A Message from Elizabeth Garrett

I am pleased to announce the 2013–2014 season of USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative. Created by President Nikias eight years ago, this annual series of performances, lectures, exhibitions and discussions has become a centerpiece of campus life and a hallmark of a USC education.

At USC we believe the arts and humanities not only transmit core values, but also challenge and shape them. With great power to stir our minds and emotions, they bring us pleasure and call us to action. Visions and Voices extends the arts and humanities beyond the classroom to form diverse, transformative experiences for all members of our academic community. Quite often, I hear about students continuing to discuss these events long after they are over; they spark further inquiry among friends and roommates or they discover connections to coursework and research.

This year’s signature events offer a broad range of exciting speakers and performances. In October, we’ll host Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner. When his breakthrough play Angels in America first hit the stage in the early ’90s, Kushner’s work instantly expanded the dialogue on religious, sexual and gender identity in modern society. With plots that often navigate the line between history and fiction, and themes that are both challenging and timely, Kushner is one of the preeminent writers of our time; we are excited by the opportunity for students to engage with him. The Brian Brooks Moving Company will bring their powerful multimedia dance performance to USC. This is not just a show, but a unique experience that highlights the ways that movement, expression and design can inspire us and create meaning. We will also host two distinguished poets who are foremost scholars as well: Dick Davis, an expert of medieval Persian poetry, and David Lehman, who has written criticism, edited countless anthologies and created the Best American Poetry series.

I am also happy to announce the continuation of the Provost’s Writers Series, which has been an unqualified success. USC has many talented and influential faculty producing remarkable stories, poetry and critical work, and it is an honor to highlight a few every year. Over the course of four Visions and Voices events, students will have the opportunity to engage in intimate discussions with the authors—discussions that will explore the themes, ideas and experiences that have shaped their publications. Professor Aimee Bender, for example, will read from and discuss her work, including the best-selling novel, The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, which tells the story of a young girl who wrestles with a magical gift that makes her privy to her family’s deepest secrets.

These are just a few of our many outstanding Visions and Voices offerings. Please read through this brochure and consider attending the events that ignite your passions as well as those that will expose you to ideas, genres or cultures you’ve never explored before. I plan to attend several Visions and Voices events this year, and I encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Garrett
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
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About Visions and Voices

Visions and Voices is a university-wide arts and humanities initiative that is unparalleled in higher education. President C. L. Max Nikias established the initiative during his tenure as provost in order to engage USC students in the arts and humanities. Highlighting the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary approaches, the initiative features a spectacular array of events conceived and organized by faculty and schools throughout the university. Every Visions and Voices event is designed to challenge students and expand their perspectives. Each event includes an interactive or reflective component, providing students with a stimulating experience and an opportunity to explore USC’s core values, including freedom of inquiry, respect for diversity, commitment to service, entrepreneurial spirit, informed risk taking, ethical conduct and the search for truth. This approach to the arts and humanities is intended to help USC’s students become engaged world citizens, making every future scientist a better scientist, every future lawyer a better lawyer, every future business professional a better business professional and every future artist a better artist, contributing to a better society as a whole.
SPARK!

8TH ANNUAL VISIONS AND VOICES MULTIMEDIA KICKOFF

Thursday, August 22, 5:30 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

USC Visions and Voices’s annual arts extravaganza will kick off the new season with music, dance, theatre and performance art. Acclaimed DJ duo Urban Assault will energize the audience with an electrifying pre-show performance. Delightful art-folk duo The Bengsons will rouse the crowd with their radiant and socially conscious music. Joel Brown and Sebastian Grubb of AXIS Dance Company, which features performers with and without disabilities, will change the way you think about the human body. National slam champion Javon Johnson will inspire audiences with his dynamic spoken-word poetry. Critically acclaimed writer/performer/comic Monica Palacios will show you what groundbreaking Chicana queer performance looks like. In the moving multimedia play *Refugee Nation*, Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng will shed light on the experience of a young generation of Lao-Americans struggling to understand their history. At a lively post-show reception, experience the incredible moves and grooves of Aaron Childs and his soulful band. The event will also include a welcome by USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett and a presentation by USC cinematic arts professor Tara McPherson. Plus, attendees will receive free Visions and Voices T-shirts and bags!
The Underground: Street Chronicles

Tuesday, September 3, 8 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

One year after their incredible debut performance at USC, The Underground Street Dance Company, led by krump founders Miss Prissy and Lil “C”, will take the Bovard stage once again! Last year, The Underground electrified a capacity crowd with a live theatrical experience on the art of krump. This year, they will premiere *The Underground: Street Chronicles*, starring Miss Prissy, Lil “C” and more of the best street dancers in the world. Each of these dancers has a unique story of struggle, which they express through diverse, highly expressive street-dance forms. Witness their explosive energy in a thrilling performance that shows how dance is a crucial form of expression, a coping mechanism and a means of connection in a complicated world. The performance will be followed by a conversation with the dancers moderated by USC Annenberg professor Sasha Anawalt.

Related Events:

**Krump Workshops with Miss Prissy and Lil “C”**

Wednesday, September 11, 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, September 13, 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Mudd Hall of Philosophy 101

Students will learn basic krump vocabulary, including chest pops, foot stomps and arm swings, and then add their own personality to the movements. Open to all levels. No dance experience required.

Organized by Sasha Anawalt (Journalism), Robeson Taj Frazier (Communication) and Jessica Koslow (Journalism). Co-sponsored by USC Program Board Special Events Committee.
Mike Farrell in *Dr. Keeling's Curve*

Monday, September 9, 7 p.m.
Bing Theatre

Walk into the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., and you’ll find Darwin’s finches next to the double helix, and beside that, the Keeling Curve: a graph depicting the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. It clearly illustrates the most basic fact of climate change: carbon dioxide levels are rising at an extraordinary and accelerating pace. Written by George Shea, this production directed by Kirsten Sanderson and produced by the Blank Theatre stars Mike Farrell—a socially engaged artist and activist best known for his roles as Army Captain B.J. Hunnicutt on *M*A*S*H* and Dr. Jim Hansen on *Providence*—as Dr. Charles David Keeling. This all-too-real and often funny one-man bio-play makes global warming understandable, and reveals it to be anything but a myth.

Organized by the USC School of Dramatic Arts. Co-sponsored by the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

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Epic, Romance and Mysticism: The Greatness of Persian Poetry
An Evening with Dick Davis in Conversation with Dana Gioia

Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall
Doheny Memorial Library 240

Dick Davis is widely considered the finest living translator of Persian literature into English. Davis will discuss the great Persian poetic legacy that has inspired his life’s work in a stirring and expansive conversation with Dana Gioia, the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at USC. Davis’s translations include Attar’s *The Conference of the Birds* (with Afkham Darbandi), a book of medieval epigrams (*Borrowed Ware*), Pezeshkzad’s *My Uncle Napoleon*, Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*, Gorgani’s *Vis and Ramin* and, most recently, *Faces of Love: Hafez and the Poets of Shiraz*. Born in England, Davis lived in Iran from 1970 to 1978. A poet as well as a translator, Davis is the author of *At Home and Far from Home: Poems on Iran and Persian Culture*, among other books. He was a professor of Persian and chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University from 2002 until 2012.
The Provost’s Writers Series

The Provost’s Writers Series highlights the extraordinary talents of USC authors. In four events held throughout the year, USC faculty will read from and discuss their recent publications. The series will provide opportunities for students and the community to engage with USC authors, learn about the incredible diversity of their work and celebrate the written word.

