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THE LUCKMAN

fineartscomplex

ITZHAK PERLMAN, DIANNE REEVES, IVA BITTOVÁ, LES NUBIANS & OTHER WORLD-RENOWNED ARTISTS TO GRACE THE LUCKMAN FINE ARTS COMPLEX

The Luckman Fine Arts Complex on the campus of Cal. State L.A., unveils an eclectic breakthrough season of exceptional talent unlike any other in Los Angeles.

September 11, 2009 – Los Angeles, California - A powerhouse roster of artists, musicians, and performers from around the globe is coming to Los Angeles starting September 26, at The Luckman Fine Arts Complex on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles.

With the season brochures hot off the press, The Luckman is gearing up for a year of prestigious headliners, including violin virtuoso **Itzhak Perlman** and jazz-goddess **Dianne Reeves**, who have garnered instant recognition around the world and are synonymous with musical excellence. Appearing this season as part of the Luckman's World Arts Initiative are phenomenal international artists such as the French Afro-fusion group **Les Nubians** and, from the Czech Republic, gypsy chanteuse **Iva Bittová**, both of whom perform regularly to sold-out audiences throughout the world.

Indie duo **Rumspringa**, known for their paradoxically retro-modern style, will be strumming out 12-bar blues in their version of modern Americana, come October. On the same side of eccentric, international theatre group **SITI Company**, under the direction of **Anne Bogart**, will give a Los Angeles premiere of the play that asks *Who Do You Think You Are?*, portraying an existential game-show beset with concentric circles and provocative questions. The Mexican group **Kinky** will bring neo-funk to the Luckman, and the Colombian ensemble **Sidestepper**, known for their exciting mélange of electro and Latin beats, will perform back-to-back weekends this February.

A majestic evening is impatiently anticipated on January 23, when **Itzhak Perlman**, the world-renowned violinist, makes a Luckman debut with Sri Lankan pianist **Rohan de Silva**. This momentous occasion is certain to be one of the most musically stellar events of the year. Another violinist making an appearance is the legendary experimental Czech vocalist and violin ace **Iva Bittová**, whose classical and Romani sound resonates with avant-garde flair and tour-de-force performance style.

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There will certainly be no shortage of jazz this season at the Luckman. In March, patrons will have the pleasure of catching **Dianne Reeves** - hands-down one of the best jazz vocalist in the world, known for her signature creamy and masterful voice. Another jazz superstar, **Lizz Wright**, whose voice is described by the New York Times as, “luminous and smoky and perfectly pitched,” and, “one of the most wondrous rhythm-and-blues instruments of our time,” will be taking the stage in November.

Jazz talent of the California variety will be plentiful as well. The enormously talented, Harvard-educated **Joshua Redman**, born and raised in Berkeley, is a soulful saxophonist who, in the words of the Seattle Times, “happens to also be one of the most-visible and articulate jazz musicians of his generation.” He will be serving up fresh tunes in March. In the way of jazz classics, the **Luckman Jazz Orchestra**, which calls the Luckman Theatre home, has planned a series of tributes to jazz legends Herbie Hancock, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, and McCoy Tyner.

But the majority of artists coming this way aren't from California, or this side of the globe, for that matter. French musical group, **Les Nubians**, sisters famous for their blend of African and French styles, will be pouring heart-and-soul this December, and Japan's Taiko drumming ensemble **TAO** will take the stage with an impressive performance of power, music, and martial arts. Presenting some more foreign flair, international films such as **Cesky Sen** (Czech Dream) from the Czech Republic, and, from Israel, **Zarim** (*Strangers*), will be screened throughout the year at the Luckman as part of the **Global Lens** film series that celebrates excellence in cinema from around the world. In addition, the Luckman will be home to the **Tournées French Film Festival**, produced in collaboration with the French Ministry of Culture and the French Embassy in Washington, DC. The festival will showcase five recent French films including **Paris, je t'aime** and **Le voyage du ballon rouge** (*The Flight of the Red Balloon*). In a similar vein, the Luckman Gallery will kick off a new season in September, hosting an exhibition of prominent Romanian artists including **Ciprian Muresan**, and their exposés on post-communism, in “Invisible Body, Conspicuous Mind,” which will be free and open to the public.

An array of dance is in order, continuing the Luckman legacy of being a premier destination for dance in Los Angeles, with companies like **ODC Dance**, whose, “daredevil intensity and considerable emotional candor,” impressed the *San Francisco Examiner*, and the Montreal-based **Rubberbandance**, which dares to mix ballet and break dancing to produce a beautifully refreshing style that is pure and breath-taking. The iconic **David Dorfman Dance** from New York City will perform a compelling new work that blurs the wall between audience and performer. Local legends **Lula Washington** and **Raiford Rogers** will each be back with their companies with new works and world-premieres.

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The entire season line-up is as follows:

LJO: Tribute to Mccooy Tyner	September 26 at 6:30pm
Rumspringa	October 3 at 8:30pm
Iva Bittová	October 17 at 8:30pm
SITI Co.	October 9 & 10 at 8:00pm
River North Chicago Dance Company	November 14 at 8:00pm
Latin Jazz Christmas with Bobby Rodriguez	December 5 at 8:00pm
Les Nubians	December 12 at 8:00pm
Grandeza Mexicana	December 19 at 8:00pm
Opera à la Carte: The Mikado	January 16 at 8:00pm
Itzhak Perlman	January 23 at 8:00pm
LJO: Tribute to Thelonius Monk	January 30 at 8:00pm
World Arts Day	February 6 from 11:00am to 5:00pm
TAO	February 13 at 8:00pm
Sidestepper	February 20 at 8:00pm
Kinky	February 27 at 8:00pm
Joshua Redman	March 6 at 8:00pm
Dianne Reeves	March 13 at 8:00pm
Rubberbandance	March 27 at 8:00pm
LJO: Tribute to Duke Ellington	April 10 at 8:00pm
David Dorfman Dance	April 17 at 8:00pm
ODC	April 24 at 8:00pm
Lula Washington Dance Theatre	May 15 at 8:00pm
LJO: Tribute to Herbie Hancock	June 5 at 8:30pm
Raiford Rogers Modern Ballet	June 19 at 8:00pm

The Harriet & Charles Luckman Fine Arts Complex, with two state-of-the-art theatres and a critically acclaimed art gallery, enjoys a reputation for presenting world-class music, dance, theatre, and visual arts programming in a beautiful, accessible setting. It is located on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles at 5151 State University Drive, near the convergence of the 10 and 710 freeways. A full schedule of all Luckman Fine Arts Complex events and exhibitions is available online at luckmanarts.org. Working for California since 1947: The 175-acre hilltop campus of California State University, Los Angeles is at the heart of a major metropolitan city, just five miles from Los Angeles' civic and cultural center. More than 20,000 students and 205,000 alumni—with a wide variety of interests, ages and backgrounds—reflect the city's dynamic mix of populations. Six colleges offer nationally recognized science, arts, business, criminal justice, engineering, nursing, education and humanities programs, among others, led by an award-winning faculty.

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