



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Common, Angela Davis to Star in a Meeting of the Minds at the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Social Justice Conversation at UCLA***

*UCLA Black Alumni Association hope to inspire next generation of social justice leaders*

**Los Angeles, CA (Dec. 20, 2018)** – Oscar-winning actor, rapper, and activist Common will take center stage with renowned author and activist Angela Davis for an historic conversation on social justice issues. Hosted by the UCLA Black Alumni Association (UBAA) and Imagine Justice, the event will take place on Saturday, January 12th at 4:00PM at the UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center located at 425 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA. 90085. The event is free and open to the public with [ticket](#) access.

Started in 2018, the inaugural Social Justice Conversation was created to bring thought leaders in the sports, entertainment and academic community together to address pressing issues affecting the African American community. Previous guests have included UCLA alum, NBA Hall of Famer and Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; CNN commentator Angela Rye; Bunche Center for Social Justice Director Dr. Kelly Lyte-Hernandez; and, Dr. Tyrone Howard, founder of the Black Male Institute.



“We are excited about hosting Common and Angela Davis for the *Second Annual Social Justice Conversation*,” said Michelle Johnson, UBAA President. “Positioned with the largest African American undergraduate enrollment of any university in the UC system, and as the #1 ranked public university nationwide, our goal is to serve as the epicenter for the next generation of social justice leaders and raise much-needed scholarships for incoming African American students. This promises to be a historic day for UBAA, Imagine Justice and all in attendance.”

As the featured hip-hop artist, Common’s commitment to social justice issues includes criminal justice reform and art as activism. His *Imagine Justice’s Hope & Redemption Tour* visited three prisons across California’s Central Valley to drive the message of home and love for humanity

among the men and women in the prison system. He recently hosted a free concert with J. Cole on the steps of California's Capitol to raise awareness about justice reform and featured in *Smithsonian Magazine* on the topic of mass incarceration.

A staple figure in feminist and African American studies in colleges and universities nationwide, Angela Davis was first hired to teach at UCLA more than forty-five years ago. Her hiring brought on the wrath of then-Governor Ronald Reagan who attempted to have her barred because of her affiliation with the Communist Party and the Black Panthers. Her scholarly work includes numerous books including *Women, Race, and Class* in 1983; *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday* in 1999; *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Prisons, Torture, and Empire*, Seven Stories in 2005; and, the scheduled release of *Philosopher of Utopia: A Graphic Biography* in 2019.

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### **About UBAA**

The purpose of the UCLA Black Alumni Association (UBAA) is to empower UCLA African American Alumni, Students, Faculty and the Community at Large to form powerful associations through advocacy and mobilization that will create greater educational opportunities and resources for the African American community collectively. Providing scholarships, advocacy, support and networking opportunities have been just a few of the ways this organization has and continues to support the University and its mission of having the best and brightest students walk the halls of UCLA. For more information, log onto <http://www.uclablackalumni.org/>. Follow UBAA on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

### **About Imagine Justice**

Centered at the intersection of art and activism, Imagine Justice is dedicated to leveraging the power of art to advocate for communities around the country, to fight for justice and equality and to stand united against injustice wherever it appears. Common's newly founded Imagine Justice focuses on criminal justice reform, coalition/community building, immigration, bringing humanity to communities who are often dehumanized in society, civic engagement and leveraging the power of art to inspire and spark change. Follow Imagine Justice on [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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