

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2016

[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES ANNOUNCES  
'BERKELEY TALKS' SPRING 2016 SEASON  
FEATURING ERIC SCHMIDT FROM ALPHABET, INC.,  
AUTHOR JONATHAN FRANZEN, COMPUTER SCIENTIST  
JARON LANIER AND LINKEDIN CO-FOUNDER REID HOFFMAN**

***Berkeley Talks* speaker series welcomes leading innovators and thought-leaders to the UC Berkeley campus to join Chancellor Dirks in conversation**

**BERKELEY, January 14, 2016**—As part of an exciting lineup for the Spring 2016 season of *Berkeley Talks*, Cal Performances presents three of the leading innovators and thought-leaders from the technology world, featuring Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of the newly formed Alphabet, Inc., on Wednesday, February 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. In this free event, the former CEO of Google will discuss his experiences in academia and industry, as well as what it takes to reach the top of the tech world while continuing to re-invent and innovate.

*Berkeley Talks*, co-presented by Cal Performances and UC Berkeley, is launching its second season of conversations moderated by UC Berkeley's Chancellor, Nicholas B. Dirks. The speaker series brings international thought leaders, public scholars, creators and innovators to the Berkeley campus to engage in dialogue with Chancellor Dirks on distinctive and timely issues, exploring forward-thinking concepts that impact our global community and intersect with the university's core mission of teaching, research, and public service.

In addition to Mr. Schmidt, Chancellor Dirks will speak with Reid Hoffman, co-founder and executive chairman of LinkedIn, on Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium. Mr. Hoffman will discuss his expertise in the start-up world, his experiences leading a Silicon Valley venture capital firm, and how he conceived of a professional networking tool that reinvented the career building industry.

For Cal Day, UC Berkeley's annual campus open house, Jaron Lanier, composer, philosopher and computer scientist, will join Chancellor Dirks on Saturday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium. As a pioneer in the field of virtual reality, Mr. Lanier will discuss what it was like to be on the leading edge of breakthrough technology and the experience of shaping the future on a global scale. In an ever-advancing world reliant on technology, he'll also help us answer the question, what will be the direction of our digital future?

From the literary world, *Berkeley Talks* is thrilled to feature a conversation in Zellerbach Hall with Jonathan Franzen, best-selling author of such novels as "Purity" and "Freedom," on Friday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m.. As an essayist and writer for *The New*

*Yorker* magazine, Mr. Franzen will discuss his process, works, and inspiration for writing social critiques on contemporary America.

Past speakers in the *Berkeley Talks* series have included Bassem Youssef, “the Jon Stewart of Egypt” and one of *TIME* magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” (2013), to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Free Speech Movement; grandfather of the graphic novel Art Spiegelman; comedian and best-selling author David Sedaris; cellist Yo-Yo Ma; and authors Michael Lewis and Michael Ondaatje.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for Eric Schmidt, Reid Hoffman, and Jaron Lanier are FREE, though ticket reservations are required. Tickets for Jonathan Franzen are \$30-\$36 for the general public and \$15 for students.

Advance reservations for Eric Schmidt, Reid Hoffman, and Jonathan Franzen will be available to the campus community beginning January 14 and for Cal Performances Donors and Subscribers beginning January 21. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Wednesday, January 27 at 12:00 p.m. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets for Jaron Lanier will be available only on Cal Day, April 16, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in front of Wheeler Auditorium.

Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org), and at the door if available. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances’ 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Wednesday, February 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley campus

*Berkeley Talks*

**Eric Schmidt, speaker**

**Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor, UC Berkeley**

**Program:** Eric Schmidt, the former CEO of Google discusses his experiences in academia and industry, as well as what it takes to reach the top of the tech world while continuing to re-invent and innovate.

**Tickets:** Free and open to the public. Advance registration required beginning on January 14.

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Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave  
UC Berkeley campus

*Berkeley Talks*

**Reid Hoffman, speaker**

**Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor, UC Berkeley**

**Program:** Reid Hoffman, co-founder and executive chairman of LinkedIn, discusses his expertise in the start-up world, his experiences leading a Silicon Valley venture capital firm, and how he conceived of a professional networking tool that reinvented the career building industry.

**Tickets:** Free and open to the public. Advance registration required beginning on January 14.

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Saturday, April 16 at 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave  
UC Berkeley campus

*Berkeley Talks*

**Jaron Lanier, speaker**

**Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor, UC Berkeley**

**Program:** A pioneer in the field of virtual reality—composer, philosopher and computer scientist Jaron Lanier discusses what it was like to be on the leading edge of breakthrough technology and the experience of shaping the future on a global scale.

**Tickets:** Free and open to the public. Advance registration required; available only on Cal Day, Saturday, April 16, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in front of Wheeler Auditorium.

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Saturday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley campus

*Berkeley Talks*

**Jonathan Franzen speaker**

**Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor, UC Berkeley**

**Program:** As an essayist and writer for *The New Yorker* magazine, author Jonathan Franzen discusses his process, works, and inspiration for writing social critiques on contemporary America.

**Tickets:** Prices range from \$30-\$36 and are subject to change. They are available beginning January 14 through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at 510.642.9988, at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door.

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