An Evening with Jack Halberstam
Thursday, September 12, 7 p.m.
USC University Club at King Stoops Hall

Jack Halberstam is a professor of American studies and ethnicity, gender studies and comparative literature at USC and the author of five books, including *Female Masculinity* and *The Queer Art of Failure*. Halberstam’s most recent book, *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of Normal*, attempts to make sense of the tectonic shifts that have transformed gender and sexual politics in the last few decades. With a compelling knack for finding queer meaning in unlikely pop-culture spaces, Halberstam will explore what SpongeBob SquarePants, pregnant men and Lady Gaga tell us about sex and gender in the 21st century.

An Evening with Percival Everett
Tuesday, November 12, 7 p.m.
USC University Club at King Stoops Hall

Percival Everett is a distinguished professor of English at USC and “one of America’s most imaginative and industrious contemporary fiction writers” (*Bookforum*). He has authored 25 books of astonishing intelligence, inventiveness and variety, including *Erasure*, a satiric indictment of race and publishing, which won the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award; the re-worked Greek myths *Zulus* and *For Her Dark Skin*; the epistolary novel *A History of the African-American People (Proposed) by Strom Thurmond*, as told to Percival Everett and James Kincaid; and the westerns *Watershed* and *Wounded*. Everett’s latest novel, *Percival Everett by Virgil Russell*, is by turns silly and sad, covering topics as varied and profound as Nat Turner, Vietnam, aging, racism and death.
An Evening with Manuel Castells
Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m.
USC University Club at King Stoops Hall
Manuel Castells is University Professor and the Wallis Annenberg Chair in Communication Technology and Society at USC. One of the world’s most cited communications scholars, he was awarded the 2012 Holberg Prize for having “shaped our understanding of the political dynamics of urban and global economies in the network society.” In a distinguished, international academic career, he has authored dozens of books, including the acclaimed trilogy *The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture*. Castells’s most recent book, *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*, explores how the Internet and wireless technology have shaped contemporary social movements from the Arab Spring to Spain’s *indignados* to the Occupy movement.

An Evening with Aimee Bender
Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.
USC University Club at King Stoops Hall
Rescuing Ruben Salazar
Thursday, September 19, 6:30 p.m.
Annenberg Auditorium

Celebrated journalist Ruben Salazar was shockingly and mysteriously killed by a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputy in 1970. Salazar’s transformation from a mainstream, middle-of-the-road reporter to a supporter and primary chronicler of the radical Chicano movement mirrored the era’s larger social upheaval, which paved the way for today’s diverse Los Angeles. His death was one of the most bizarre and controversial fatal shootings of the mid-twentieth century. Join us for the premiere of PBS’s Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle, a documentary by USC Annenberg Visiting Fellow Phillip Rodriguez. Part political exposé, part narrative deconstruction, part poetic meditation, the film is the first independent and thorough investigation of Salazar’s life and death. Rodriguez’s prior documentaries include Race 2012 and Latinos ’08. A post-screening panel featuring Rodriguez, historians, legal experts and elected officials will explore the producers’ investigative process and why Salazar’s death is an important but little-understood moment in Los Angeles political history.

Creativity and the Clinical Imagination
A Lecture by Nick Flynn
Thursday, September 26, 4 p.m.
Mayer Auditorium, Health Sciences Campus

Nick Flynn’s most recent book, The Reenactments, completes a trilogy begun with his memoir of homelessness, Another Bullshit Night in Suck City (2004), and The Ticking Is the Bomb (2010), a memoir of interviews with prisoners released from Abu Ghraib. In The Reenactments, a memoir of the process of filming his first book, he delves into neurobiology, human consciousness and the forming and re-forming of memory with each telling. Seeking to find connections between seemingly disparate events and ideas, Flynn engages with the narrative of his life in much the same way that medical professionals strive to engage with the narratives of patients and of their own lives in the dissonant space that is modern medicine.

Altering American Consciousness: Alcohol, Drug Use and American Medicine
A Lecture by Sarah W. Tracy
Thursday, April 3, 4 p.m.
Mayer Auditorium, Health Sciences Campus

Sarah W. Tracy is the author of Alcoholism in America from Reconstruction to Prohibition and co-editor of Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000. Tracy earned her doctorate in the history and sociology of science from the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining the Honors College at the University of Oklahoma, she taught at the universities of Delaware, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and at Yale University. Tracy will discuss the evolving history of addiction, treatment and drug-related policy in the United States.

Organized by Pamela Schaff (Pediatrics and Keck Educational Affairs), Suraiya Rahman (Pediatrics), Erin Quinn (Family Medicine) and Lyn Boyd-Judson (Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics). Co-sponsored by the Keck School of Medicine’s Program in Medical Humanities, Arts and Ethics; the USC Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics; and the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics.
American Poetry’s Greatest Hits: Editing the *Oxford Book of American Poetry*
An Evening with David Lehman in Conversation with Dana Gioia

Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall, Doheny Memorial Library 240

David Lehman is perhaps the foremost authority on modern and contemporary American poetry. In a remarkable evening, he will read from his own work and discuss the incredible variety of American poetic traditions with Dana Gioia, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Lehman initiated the *Best American Poetry* series and edited the definitive *Oxford Book of American Poetry*, which encompasses the seventeenth century to the present. Lehman’s own poetry is captivating, witty, impeccably crafted and often surprising. Poet Mary Jo Bang has written of Lehman’s work, “the whole of a world is here, and the remnants of an era—from Dinah Shore to Bob Dylan, from Hitler to Nixon.” The evening will offer a sweeping view of the vastness and diversity of American poetry.
Change Agents

Change Agents will include lectures and workshops by Eric Zimmerman, Nathalie Pozzi and Jeanne van Heeswijk, three internationally acclaimed artists whose work activates and re-conceptualizes the public sphere, offering new opportunities for engagement, action and reflection.

Eric Zimmerman and Nathalie Pozzi

Wednesday, October 2, 7 p.m.
Gin D. Wong Auditorium, Harris Hall 101

Eric Zimmerman, an American game designer, artist and founder of the New York University game-design department, and Italian architect Nathalie Pozzi produce artworks that take the form of large-scale physical games played in public spaces, ranging from galleries to streetscapes to the outdoor sculpture garden at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. They will talk about their work and their interest in “creating spaces as possibilities of action.” On Thursday, October 3, Zimmerman will lead a hands-on game-design workshop.

Jeanne van Heeswijk

Monday, November 4, 7 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall
Doheny Memorial Library 240

Dutch artist Jeanne van Heeswijk will speak about the socially engaged art projects she has produced around the world since 1993. Guided by an overwhelming optimism about the relationship between art and society, van Heeswijk seeks to permanently engage citizens in the enactment of social change within their own communities. Her confrontational projects transcend traditional boundaries of art in duration, space and media. On Tuesday, November 5, van Heeswijk will lead a workshop exploring public space and collective learning.

Organized by Rhea Anastas and Carol Stakenas (Fine Arts).
Brian Brooks Moving Company

A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT

Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Join us for a stunning evening of dance and design. The New York–based Brian Brooks Moving Company combines spectacle and physical virtuosity in works that “shatter conventional notions of the human capacity for strength and endurance” (Dance magazine). The evening will feature the premiere of a new work, Run Don’t Run, along with Descent, a meditation on dependency and detachment; Motor, featuring a large-scale installation in which dancers wrestle with linear time; and I’m Going to Explode, which captivatingly combines street dance and physics. In visually arresting performances that incorporate dance, architectural and lighting design, kinetic sculpture and elements of parkour, the Brian Brooks Moving Company will provoke fascinating questions about human embodiment in a constructed world.
The Metropolitan Opera in HD

The USC School of Cinematic Arts will host a series of satellite broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera presented in spectacular HD digital projection and 5.1 surround sound. Ken Cazan, chair of vocal arts and opera and resident stage director at the USC Thornton School of Music, will host discussions prior to the operas listed below.

**Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin**

Saturday, October 5

12 p.m.: Pre-Opera Discussion
1 p.m.: HD Opera Broadcast
Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall

Anna Netrebko, Mariusz Kwiecień and Piotr Beczała star in Deborah Warner’s new production of Tchaikovsky’s fateful romance. Russian maestro Valery Gergiev conducts.

**Verdi’s Falstaff**

Saturday, January 25

12 p.m.: Pre-Opera Discussion
1 p.m.: HD Opera Broadcast
Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall

In the first new Met Falstaff since 1964, Robert Carsen directs Ambrogio Maestri as the brilliant and blustery Sir John Falstaff opposite a marvelous ensemble including Angela Meade, Stephanie Blythe, Lisette Oropesa and Franco Vassallo. Music Director James Levine, an undisputed master of Falstaff, conducts.

Organized by the USC School of Cinematic Arts in conjunction with the USC Thornton School of Music and the Metropolitan Opera.

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An Afternoon with Tony Kushner

**A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT**

Sunday, October 6, 4 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Join us for a stimulating conversation with preeminent playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner, of whom the New York Times has written, “Some playwrights want to change the world. Some want to revolutionize theatre. Tony Kushner is that rarity of rarities: a writer who has the promise to do both.” Tackling many of the most challenging issues of our time—including AIDS in Angels in America, Afghanistan’s long-tortured relationship with the West in Homebody/Kabul, German fascism and Reaganism in A Bright Room Called Day and racism and the civil rights movement in Caroline, or Change—he is invariably political but never polemical. Kushner is best known for the play and television miniseries Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes. He wrote the screenplays for Steven Spielberg’s Munich and Lincoln, and is the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize, an Emmy Award, two Tony Awards, three Obie Awards and an Oscar nomination, among many other honors.

Co-sponsored by the USC School of Dramatic Arts.
Drawn to Language: Art and Music in Conversation

Voices off the Walls, Music off the Walls
Monday, October 7, 7 p.m.
USC Fisher Museum of Art
In conjunction with the USC Fisher Museum of Art’s exhibition Drawn to Language, featuring contemporary artists who incorporate language into their art, pianist Victoria Kirsch and fellow USC Thornton School of Music alumni will perform a concert of vocal and instrumental music inspired by the artworks on display.

The Poet’s Voice: The Collaborative Art in Words and Music
Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.
USC Fisher Museum of Art
Enjoy a beautiful program of American and English songs from classical and popular traditions, as well as recitations of selected poems, in an evening with Dana Gioia, the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at USC; pianist Victoria Kirsch; and alumni of the USC Thornton School of Music, including soprano Shana Blake Hill, baritone Nmon Ford and singer-songwriter Nikhil Korula. A post-performance discussion will explore the process of collaboration from several perspectives: poet-composer, singer-pianist, artwork-curator and performer-audience.

Organized by the USC Fisher Museum of Art.
Art, Performance and Social Practice

Encountering art is no longer limited to passively viewing objects. Many contemporary artists instead create powerful social interactions with audiences. A two-part series will explore this “social turn” in art, looking at work that blurs the boundaries between visual art and performance and integrates a desire for social change and collective engagement.

A Lecture by Shannon Jackson

Wednesday, October 9, 4 p.m.

SCI Theatre 106, USC School of Cinematic Arts Complex

Shannon Jackson is the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair in the Arts and Humanities and director of the Arts Research Center at UC Berkeley. She is the author of several books, including Social Works: Performing Art, Supporting Publics, which examines the changing roles of community organizers, civic activists, visual artists and performance artists as they explore new forms of “art performance” and social interaction.

In Your Hands
A Video-Making Workshop with Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Saturday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SCI Room 209, USC School of Cinematic Arts Complex

Alexis Pauline Gumbs is a queer black troublemaker, a black feminist love evangelist and a prayer poet priestess with a PhD in English, African and African American studies and women’s and gender studies from Duke University. From educational videos about black feminist history to a video curriculum for trauma survivors, Gumbs uses video to educate, empower, build community and transform society. In an inspiring hands-on video-making workshop, participants will explore concepts like ancestral listening, sacred space and embodied legacy.

Organized by Holly Willis (Cinematic Arts).
Copenhagen by Michael Frayn
A Staged Reading Directed by Jack Rowe

Wednesday, October 9, 7 p.m.
Joyce J. Cammilleri Hall

In a 1941 encounter in Copenhagen, physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg exchanged heated words and profound ideas relating to the moral questions of scientists working on nuclear weapons. Michael Frayn’s Tony Award–winning play Copenhagen is a fictional account of that exchange. The New York Times called Copenhagen “endlessly fascinating...the most invigorating and ingenious play of ideas in many a year and a work of art that humanizes physics in a way no other has done.” The production will be directed by Jack Rowe, director of the BFA program in acting and associate dean of the USC School of Dramatic Arts.

Organized by the USC School of Dramatic Arts. Co-sponsored by the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and the USC Brain and Creativity Institute.

From Page to Stage: Moby-Dick: Then and Now
Featuring Ricardo Pitts-Wiley and Mixed Magic Theatre

Friday, October 11, 7 p.m.
Annenberg Auditorium

The fateful voyage of the Pequod and its revenge-obsessed Captain Ahab is reimagined in Moby Dick: Then and Now. Alba, a young woman in contemporary urban America, is determined to avenge the gang-related death of her brother Pip in this adaptation of Herman Melville’s classic American novel. Moby Dick: Then and Now emerged through Ricardo Pitts-Wiley’s work with incarcerated youth. Pitts-Wiley, an actor, director, playwright and composer with Mixed Magic Theatre, encouraged the youth to read and rewrite this challenging novel in relation to their own realities. The 19th-century whaling trade became the 21st-century drug trade, and Mixed Magic Theatre remixed Melville’s language with hip hop. Pitts-Wiley’s approach is featured in the new book Reading in a Participatory Culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English Classroom, co-written by USC professor Henry Jenkins. This staged reading will feature student actors from USC and local high schools. Jenkins will moderate a post-show discussion with Pitts-Wiley and the cast.

Organized by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.
Get Your Hands Dirty with the Arts!
Saturday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
University Park Campus

USC’s world-class arts schools, including the School of Architecture, the School of Cinematic Arts, the School of Dramatic Arts, the Roski School of Fine Arts and the Thornton School of Music, will come together to present an annual day-long festival featuring unique opportunities to get your hands dirty with the arts! An extraordinary array of hands-on workshops will be presented in art, architecture, cinematic arts, interactive media, music and theatre. So nurture your talents and skills, get creative and experience the thrill of making art with USC’s distinguished faculty.

Organized by the USC Arts Schools.

