

**LAURIE ANDERSON**  
**PERFORMS NEW SOLO WORK *THE END OF THE MOON***  
**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 & 12 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**  
**PRESENTED BY CAL PERFORMANCES**

**BERKELEY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2004** – "America's multi-mediatrix" (*Wired* magazine)  
**Laurie Anderson** is—in her work as a performance artist, musician, poet, writer, and visual artist—one of the world's most important artists of the later 20th century. Anderson returns to Cal Performances **Thursday & Friday, November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m.** with a new solo work, *The End of the Moon*. This is the second in a trilogy of new solo performance works that combine stories, songs, and music to paint a large picture of contemporary American culture. Anderson's new show will also include music for violin and electronics creating a "duet" between the spoken word and her signature musical sound.

"Over the past year I have felt that there is a unique opportunity to redefine some of the big issues and questions in our culture: the nature of the freedom, speed, responsibility and spirituality," says Anderson. "I myself am afraid of big words like this and so my approach is typically to make images and music around them, to approach them sideways. I am more interested in asking questions than in answering them. In addition, the imbalance created by the events of September 2001 and its aftermath has raised many questions that have new twists: How do we define our enemies? What is it to be free and also afraid? To some extent, the voices in this piece will be those of my heroes: Thomas Paine, Andy Warhol, The Dalai Lama and Paul Revere. However...in my work these ideas and characters appear as jump cuts in one long story."

*The End of the Moon* is co-commissioned by Cal Performances; University of Florida Performing Arts (Gainesville); Society for the Performing Arts (Houston, TX); BITE '05 Barbican (London); and Auditorium Parco della Musica (Roma).

### ***THE END OF THE MOON***

*The End of the Moon* is the second in a trilogy of new solo performance works that combines music, songs, and stories, in an intimate and low-tech setting. "Anderson continues to imbue her work with a singular perspective that is both haunting and timeless" says *The New Yorker*. Combining spoken words, digital processing, and Anderson's signature musical sounds, the new solo work features modern music and tools including the violin, electronics, and large scale projected imagery. Part travelogue, part personal theories, history and dreams, *The End of the Moon* looks at the relationships between war, aesthetics, spirituality and consumerism.

For this new work, Anderson began examining the question "Who taught you what beauty is?" Unable to provide an answer, she set off in search of one. She began to delve into what people think of as "beauty" and began by embarking on a range of physical and philosophical explorations of the natural world. In addition to her travels as NASA's artist-in-residence, Anderson embarks on a range of physical and philosophical explorations of the natural world. She set off on a series of multi-day walks in various locations including Greece, France, England, and Sri Lanka. "The idea was to walk along a very ancient road and this was the Sacred Way – the road of fate and answers," explains Anderson. "I'm trying to think of these walks as goal-less. Wandering. Looking. In fact I'm trying really hard in general to stop having goals. Goals have been getting in the way of a lot of things."

### **LAURIE ANDERSON**

Laurie Anderson is one of today's premier performance artists. Known primarily for her multimedia presentations, she has cast herself in roles as varied as visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, electronics whiz, vocalist, and instrumentalist.

*O Superman* launched Anderson's recording career in 1980, rising to number two on the British pop charts and subsequently appearing on *Big Science*, the first of her seven albums on the Warner Brothers label. Other record releases include *Mister Heartbreak*, *United States Live*, *Strange Angels*, *Bright Red*, and the soundtrack to her feature film *Home of the Brave*. A deluxe box set of her Warner Brothers output, *Talk Normal*, was released in the fall of 2000 on Rhino/Warner Archives. In 2001, Anderson released her first record for Nonesuch Records,

entitled *Life on a String*, which was followed by *Live in New York*, recorded at Town Hall in New York City in September 2001, and released in May 2002.

Anderson has toured the United States and the world numerous times with shows ranging from simple spoken word performances to elaborate multimedia events. Major works include *United States I-V* (1983), *Empty Places* (1990), *The Nerve Bible* (1995), and *Songs and Stories for Moby Dick*, a multimedia stage performance based on the novel by Herman Melville. *Songs and Stories for Moby Dick* toured internationally throughout 1999 and 2000. In the fall of 2001, Anderson toured the United States and Europe with a three-person band, performing music from *Life on a String*. She has also presented many solo works, her most recent being *Happiness*, which premiered in 2001 and toured internationally through spring 2003.

Anderson has published six books, the most recent of which is *Laurie Anderson* by RoseLee Goldberg (Abrams, 2000), a retrospective of her visual work. Text from Anderson's solo performances appears in the book *Extreme Exposure*, edited by Jo Bonney. She has also written the entry for New York for the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Laurie Anderson's visual work has been presented in major museums throughout the United States and Europe. In 2003, The *Musée d'Art Contemporain* of Lyon in France produced a touring retrospective of her work, entitled *The Record of the Time: Sound in the Work of Laurie Anderson*. This retrospective encompasses installation, audio, video and art objects and spans Anderson's career from the 1970's to her most current works. It will continue to tour through 2005. The Sean Kelly Gallery in New York represents Anderson's visual work.

As composer, Anderson has contributed music to films by Wim Wenders and Jonathan Demme; dance pieces by Bill T. Jones, Trisha Brown, Melissa Fenley, and a score for Robert LePage's theater production, *Far Side of the Moon*. She has created pieces for National Public Radio, BBC, and Expo 92 in Seville. In 1997 she curated the two-week Meltdown Festival at Royal Festival Hall in London. Her orchestra work *Songs for A.E.* premiered at Carnegie Hall in February 2000, played by the American Composers Orchestra, conducted by Dennis Russell Davies.

Recognized worldwide as a groundbreaking leader in the use of technology in the arts, Anderson collaborated with Interval Research Corporation, a research and development laboratory founded by Paul Allen and David Liddle, in the exploration of new creative tools, including the Talking Stick. She created the introduction sequence for the first segment of the PBS special *Art 21*, a series about Art in the 21st century. Her awards include the 2001 Tenco Prize for Songwriting in San Remo, Italy and the 2001 Deutsche Schallplatten prize for *Life on A String*.

In 2002, Anderson was appointed the first artist-in-residence of NASA. Current projects include a commission to create a series of audio-visual installations and a high definition film for the World Expo 2005 in Japan and a series of programs for French radio. She will premiere her new score “*O!*” at the Opera Garnier in Paris in December ’04. She was also recently part of the team that created the opening ceremony for the Olympic Games in Athens. Her next project will involve a series of long walks. Anderson lives in New York City.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Laurie Anderson on Thursday & Friday, November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$36.00, and \$46.00**. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Thurs. & Fri., November 11 & 12 at 8:00 p.m.**     **Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Theatre*

*The End of the Moon*

**Laurie Anderson**

**Program:**

Laurie Anderson returns to Zellerbach Hall with *The End of the Moon*, a new solo work that looks at the relationships between war, aesthetics, spirituality and consumerism.

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