



Melissa Hamburg

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Laverne Cox

Cal Performances' 2019–20 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

With various “firsts” in her already impressive career, **Laverne Cox** is a three-time Emmy-nominated actress, an Emmy-winning documentary film producer, and a prominent equal rights advocate and public speaker. Her groundbreaking role of Sophia Burset in the critically acclaimed Netflix series *Orange is the New Black* brought her to the attention of diverse audiences all over the world. This role led to Cox becoming the first openly transgender actress to be nominated for a primetime acting Emmy.

An artist and an advocate with an empowering message of moving beyond gender expectations to live more authentically, Cox is the first openly transgender person to appear on the covers of magazines including *Time*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Essence*. She was named one of *Glamour* magazine’s 2014 Women of the Year. Cox also proudly holds two SAG Awards, winning them with her *Orange is the New Black* cast-mates.

Cox has been one of the faces of Beyoncé’s Ivy Park athleisure line. She also collaborated with Smirnoff, co-starring opposite Ted Danson for their “Welcome To The Fun” campaign.

Her Emmy-winning documentary *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word* helped lead her to executive producing two powerful documentaries. *Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen* is an unprecedented, groundbreaking look at the depiction of transgender characters throughout the history of film and television, and *Free CeCe* tells the story of CeCe McDonald, a transgender woman who was controversially sentenced to 41 months in a men’s prison for second degree manslaughter after defending herself against a racist and trans-phobic attack. The documentary focuses on McDonald’s case, her experiences while incarcerated, and the larger implications of her case for the transgender community and for communities of color at large.