Imagining New Communities in the Digital Age
A Multimedia Performance Featuring Low End Theory
Saturday, October 12, 7 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Bovard Auditorium will be transformed into an interactive artistic and community space in a multimedia event that will reverberate around the world. Live music in genres ranging from hip hop to electronica will merge with visual design and computer-generated graphics created by Low End Theory, a legendary Los Angeles club night. Held weekly in Los Angeles, monthly in San Francisco and quarterly in Japan, Low End Theory supports visionary artists, breakthrough sounds and vibrant artistic community. Performers will include legendary producer Daddy Kev, DJ Gaslamp Killer, turntablist D-Styles, producer/performer Nobody, freestyle rapper Nocando and visual designer Strangeloop. The event will include a discussion with the artists, New York University professor Nicholas Mirzoeff, USC professor Josh Kun and USC lecturer Seth Michelson.

Organized by the Hemispheric Institute’s Convergence Working Group. Co-sponsored by Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture, the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity.
Gulp, Stiff, Spook, Bonk and Packing for Mars
An Action-Packed Conversation with Mary Roach

Thursday, October 17, 5:30 p.m.
Mayer Auditorium, Health Sciences Campus

America’s funniest science writer, Mary Roach, has investigated the science around sex, cadavers, the afterlife and travel to Mars—and shared her findings with readers in humorous, captivating prose. She is the author of the New York Times best sellers Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void, Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers and Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex. Her newest book, Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal, takes us on a journey through the digestive system. With her characteristic intelligence and wit, Roach will discuss the medical and scientific aspects of her books with Megan Rosenbloom of the USC Norris Medical Library.

Organized by Megan Rosenbloom (USC Libraries) and Theresa Woehrle (Clinical Family Medicine).
Carl St.Clair, artistic leader of the USC Thornton orchestras, leads the USC Thornton Symphony in a theatrical exploration of the life and music of Tchaikovsky with a multimedia performance of the composer’s final piece, the Symphony no. 6 in B Minor. Known as the *Pathétique Symphony* (French for “pathetic”), the piece was premiered in Moscow nine days before Tchaikovsky’s death in 1893, and mystery and portents of tragedy have surrounded it since its second performance at a memorial concert twenty days later. St.Clair and the USC Thornton Symphony will present a multimedia concert that includes live theatre, film, photographs and a rare recording to illuminate this extraordinary musician. The performance will also feature one of the composer’s most famous pieces, *Swan Lake*, and a lesser-known masterpiece, a duet for an unfinished *Romeo and Juliet* opera.

Organized by the USC Thornton School of Music.
One hundred years ago, D. G. Phalke shot the feature film *Raja Harishchandra* on an imported camera. In villages and cities throughout colonized India, the film drew crowds curious to see their myths and stories on-screen, instead of the usual American or European fare. Now a multinational industry, Indian cinema has danced and sung its way through state and market restrictions, organizational crisis, new technologies, financial shifts and Hollywood’s domination of most markets. In a two-day festival, the USC School of Cinematic Arts will celebrate Indian cinema, spanning 100 years, multiple languages and diverse creative and political imaginations. Screenings of classic and contemporary Indian films, from the popular to the avant-garde, will be interspersed with panels on India’s film history by a leading Indian filmmaker in dialogue with scholars from around the world.

Organized by the USC School of Cinematic Arts.
Galileo profoundly altered the way we understand our world. While he was discovering the vastness of the universe, his daughters were cloistered as nuns. His correspondence about science and family life with his eldest daughter simultaneously humanizes Galileo, showing the fatherly side of the scientific giant, and reveals his daughter’s shimmering brilliance. Renowned science writer Dava Sobel authored the best-selling *Galileo’s Daughter* based on the surviving letters. *Galileo’s Daughter*, which is featured on President Nikias’s 2013 summer reading list, won the 1999 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for science and technology and a 2000 Christopher Award. It was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in biography. A former *New York Times* science reporter and the author of *Longitude, The Planets* and *A More Perfect Heaven*, Sobel received the National Science Board’s Individual Public Service Award and the Boston Museum of Science’s prestigious Bradford Washburn Award. Join us for a very special evening with Dava Sobel that will elucidate science and our lives.
Mx America
A Performance by Justin Vivian Bond
Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m.
Town and Gown

World-renowned writer, singer, painter and performance artist Mx Justin Vivian Bond (aka “V”) has been described as a “fixture of the New York City avant-garde” (Huffington Post). Author of the Lambda Literary Award–winning memoir Tango: My Childhood, Backwards and in High Heels, Bond was nominated for a Tony Award for Kiki and Herb: Alive On Broadway and appeared in John Cameron Mitchell’s film Shortbus. In Mx America, a new production that incorporates video, spoken word and songs from Bond’s critically acclaimed records Dendrophile and Silver Wells, Bond explores seeing and being seen as a patriot, a gender non-conformist and a cabaret artist. As the singular finalist in this pageant, Mx Bond expects to be judged in such categories as presentation, economic status, mental health, family values and talent, all while creating an elegantly formidable evening of beauty and delight.

Related Event:
Tea with V
Friday, November 8, 2 p.m.
Vineyard Room, Davidson Conference Center

Join Mx Bond for an intimate tea and conversation about pronouns, binaries, “realness” and other adventures in gender and performance.

Organized by A.L. Steiner (Fine Arts).
Comedy@SCA, Volume 2
Friday, November 8 through Sunday, November 10
Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall
Following upon the enormous success of the first Comedy@SCA festival in 2011, USC School of Cinematic Arts professors Jack Epps, David Isaacs and Barnet Kellman will celebrate comedy in film, television and new media in a three-day festival. Comedy has never played a bigger role in American life. For political analysis, we look to Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Bill Maher and Seth Meyers. To reflect the way we live, we rely on Lena Dunham, Louis C.K. and Modern Family. From Funny or Die to the latest meme, Americans look to comedy to understand our world. Comedy@SCA will present the premiere of a new comedy film; a retrospective screening of a comedy classic; a visit with the creators of a groundbreaking TV series; and panels on animation, the web and all aspects of the evolving comic landscape. Legendary director/producer James Burrows will be on hand to receive the Jack Oakie Lifetime Achievement Award.

Organized by the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

USC Thornton Opera Presents Monteverdi’s L’incoronazione di Poppea
Friday, November 22
7 p.m.: Pre-Performance Discussion
8 p.m.: Opera Performance
Bing Theatre
Politics, sex and religion—the stuff of all great opera! Claudio Monteverdi’s seventeenth-century masterpiece, L’incoronazione di Poppea, combines all of the above with the sublime Baroque music of one of the great masters of the genre. In a modern update of this timeless story of political corruption, the opera follows Ottavia who is married to Nero who is in love with Poppea who is married to Ottone who is longed for by Drusilla who is captured in a murder attempt by Arnalta, Poppea’s devoted, blindly ambitious maid. A thrilling, edge-of-your-seat evening awaits in this USC Thornton Opera and USC Thornton Symphony collaboration with USC Thornton’s Early Music Program. A pre-performance discussion will feature renowned lutenist Paul O’Dette of the Eastman School of Music and the artistic team of resident stage director Ken Cazan, conductor Brent McMunn and Early Music Program director Adam Gilbert.

Organized by the USC Thornton School of Music.
Collecting the Cosmos

Friday, January 24, 4 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall, Doheny Memorial Library 240

It’s not every day that you find a lightning storm inside a library. Dramatizing NASA’s Juno mission to Jupiter, Dan Goods and David Delgado’s art installation Beneath the Surface simulates a lightning storm in Jupiter’s cloudy atmosphere. Explore the intersections of scientific knowledge and artistic innovation with Goods and Delgado of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and USC professors Clifford Johnson (Physics and Astronomy) and Holly Willis (Institute for Multimedia Literacy). In a panel discussion, they will reflect on how the arts provide unexpected ways of seeing that help us interpret the cosmos and, in turn, how the sciences are transforming visual arts, music and other creative fields. In conjunction, the USC Libraries will display Beneath the Surface with rare items tracing the history of astronomy from the libraries’ collections and interactive simulations by the USC Institute for Creative Technologies.

