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[Press Room](#)

## **CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES SEVEN SPEAKERS ADDED TO 2019–20 SEASON**

**Maggie Haberman, David Sedaris, Dan Pfeiffer, Jemele Hill, David Pogue, Laverne Cox, and Jad Abumrad to appear in Zellerbach Hall from October to May**

**Berkeley, July 22, 2019** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley announces an exciting addition to the 2019–20 season—a substantial new Speaker Series featuring seven journalists, writers, commentators, and activists, all appearing in Zellerbach Hall. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Maggie Haberman**; humorist and author **David Sedaris**; former White House communications director and *Pod Save America* co-host **Dan Pfeiffer**; Emmy Award-winning sports journalist **Jemele Hill**; *New York Times* columnist and prolific “how-to” author **David Pogue**; Emmy Award-winning actress and LGBTQ advocate **Laverne Cox**; and host and creator of public radio’s *Radiolab* program and podcast **Jad Abumrad** will each appear one evening from October to May this season. Jemele Hill and Dan Pfeiffer will speak in conversation with hosts from local public radio station KALW, the series radio sponsor.

The series was crafted with Berkeley and East Bay audiences in mind, and features award-winning political journalists, beloved radio hosts and writers, innovative broadcasters and storytellers, and astute commentators addressing issues of race, gender, social justice, and the impact of technology on our lives. Each of these figures engages actively in discourse with the public, many maintaining a strong presence on social media platforms in addition to their broadcast and published work. This shared commitment to lively conversation and exchange unites the diverse voices in the series, and makes them especially fitting guests on a university campus.

Says Cal Performances executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen, “This year’s adventurous speaker series represents a multiplicity of experience and insight designed to captivate the campus community and the entire Bay Area. The individuals featured are some of the leading creative and intellectual voices of our time—satirists, activists, journalists, strategists, and cultural and political trendsetters. We look forward to hearing their unique perspectives.”

Bios of each of the speakers are available in the online press kit [here](#).

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for **Maggie Haberman** on Sunday, October 6 at 7pm; **Dan Pfeiffer** on Thursday, December 5 at 8pm; **Jemele Hill** on Thursday, January 23 at 8pm; **David Pogue** on Thursday, February 27 at 8pm; **Laverne Cox** on Thursday, March 12 at 8pm; and **Jad Abumrad** on Saturday, May 9 at 8pm, all taking place in Zellerbach Hall, range from \$28–\$58. Tickets for **David Sedaris** on Saturday, November 9 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$92. Prices are subject to change and are currently available as part of subscription packages until single tickets go on sale on Tuesday, August 6. Half-price tickets will be available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, and at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org). For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

KALW 91.7FM Local Public Radio is the exclusive radio partner for the 2019–20 Speaker Series.

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

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, October 6, 7pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**Maggie Haberman**

**Program:** The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, *New York Times* White House correspondent, and CNN political analyst discusses lessons learned in her long experience covering Donald Trump—from his decades in the New York City tabloid headlines to his presidency and its contentious relationship to the press.

**Tickets:** \$28–58 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, November 9, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**David Sedaris**

**Program:** A master of satire and a hilarious commentator on topics both mundane and profound, Sedaris brings his beloved stories and essays to vivid life onstage. As the *New York Times* remarked, “He loves audiences, audiences love him, and his readings attract hundreds and even thousands of people.”

**Tickets:** \$36–92 (prices subject to change)

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**Thursday, December 5, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**Dan Pfeiffer**

**Program:** The former White House communications director, noted political strategist and commentator, and *Pod Save America* co-host combines wry wit, spot-on political instincts, and formidable storytelling chops in an optimistic exploration of how politics and digital media interact in modern-day America.

**Tickets:** \$28–58 (prices subject to change)

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**Thursday, January 23, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**Jemele Hill**

**Program:** The Emmy Award-winning sports journalist, former ESPN *SportsCenter* co-anchor, and current *Atlantic* staff writer opens up about her career at the controversial intersection of sports and race in the United States.

**Tickets:** \$28–58 (prices subject to change)

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**Thursday, February 27, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**David Pogue**

**Program:** The *New York Times* columnist, *CBS Sunday Morning* tech correspondent, and prolific “how-to” author leads a journey through the pleasures and pitfalls of our technological world—from subjects as serious as smartphone-driven medicine to topics as fun and frivolous as e-mail etiquette.

**Tickets:** \$28–58 (prices subject to change)

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**Thursday, March 12, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**Laverne Cox**

**Program:** The Emmy Award-winning transgender actress and advocate, known for her groundbreaking role on *Orange is the New Black*, shares her views on race, class, and gender, communicating a powerful message of inner strength and self-acceptance.

**Tickets:** \$28–58 (prices subject to change)

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**Saturday, May 9, 8pm**

**Zellerbach Hall**  
Bancroft Way at Dana St.  
UC Berkeley campus

*Speaker Series*  
**Jad Abumrad**

**Program:** The host and creator of public radio’s wildly popular *Radiolab* program and podcast digs deep into some of his favorite topics—including sound, science, history, storytelling—with his signature wit and infectious sense of curiosity.

**Tickets:** \$28–58 (prices subject to change)