performance with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and academic collaboration. With a vision that combines the rigorous practice of innovation implied by the academic standard of "research and development," and the

expectation of excellence already engendered by its history, UCLA Live's eclectic program is a radical cultural fusion of the classic and the contemporary that encompasses—without compromise or contradiction—London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Kronos Quartet, Murray Perahia and Elvis Costello; Mikhail Baryshnikov and The Holy Body Tattoo.

Support

Royce Center Circle

Royce Center Circle is the major donor support group for UCLA Live. Since 1977, annual contributions from more than 450 Royce Center Circle members enable UCLA Live to take creative risks on innovative works and emerging artists when ticket sales alone do not meet the costs of performances. Royce Center Circle members receive priority seating and parking, access to the Royce Center Circle Lounge, invitations to receptions with artists, access to a private phone line at the UCLA Central Ticket Office, and an array of additional benefits.

UCLA Live Education and Outreach

Arts Education

“Central to the whole program for the Performing Arts are the principles of education and outreach. I believe that a public program is only able to strengthen and grow with these fundamental principles in place.”—David Sefton, Director, UCLA Performing Arts

The use of the creative community drawn by UCLA Live as a source for the educational goals of the university enhances the life of students and the university as a whole. The experience of spending time with world-renowned artists can be life changing for students. The local, national and international come together in UCLA Live's **Education Program**, where artists are invited into the classroom to share their talents and engage students in the creative process. Faculty hosts from campus departments provide a vital link between the artists and the students—playing an important role in contextualizing and interpreting diverse modes of artistic expression.

Free and open to all students, master classes, lecture demonstrations and post-performance discussions with the artists are all a part of the Education Program's mission to enlighten, educate and entertain. In genres as diverse as classical music and jazz, dance and contemporary theater, an unparalleled array of artists has had the opportunity to intellectually challenge students and provide a limitless relationship to the arts and education. Artists who have participated in the program include Yo-Yo Ma, STOMP, The Royal National Theatre, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, James Galway, Sankai Juku, Gate Theatre Dublin, KODO, Arturo Sandoval, Philip Glass, Nederlands Dans Theater, Improbable Theater Company, Tap Dogs and the Kronos Quartet.

Student Committee for the Arts

Created in 1962, Student Committee for the Arts (SCA) seeks to promote student awareness and participation in the arts at UCLA. By providing experience in the performing arts through UCLA Live, this mission is accomplished by and for students and includes subsidizing and marketing student tickets and producing events. Each year the Student Committee produces a wide variety of events in genres such as dance, concerts, performance art and spoken word.

Design for Sharing

UCLA Live's award-winning outreach program, Design for Sharing (DFS) enriches the lives of thousands of children and underserved audiences in the community. Based on the premise that everyone in Los Angeles, regardless of social or economic status, should have the opportunity to experience the joy of the performing arts, DFS provides students and community groups access to one of the finest performing arts programs in the country. Public school students attend special morning demonstration performances at UCLA's Royce Hall and Freud Playhouse.

UCLA Live Contact Information

B100 Royce Hall, Box 951529, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Phone: 310-825-4401

Email: info@uclalive.org