Organized by the USC Libraries and the USC Institute for Creative Technologies.
Freaks and Geeks: A Series Retrospective

Sundays: January 26, February 23, March 30 and April 6
Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall

The USC School of Cinematic Arts will host a complete series retrospective of the influential but short-lived NBC comedy series *Freaks and Geeks* (1999–2000). In addition to launching the careers of then unknowns Jason Segel, James Franco, Seth Rogen, Linda Cardellini, Rashida Jones, Lizzy Caplan, Ben Foster and many others, the series was a key collaboration between USC alumni Paul Feig and Judd Apatow, who later created the hit feature film *Bridesmaids*. The retrospective will spread out screenings of all eighteen episodes of the show across four Sundays, with each screening followed by a panel discussion with members of the cast and crew that will cover writing, casting, marketing, producing within the network system and the continuing impact of *Freaks and Geeks* on both television and feature-film comedies.

Organized by the USC School of Cinematic Arts.
The Langston Hughes Project—Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz

Saturday, February 1, 4 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Harlem Renaissance poet, writer and activist Langston Hughes (1902–1967) changed literature with his innovative jazz poetry. Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz is Hughes’s homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom at the beginning of the 1960s. Presented on Hughes’s birthday, a multimedia concert performance of this kaleidoscopic, twelve-part jazz-poem suite will feature actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner and the Ron McCurdy Quartet. The performance will link the words and music of Hughes’s poetry to images of the people, places and events described in Ask Your Mama, and to works by visual artists Hughes admired or collaborated with. With musical cues drawn from the blues, Dixieland, gospel, boogie-woogie, bebop, progressive jazz, Latin cha-cha, Afro-Cuban mambo, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso and African drumming, Ask Your Mama is a creative masterwork left unperformed at Hughes’s death. This performance recovers it with multimedia dynamism for a new generation.

Related Event:
Poetry Slam with Live Music: A Celebration of USC Students’ Work

Thursday, January 30, 7 p.m.
Ground Zero Performance Café

Poetry resides on the page, but it lives on the stage. This unique collaboration of words, rhythm and melody—with piano, bass, drums, sax and guitar—will bring together student writers from across the university with musicians from the USC Thornton School of Music for a dynamic evening of performance poetry with live musical accompaniment.

Organized by Ron McCurdy (Music), Gabrielle Pina (Master of Professional Writing), Brighde Mullins (Master of Professional Writing) and Michèle Turner (Black Alumni Association). Co-sponsored by the Master of Professional Writing Program and the Black Alumni Association.
Against All Odds…From Orphan to “Architect to the Stars”: The Legacy of Paul R. Williams

Wednesday, February 5, 6 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Ronald Tutor Campus Center

Born in 1894 to African American parents and orphaned at age four, USC alumnus Paul R. Williams rose to become one of the great architects of the twentieth century. His elegant homes and iconic commercial buildings established the architectural landscape of Los Angeles and continue to shape it today. With over 3,000 structures worldwide, his diverse local work ranges from celebrity homes to churches, office buildings on Central Avenue to the Theme Building at the Los Angeles International Airport and public housing to the Beverly Hills Hotel. A distinguished panel will feature Williams’s granddaughter and author Karen E. Hudson, along with esteemed architects, civic officials and entertainment leaders. They will discuss Williams’s incredible legacy and groundbreaking work.

Playwriting Boot Camp with Paula Vogel
Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Parkside Performance Café
After more than two decades of inspiring and instructing the next generation of American playwrights at Brown and Yale universities, Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright Paula Vogel now offers boot camps—intensive basic-training sessions in the elements of playwriting—all over the country, reaching hundreds of people, from professional writers to novice playwrights to those who simply dream of taking pen to paper. Intended to demystify the playwriting process, this one-day class will focus on writing exercises designed to get the mind moving in a new direction, and to encourage writers to really consider what it means to write for the theatre. The class will also touch on foundational tenets of playwriting, including Aristotle’s elements of drama. Winner of a Pulitzer Prize for How I Learned to Drive, Vogel is one of the foremost playwrights of our day.
Organized by the USC School of Dramatic Arts.

USC Composers Past and Present
USC Thornton Wind Ensemble
Sunday, February 9, 4 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium
For generations, some of America’s leading composers have found a home at USC as members of the faculty. H. Robert Reynolds and Sharon Lavery will lead the USC Thornton Wind Ensemble in a celebration of the Thornton School of Music’s renowned composition program, including past composers Ingolf Dahl, Robert Linn and Halsey Stevens as well as current faculty Donald Crockett and Frank Ticheli. The afternoon concert will include a premiere for wind ensemble of Donald Crockett’s Dance Concerto, Frank Ticheli’s Angels in the Architecture, Ukrainian Folk Songs by Halsey Stevens, Sinfonietta by Ingolf Dahl and works by Robert Linn and others. Crockett and Ticheli will be on hand to speak about their pieces; their peers in the composition department will introduce the work of past composers.
Organized by the USC Thornton School of Music.
The struggle for survival is incredibly difficult in many African countries. The Sahara Desert is expanding and few people live past their 50s. A major contribution to this difficult existence is the lack of clean drinking water, which leads to serious diseases and other problems. In a presentation rich with photos, USC trustee Dave Dornsife and his wife, Dana, will share their journey of bringing fresh water, sanitation and hygiene to rural African villages. They will discuss the ups and downs, successes, hard lessons, challenges and blessings they have experienced. Working with World Vision, their water projects have brought water to over 4,500,000 people in ten African countries, and should add 1,400,000 additional people in 2014. Join us for this important presentation on the problems of water access in Africa and the critical work being done to create healthy communities.
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT PRESENTED WITH USC SPECTRUM

Saturday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Join us for a breathtaking evening of dance featuring the incredible Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (ASFB). Called “a breath of fresh air” by the *New York Times*, ASFB features top global choreographers, distinctive groundbreaking works and virtuoso dancers. Their bold vision has fostered a jewel of a dance company in the American West and beyond. ASFB’s unique pioneering spirit arises from a paired set of home cities: Aspen, nestled high in the Rocky Mountains, and Santa Fe, gracing the majestic Southwestern plateau. For sixteen years, the company has served as a prestigious incubator and a showcase for choreographic invention to popular and critical acclaim. As dance critic Sarah Kaufman of the *Washington Post* said, ASFB “took hold of your heart and never let go—it still gives me chills.”
Lost Borders: Water, Climate Change and the West

Tuesday, February 25, 7 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall
Doheny Memorial Library 240

Theatre and earth sciences intersect in “Lost Borders,” a multidisciplinary event exploring the lack of water in the American West and the fragility of our land. Water has long been a defining issue of the American West, affecting state borders, agriculture, economics, immigration and settlement—and now it is a major factor in the climate-change crisis. Taking its name from the work of iconoclastic early-twentieth-century nature writer Mary Hunter Austin, “Lost Borders” will combine a play, The Chisera by USC playwright Paula Cizmar, with a multimedia presentation of desert images and a conversation facilitated by USC geologist Sarah J. Feakins. Connecting Austin’s life and work to a present-day scientist who is reeling from tragedy, the play blurs the borders of time, consciousness and reality, and lays out the lasting consequences of ignoring the effects of human life on the natural world.

