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**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and UnderCover Present
*A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest's Midnight Marauders***

Featuring over 13 local Bay Area bands, UnderCover returns to YBCA to pay tribute to one of the most influential hip-hop albums of all time



Image courtesy Rich Black

May 16–18, 2019 | 7:30pm

YBCA Forum, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (April 23, 2019)—[Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#) is pleased to announce [A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest's Midnight Marauders](#) with **UnderCover Presents**. In celebration of *Midnight Marauders*' and YBCA's twenty-fifth anniversaries, UnderCover has invited local acts to re-interpret the classic album that bridged the gap between hip-hop and jazz. *A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest's Midnight Marauders* takes place **May 16–18, 2019, at the YBCA Forum**.

YBCA and UnderCover aim to reflect the spirit of *Midnight Marauders* by collaborating with GRAMMY-nominated music producer **Starita**, who has worked with Phife Dawg and A Tribe Called Quest in the past. The show incorporates elements from all four pillars of hip-hop: DJing, MCing, writing (graffiti), and B-Boying (breakdancing), along with the minimalism and free-form nature of jazz instrumentation. Through this tribute, YBCA and UnderCover invite the audience to think about how hip-hop can break down barriers to foster equality and unity.

The concept is simple, one distinctive band per song reinterpreting an entire classic album from start to finish. A selection committee decides on the bands to be included in the tribute based upon their locality, distinctive sound, established following, among a variety of other criteria. With each tribute, artists are highly encouraged to put their own sound and personality on their rendition. The result is a cross-pollination of cultures, musicians, photographers, filmmakers, writers, and visual artists that doesn't typically happen on one show bill, or even festivals.

With this tribute, YBCA and UnderCover have united thirteen local bands from a wide range of genres, seven MCs (including Gift of Gab, Lateef the Truthspeaker, Karega, Starita, RyanNicole, RAV-E Sandhu), over one hundred artists, nine engineers, five music studios, and one vinyl pressing plant to produce an album within sixty-five days, from pre-production to mastering. The result is a one-of-a-kind and unexpected soundscape of reinterpreted tracks for a mixed genre collection: Experimental Orchestral, World, Cumbia, Reggaeton, Latin Hip Hop, New Orleans Jazz, R&B, Soul, Indie Folk, Rock, Funk, Future Soul, Alternative Rock, Jazz, Electronic, Dance, Ghangra and Afrobeat.

The first live show on Thursday, May 16, kicks off A Tribe Called Quest Week, which concludes with an after party at Oakland's 7th West on Sunday, May 19, 2019. UnderCover will dedicate Friday as "Phifeday" in honor of Phife Dawg.

For the first time, UnderCover will be releasing a double vinyl to commemorate this tribute. Pressing will take place through Second Line Vinyl in Oakland, a plant co-founded by UnderCover's Lyz Luke. The first cover for "We Can Get Down" by high energy soul rock band Royal Jelly Jive can be listened on [Soundcloud](#). The album will be release on April 26, 2019.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Thursday, May 16

Floor/Standing: \$35 advance, \$40 at the door

Seated: \$45 advance, \$50 at the door

Friday, May 17 & Saturday, May 18

Floor/Standing: \$40 advance, \$45 at the door

Seated: \$50 advance, \$55 at the door

Military, Senior, Student and Teacher can receive a 10% discount in advance by phone and in person. YBCA members enjoy 20% off regular admission. All YBCA members receive waived handling fees.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

UnderCover Presents was founded by Lyz Luke in 2010 and has rapidly established itself as an inspirational collective that gathers musicians and artists from every facet of San Francisco Bay Area's creative community. Since its founding, UnderCover has paid tribute to 14 albums, worked with over 150 local bands, and presented to over 35,000 audience members throughout San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley. UnderCover has won Best of Awards from *SF Weekly*, *SF Bay Guardian*, *East Bay Express*, and has also attained two (2) Mayoral Proclamations at their tributes. UnderCover has become a true public celebration of local music, which is evident by their sold-out shows.

Michael Starita is a 2-time GRAMMY®/Latin Grammy recognized producer, engineer and artist whose work spans a multitude of genres. Clients include Childish Gambino, A Tribe Called Quest, Rebelution, Los Amigos Invisibles, Michael Franti and Spearhead and many others.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Isabel T. Yrigoyen is Director of Programming at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She produces the annual performing arts season at YBCA, which in its recent history has showcased ten to fifteen theater, dance, music, and interdisciplinary performances by local, national, and international artists. In her previous role as Associate Director of Performing Arts, she co-designed and implemented Transform, YBCA's signature performance festival that features a two-week celebration of the power of ideas through transformative performance. Yrigoyen has acted as a contributing music curator for YBCA's Performing Arts department, curating creative music and innovative groundbreaking artists in all genres. Her curatorial practice is driven by an interest in bridging musical traditions with contemporary performance practice, with an emphasis on women composers, experimentalists, and artists in social practice. In addition, Yrigoyen oversees and directs the Community Performance Rental program as a YBCA representative, booking and overseeing more than 160 contracted performances for a wide array of Bay Area nonprofit arts organizations who present dance, theater, and music on YBCA's stages. She currently serves on the board of directors of California Presenters, a statewide organization committed to advancing professional touring and presenting the performing arts for all the people of California.

CREDITS

A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest is presented in partnership with Intersection for the Arts as part of the Intersect SF Series supported with funds from Grants for the Arts.

YBCA performances are made possible in part by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Panta Rhea Foundation, with additional funding from

Surdna Foundation, Salesforce.com, New England Foundation for the Arts, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

YBCA programs are made possible in part by Bloomberg Philanthropies and The James Irvine Foundation, with additional funding by National Endowment for the Arts, Grosvenor, and Members of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

ABOUT YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, and civic engagement. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787). For more information, visit ybca.org.

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