

CONTACT: **Louisa Spier**
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org

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[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES,
THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL'S CENTER FOR SECURITY IN POLITICS,
THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,
AND INVESTIGATIVE STUDIOS PRESENT**

9/11: A TURNING POINT
**A LIVESTREAMED PANEL DISCUSSION
MODERATED BY LOWELL BERGMAN
FEATURING JANET NAPOLITANO,
THE FILMMAKERS OF THE NEW NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY SERIES
TURNING POINT: 9/11 AND THE WAR ON TERROR,
AND ADDITIONAL GUESTS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 4–5:30PM (PDT)**

This free, livestreamed discussion is presented as part of Cal Performances' 2021–22 Season *Illuminations*: “Place and Displacement” programming

A recording of *9/11: A Turning Point* will be available on demand for three months following the livestream

Berkeley, September 17, 2021 — Cal Performances, the Goldman School's Center for Security in Politics, the Institute of International Studies, and Investigative Studios present ***9/11: A Turning Point***, a livestreamed panel discussion, on September 29 from 4–5:30pm (PDT). Featuring a guest panel of international experts, the conversation will explore the political climate that led to the events of September 11, 2001, the launching of United States' War on Terror (including invading Afghanistan and Iraq), and how, 20 years later, the US and the rest of the world now contend with the creation of an immense new population of refugees. The discussion will be moderated by **Lowell Bergman**, Emeritus Reva and David Logan Distinguished Chair in Investigative Reporting at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism and an executive producer of the new five-part Netflix documentary series *Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror*. The conversation will feature **Janet Napolitano**, former Secretary of Homeland Security and president of the University of California, joined by the filmmakers and key participants in the Netflix series. Taking place online

only, the livestream of *9/11: A Turning Point* is free and open to the public and will feature a question-and-answer session following the discussion.

9/11: A Turning Point will be organized in three parts. Panelists will begin by discussing the Netflix documentary series with director **Brian Knappenberger** and co-executive producer **Mo Naqvi**. The second part of the conversation will focus on events leading up to 9/11, addressing the question of why the United States was so unprepared for that day's attack and the US' subsequent response and the consequences. In the third part of the talk, panelists will discuss the dramatic changes in national security policies—both at home and around the world—that have resulted from 9/11 as well as the current crisis. The event will conclude with a Q&A session.

Panelists include women's rights activist **Fawzia Koofi**, a former member of the Afghan parliament, where she was the first woman deputy speaker as well as one of the few Afghani woman to participate in US negotiations with the Taliban; **Matt Pottinger**, a former journalist and US Marine Corps officer and Afghan and Iraq War veteran, who served as United States Deputy National Security Advisor from 2019 to 2021; **Jane Ferguson**, a journalist and special correspondent for *PBS NewsHour*, based in Beirut; **Frances Townsend**, who served as former Homeland Security Advisor to President George W. Bush from 2004 to 2007; **Dale Watson**, former head of FBI Counter Terrorism on 9/11 from the creation of the division in 1998 until 2002; and **John Sopko**, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction.

9/11: A Turning Point is presented as part of Cal Performances' 2021–22 season [*Illuminations: "Place and Displacement"*](#) programming, which examines the devastating but also catalyzing effects of migration, exile, dislocation, and separation such as those caused by the War on Terror. It includes five main-stage performances and related online and in-person programs with artists, creators, scholars, activists, and thinkers who are part of the outstanding brain trust at UC Berkeley.

Lead support for *Illuminations* is provided by the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation—empowering world-changing work.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY, THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL'S CENTER FOR SECURITY IN POLITICS, THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, AND INVESTIGATIVE STUDIOS PRESENT
A LIVESTREAMED PANEL DISCUSSION**

9/11: A Turning Point

Featuring: Lowell Bergman (moderator), Janet Napolitano, Fawzia Koofi, Brian Knappenberger, Mo Naqvi, Matt Pottinger, Jane Ferguson, Frances Townsend, Dale Watson, and John Sopko

Wednesday, September 29, 4:30–5pm (PDT)

Following the livestream, this event will be available to view on demand for three months, through December 29, 2021, at calperformances.org/9-11-turning-point

September 11, 2001 thrust the United States into a new era: the War on Terror. The attack was not a bolt from the blue; it sprang from a destabilized Afghanistan and the rise of Al-Qaeda. The day proved a stunning turning point, triggering the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and, later, Iraq. At the chaotic conclusion to the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan two decades later, America—and the rest of the world—grapples with twenty years of destabilization and displacement, and an equally-long train of movements of people, including the creation of an immense new population of refugees.

This first *Illuminations*: “Place and Displacement” event of Cal Performances’ season features a special panel discussion with the filmmakers and key participants of Netflix’s new five-part documentary series *Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror*, which chronicles why 9/11 happened and the day’s consequences. Moderated by UC Berkeley’s Lowell Bergman, emeritus professor of journalism and an executive producer of the Netflix series, the discussion will also feature special guest commentator Janet Napolitano, the former Secretary of Homeland Security and president of the University of California.

This livestream event is hosted by Cal Performances in partnership with the Goldman School's Center for Security in Politics, the Institute of International Studies at UC Berkeley, and Investigative Studios, a non-profit production company.

Cal Performances’ 2021–22 *Illuminations*: “Place and Displacement” series of programming examines the fraught and often devastating effects of migration, exile, dislocation, and separation such as those caused by the War on Terror. It includes five main-stage performances and related online and in-person programs with artists, creators, scholars, activists, and thinkers who are part of the outstanding brain trust at UC Berkeley.

Tickets: This online livestreamed conversation is free and open to the public. Advance registration is recommended, and questions for the participants can be submitted at calperformances.org/9-11-turning-point