Organized by Paula Cizmar (Dramatic Arts), Sarah J. Feakins (Earth Science) and Tom Ontiveros (Dramatic Arts). Co-sponsored by the Earth Science Communication Initiative at USC Annenberg and USC Sustainability.
Queer in the Other Europe
LGBTQ culture in Eastern Europe was transformed in the liberal post-Soviet era. Today, a turn toward reactionary political and religious ideologies is threatening the recently found freedom of queer Eastern Europe. A panel discussion and documentary film screening will explore queer culture, activism and contemporary histories in the region.

Queer in the Other Europe
Wednesday, February 26, 7 p.m.
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
909 West Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles

When Communist regimes fell across Eastern Europe, a widespread sense of social optimism inspired many LGBTQ groups to push for greater equality and visibility. Subsequent right-wing insurgencies and a turn toward fundamentalist religious traditions have thwarted LGBTQ social movements and led to harsh repression of gay-pride parades, street protests and political theatre. A panel will examine this turn of events in a number of Eastern European contexts, including Poland, Hungary and Russia. Anchored by Polish scholar and curator Pawel Leszkowicz, the panel will explore how transformations in Eastern Europe affect LGBTQ issues and communities around the world.

Secret Years
Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m.
The Ray Stark Cinema Theatre, School of Cinematic Arts 108

During the repressive Cold War era, most lesbians in Hungary lived clandestine lives. After the fall of communism in 1989, lesbians experienced a brief period of openness. Today, growing hostility to sexual minorities has again forced many lesbians in Hungary to hide their identities. Secret Years is a 2009 documentary that includes rare interviews with multiple generations of lesbians living in Hungary. The first Hungarian documentary of its kind, Secret Years explores lesbian responses to the successive waves of repression, openness and radical conservatism that have shaped Hungarian society in the recent past. The screening will be followed by a discussion with filmmakers Anna Borgos and Mária Takács.

Organized by ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the USC Libraries.

Subversive Works/Sustainable Art
A Workshop and Discussion with Latin American Book Artists
Friday, February 28, 2:30 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall, Doheny Memorial Library 240

Publishing collectives are transforming the nature of books and literacy throughout the Americas. A discussion and workshop with leading artists, scholars and founders of book-publishing collectives in Matanzas, Cuba, and Chiapas, Mexico, will explore the artistry and social vision of Latin American artists’ books and the recent cartonera publishing phenomenon. A panel discussion moderated by USC professor Erin Graff Zivin will feature Rolando Estévez of Ediciones Vigía; Ámbar Past of Taller Leñateros; and Harvard University professor Doris Sommer. Following the discussion, Sommer will lead a hands-on pre-texts/pre-textos workshop, combining readings of literary texts with the creation of artists’ books using techniques drawn from cartonera and other traditions. In conjunction, the USC Libraries will present an exhibition of handmade Latin American artists’ books on the first floor of Doheny Memorial Library.

Organized by the USC Libraries.
Unperformable
An Evening with Dance Pioneer Rudy Perez

Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Ronald Tutor Campus Center

Join us for the debut performance of a new piece by dance pioneer Rudy Perez, whose archive was acquired by the USC Libraries in 2002. Perez’s groundbreaking choreography emerged from the creative ferment of 1960s and ’70s New York, intersecting with performance art and experimental music. In his youth, Perez worked various day jobs and studied at night with the giants of modern dance: Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Mary Anthony. His breakthrough solos with the Judson Dance Theater in the 1960s helped spark the postmodern dance movement. In 2009, this dance legend celebrated his 80th birthday with performances of new works. Perez’s latest piece, Unperformable, will be premiered and followed by a discussion with Perez and USC professors Sasha Anawalt and Margo Apostolos. In conjunction, the USC Libraries will display rare items from Perez’s personal archive and excerpts from recently digitized films of his performances from the last 50 years.

Organized by the USC Libraries.
Silver & Gold
A Performance by Nao Bustamante

Sunday, March 9, 7 p.m.
Tommy’s Place, Ronald Tutor Campus Center

Innovative cross-genre artist Nao Bustamante invokes avant-garde filmmaker Jack Smith and his muse, 1940s Dominican starlet Maria Montez, in a magical and joyfully twisted “filmformance” that explores race, glamour, sexuality and the silver screen. Silver & Gold combines film, live performance, audience interaction and campy costumes to take spectators on a bizarre and radical journey. Nao Bustamante’s work has been performed and screened in galleries, museums, film festivals and underground sites around the world. She appeared before a mass audience as a messy and complex artist on the reality TV show Work of Art: The Next Great Artist. Embodying risk and endurance, Bustamante stages interventions into everyday popular culture to highlight the queerness of the world around us.

Related Event:
A Workshop with Nao Bustamante

Friday, March 7, 2 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall, Doheny Memorial Library 240

Participate in an intimate performance workshop with internationally known artist Nao Bustamante, whose provocative work encompasses film, video, performance, visual art and writing.

Organized by Jack Halberstam (American Studies and Ethnicity, Gender Studies and Comparative Literature).
Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight
An Evening with Alexandra Fuller

A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT

Tuesday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Town and Gown

Join us for a powerful and intimate exploration of war, family, love and death with acclaimed author Alexandra Fuller, who has documented her childhood in Rhodesia during a time of intense struggle for independence. Her debut book, *Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*, which is featured on President Nikias’s 2013 summer reading list, was a *New York Times* Notable Book, a finalist for the *Guardian*’s First Book Award and winner of a Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize. “War was like an episode of awful, non-stop weather to us,” Fuller has said. Her four non-fiction books, at once anti-war stories and love stories, are rooted in the belief that “everything we do is political, from the decision we make to wake up in the morning, to the clothes we put on our bodies, to the words we have the courage to speak.”
Truth Values:
One Girl’s Romp Through M.I.T.’s Male Math Maze
Written and Performed by Gioia De Cari
Directed by Miriam Eusebio

Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Ronald Tutor Campus Center

Nonbinary algorithms and sexism collide in Truth Values: One Girl’s Romp Through M.I.T.’s Male Math Maze, a painfully funny show about navigating the elite boys’ club of higher mathematics. In 2005, Lawrence Summers, then president of Harvard University, suggested that women are less represented than men in the sciences because of innate gender differences. Truth Values is one woman’s brilliant—and entertaining—response. Writer/performer and “recovering mathematician” Gioia De Cari brings to life more than 30 characters in a true tale that offers a humorous, scathing, insightful and ultimately uplifting look at the challenges of being a professional woman in a male-dominated field. Truth Values won the award for Outstanding Solo Show at the New York International Fringe Festival.

Related Event:
Implicit Bias: How Default Assumptions Hurt Science, Skew Journalism and Send Innocent People to Jail

Thursday, March 13, 4 p.m.
Friends of the USC Libraries Lecture Hall, Doheny Memorial Library 240

Gioia De Cari, Annenberg professor K.C. Cole and a panel of experts from diverse fields will explore how the assumptions we don’t know we make lead to unconscious racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination—and as a result severely damage careers, scientific progress, the arts and justice.

Organized by K.C. Cole (Journalism) and Sami Assaf (Mathematics).
Friends, Bitches, Countrymen: Contemporary Feminist Poetics

Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.
The Ray Stark Family Theatre, School of Cinematic Arts 108

What are the relationships between feminism, poetry and power? In a reading and performance, five American poets will define, discuss, question, subvert, celebrate and explode their varied feminist poetics. Arielle Greenberg is co-author of Home/Birth: A Poemic and co-editor of Gurlesque: The New Grishly, Grotesque, Burlesque Poetics. Dawn Lundy Martin won the Cave Canem Prize for A Gathering of Matter / A Matter of Gathering. Danielle Pafunda’s The Dead Girls Speak in Unison was a finalist for the National Poetry Series. Carmen Giménez Smith, the author of a memoir and four poetry collections, is an American Book Award winner as well as editor of the journal Puerto del Sol and publisher at Noemi Press. Stacey Waite is the author of Love Poem to Androgyny and Butch Geography. The reading and performance will be moderated by Sarah Vap, a PhD student in literature and creative writing at USC, and followed by a discussion facilitated by USC English professor Susan McCabe.

Organized by Sarah Vap (Literature and Creative Writing) and Susan McCabe (English).
ClimatePalooza 2014

Friday, March 28, 3 to 8 p.m.
USC Annenberg School for Communication

USC and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory will come together to present a vibrant multimedia festival that will offer a variety of fun and dynamic opportunities to learn about the latest science defining climate change—and what we can do about this complex and crucial issue. Browse environment-themed art and design projects and technical exhibits created by students as well as a variety of nonprofit, governmental and industry-based organizations. Hear climate scientists and policy experts discuss the latest research in provocative panel discussions. Enjoy informative and insightful performances of music, theatre, film and comedy by environmentally concerned artists. The festival will be topped off by a pro-environment hip hop performance under the stars. The challenge of climate change affects us in multiple ways. By bringing art and science together, we gain new information and perspective about our values around rationality, nature and the planet we share.

Organized by Larry Pryor (Journalism). Co-sponsored by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

BODYTRAFFIC and the Work of Barak Marshall

Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Los Angeles dance company BODYTRAFFIC will present the work of innovative Israeli choreographer Barak Marshall in an inspiring performance. “Marshall’s work possesses a formidable joie de vivre, an enchantment, which pulls us into a magical world,” wrote La Republique. The first-ever house choreographer of the Tel Aviv–based Batsheva Dance Company, Marshall has performed and won awards in venues all over the world, including the Bagnolet International Choreographic Competition and the Théâtre de la Bastille in Paris, the Bienale de la danse in Lyon, the House of World Cultures in Berlin, Dance Umbrella UK and Los Angeles’s Disney Hall. BODYTRAFFIC, a nonprofit company with a mission to bring world-class contemporary dance to Los Angeles while supporting and fostering Jewish art, was named one of Dance magazine’s “25 to Watch” in 2013.

Organized by Ruth Weisberg (Fine Arts).
Wonderland Unbound
Thursday, April 17, 6 p.m.
Doheny Memorial Library

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, The Hunting of the Snark and other materials from the USC Libraries’ Cassady Lewis Carroll Collection will come to life in a multimedia event that will transform Doheny Memorial Library. In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the USC Libraries Wonderland Award, experience the joy of discovery in a wonderfully creative installation comprising digital animation, light projection and more. Preceding the opening of the multimedia installation, a panel of scholars, computer programmers and artists will explore questions relating to spectacle and environmental art, the integration of library collections into an artistic experience and digital visualization as a creative act. An exhibition of items drawn from the Cassady Lewis Carroll Collection will reveal the relationships between primary materials and creative works that remix, reinterpret and otherwise transform them.

Organized by the USC Libraries.
Mehfil Massive: South Asian Religions Remixed through Poetry and Music

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

Legendary South Asian musicians and poets will come together to celebrate and investigate the rich diversity of South Asian spiritual influences. From ghazals set to music and sung throughout the Muslim world to Rabindranath Tagore’s Nobel Prize-winning *Gitanjali* (*Prayer Offering of Song*), collaborations between poets and musicians have been a staple of South Asian religious life for centuries. In Mughal courts, nightly mehfils brought these performers together and elevated their collaborations to high art. This tradition will get a 21st-century update in a landmark evening featuring performances by diasporic South Asian artists including Sufi-influenced rock guitarist Salman Ahmad, vocalist and ten-string double-violin master Gingger Shankar, Mumbai-based dubstep DJ Bandish Projekt and hip hop artist and producer Brooklyn Shanti in collaboration with award-winning poets Kazim Ali, Tarfia Faizullah, Bhanu Kapil, Amarnath Ravva and Mandeep Sethi.


Leadership in the Arts: What Does It Mean? An Evening with the Kronos Quartet

Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium

For 40 years, San Francisco’s Kronos Quartet has continually reimagined the string-quartet experience. One of the world’s most celebrated and influential ensembles, they have performed thousands of concerts and released more than 50 recordings. The nonprofit Kronos Performing Arts Association (KPAA) manages all aspects of the quartet’s work. Together, the Kronos Quartet and KPAA have set a striking example of arts leadership, creating extraordinary change in the field of classical music through their vision, innovation and commitment to a lifetime of growth and change. In so doing, they have redefined what is possible for hundreds of young musicians. Kronos exemplifies arts leadership at its most transformative. Join Kenneth Foster, director of the newly launched graduate Arts Leadership Program in the USC Thornton School of Music, for an interactive discussion/performance with these remarkable musicians about their history, what inspires them and how they sustain a creative vision of the future for themselves and for their field.

Organized by the USC Thornton School of Music.
The Single Wing Turquoise Bird

Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
Location TBA

The Single Wing Turquoise Bird was among the most sophisticated of the 1960s and '70s psychedelic light shows. Formed in 1968 in Los Angeles, “the Bird” accompanied legendary bands including Cream, the Velvet Underground, Sly and the Family Stone, Pink Floyd and the Grateful Dead. Later, they performed to music by Steve Reich, Terry Riley and other avant-garde composers. With a core group of seven artists improvising collectively in real-time, the group used overhead projectors, slide projectors and high-intensity 16mm film projectors to create swirling visual compositions made from multicolored immiscible liquids. Anais Nin described their shows as “like a thousand modern paintings flowing and sparkling.” The Bird reformed several years ago, adding new members and incorporating digital technologies. The group will present two performances accompanied by Serbian guitarist Miroslav Tadić. A related workshop will teach students about projected-light equipment, improvisation and collaboration in multimedia performance.

Organized by Christine Panushka (Animation and Digital Art) and David E. James (Critical Studies).

“New York Is Like Johannesburg”:
Comparative Imaginations of South Africa and the U.S.

Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Ronald Tutor Campus Center

In 1994, Nelson Mandela became the first president of South Africa elected under universal suffrage. The end of the violent segregationist policy of apartheid two years prior had launched an era of new political possibilities. In celebration of the twenty-year anniversary of Mandela’s election, a panel and concert will consider the current condition of both South Africa and the United States, highlighting ongoing global struggles to end police abuse and labor suppression. Hip hop emcee Jean Grae will join journalist-activists from South Africa’s Amandla magazine as well as U.S. historians Robin D. G. Kelley and Johanna Fernandez to discuss contemporary cultural and political conditions shared between two nations whose struggles for civil and human rights modeled the ambitions of a majority world.

Organized by Shana L. Redmond (American Studies and Ethnicity).
USC Visions and Voices is proud to present a variety of stimulating opportunities for USC students to experience Los Angeles’s world-class cultural landscape. YOU MUST BE A USC STUDENT AND USE THE PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION TO PARTICIPATE. SPACE IS LIMITED AND ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. For more information or to RSVP, please visit our website at visionsandvoices.usc.edu.

**EXPERIENCE L.A.**

**Kristin Chenoweth at the Hollywood Bowl**
Saturday, August 24
Depart at 6 p.m.; return at 11:45 p.m.
Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood

Emmy- and Tony-winning actress and recording artist Kristin Chenoweth returns to the Hollywood Bowl with her first solo show, featuring the preeminent Los Angeles Philharmonic for a very special evening of music and more. The uniquely talented and acclaimed star will perform from her Broadway, television and film successes (*Wicked, Glee, Les Misérables*), as well as some personal favorites, including time-honored greats and entertaining surprises.

**Pasadena Museum Tour**
Saturday, September 28
Depart at 9:15 a.m.; return at 4 p.m.
Pasadena

Join us for a trip to three of the greatest secrets of Southern California’s impressive art scene—the Norton Simon Museum, the Pasadena Museum of California Art and the Pacific Asia Museum. Enjoy private tours of each museum, led by guides from Art Muse Los Angeles.

**Artists at Play Presents Cowboy Versus Samurai**
Sunday, September 29
Depart at 1 p.m.; return at 5:30 p.m.
Inner-City Arts, Los Angeles

In this comic reimagining of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Travis Park is a high-school English teacher and the only Korean American living in the dusty town of Breakneck, Wyoming. When Veronica Lee, a Korean American teacher from New York City, moves into town, he immediately falls for her. Travis must choose between the Asian and the American within himself as he pursues a love that may be only as real as the love letters he writes for someone else. Through irony, humor and social commentary, *Cowboy Versus Samurai* cleverly exposes the struggle of Asian Americans to find their place in the vast American landscape…and with each other.
Los Angeles Philharmonic: Dudamel and Bronfman
Saturday, October 5
Depart at 6:30 p.m.; return at 11 p.m.
Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles
As part of the tenth anniversary celebration of Walt Disney Concert Hall, world-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman will perform with the dynamic Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The program includes Schubert’s Fourth Symphony, Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto no. 1 and a world-premiere commission by the LA Phil.

The Sunshine Boys
Wednesday, October 30
Depart at 6:30 p.m.; return at 11 p.m.
Ahmanson Theatre, Los Angeles
At the pinnacle of vaudeville, Al Lewis and Willie Clark were the undisputed kings of comedy, before splitting unceremoniously. But when CBS attempts to reunite the legendary double bill for a once-in-a-lifetime television special, the shtick hits the fan and old grudges begin horning in on the act. This U.S. premiere, direct from London and directed by Olivier Award winner Thea Sharrock, brings Neil Simon’s classic play to life in what the New York Times calls an “insightful production, surprisingly delicate in its broadness. Perfect harmony.”

Los Angeles Conservancy: Modern Skyline Walking Tour
Saturday, November 2
Depart at 1:40 p.m.; return at 5:15 p.m.
Downtown Los Angeles
From architecture to public art to public space, Los Angeles’s Central Business District is a microcosm of the growth and development of Los Angeles. From the 1880s, when Victorian mansions crowned Bunker Hill, to today, when sleek skyscrapers define the downtown skyline, the built environment of the Bunker Hill area has constantly evolved, reflecting the tastes, aspirations and economics of the city’s population. Experience the skyscrapers, plazas and public art that define the bustling financial district today, and discover how they relate to both the past and the future of Los Angeles, one of the great cities of the world.
An Iliad
Wednesday, January 22
Depart at 5:45 p.m.; return at 11:30 p.m.
The Broad Stage, Santa Monica
Homer’s epic poem roars back to life in a contemporary new telling. Obie Award winner Lisa Peterson directs two-time Tony Award winner Denis O’Hare in this stunning show that captures the grief and glory of the battle for Troy. As An Iliad races through time to become breathtakingly relevant, you’ll discover why the New York Times calls it “spellbinding...smartly conceived and impressively executed.”

The Royal New Zealand Ballet: Giselle
Friday, January 31
Depart at 6 p.m.; return at 11 p.m.
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Los Angeles
The Royal New Zealand Ballet’s critically acclaimed staging of Giselle is the production of the moment. The company’s dynamic dancers imaginatively revisit the ballet first performed in Paris in 1841, harnessing the power of forgiveness and redemption to vanquish the anguish of love and betrayal. The company fills the stage with a throng of 34 talented dancers to deliver one of the oldest living ballets in the international repertory in a lyric, pitch-perfect retelling.

Los Angeles Philharmonic: Dudamel Conducts Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5
Saturday, March 1
Depart at 12:15 p.m.; return at 5 p.m.
Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles
Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony has been compared to Beethoven’s Fifth for its trajectory from tragedy to triumph, and it has served Gustavo Dudamel well. He has recorded it to wide acclaim, and it capped the program when Dudamel made his U.S. debut at the Hollywood Bowl in 2005.
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
**Saturday, March 29**  
**Depart at 12:15 p.m.; return at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Segerstrom Hall, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa**  
Beauty, spirit, hope and passion know no bounds! Join the celebration as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, America’s cultural ambassador to the world, brings African American cultural expression and the American modern dance tradition to the stage. The *Miami Herald* wrote that the company’s new artistic director, Robert Battle, “represents a new generation, not just at Ailey, but in modern dance.” The dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater are electrifying—“the most gorgeous dancing you ever did see” (*New York* magazine).

A Midsummer Night’s Dream  
**Bristol Old Vic with Handspring Puppet Company**  
**Thursday, April 10**  
**Depart at 5:45 p.m.; return at 11 p.m.**  
**The Broad Stage, Santa Monica**  
Having last worked together on the internationally acclaimed *War Horse*, Bristol Old Vic’s artistic director, Tom Morris, and South Africa’s Handspring Puppet Company reunite to begin a new journey. Shakespeare’s inexhaustible *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* unfurls in the wooded ambience of The Broad Stage, interweaving the lives of lovers, actors, friends, foes and fairies. This is a ... *Dream* about love, transformation, survival and song, where a belief in the mystical presence of fairies isn't mere superstition, but a magic lore encoded in the routines of a community living on the edge. Trees, objects and tools all pulse and tingle with the possibility of existence in a world where—thanks to the magic of Handspring—all objects can come to life.

Porgy and Bess  
**Tuesday, April 29, 2013**  
**Depart at 6:30 p.m.; return at 11:30 p.m.**  
**Ahmanson Theatre, Los Angeles**  
There’s a hurricane blowing into the Ahmanson filled with glorious Gershwin melodies, rousing production numbers and one of theatre’s most unforgettable and timeless love stories. The legendary *Porgy and Bess*, ahead of its time in 1935, has come of age in a contemporary new adaptation deservedly celebrated with the 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. On Charleston’s Catfish Row, the livin’ ain’t easy for Bess, bound to one man and in love with another. At the heart of this tempest is a rich and rapturous score of Gershwin standards, including breathtaking classics like “Summertime,” “It Ain’t Necessarily So” and “I Got Plenty of Nothing.”
At a Glance: Events by Date

2013

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Important Information

Admission, Reservations and Tickets

- Advance reservations are required to attend events.
- Most Visions and Voices events are open to the public. However, attendance at some events is limited to USC students or the USC community only.
- All events are FREE for USC students.
- Admission prices vary for non-USC students.
- Reservations are accepted online only at visionsandvoices.usc.edu.

Visions and Voices E-Mail List

- Visit our website to sign up for the e-mail list and receive updated event information, RSVP reminders and other special announcements.

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