

# Art Culture and All That Jazz

## WATTS TOWERS DAY OF THE DRUM AND SIMON RODIA JAZZ FESTIVAL

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Wow, this weekend, September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> promises to be a knock out at Watts Towers Art Center. In celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Towers an all-star line-up of world class musicians, vocalists, and dancers will come together at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival and the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival.

Bring the family and have a spectacular day of fun, music, art and culture at these two wonderful celebrations. There will be guided tours of Simon Rodia's spectacular towers, special children's activities and an opportunity to view the two current exhibitions at the art center, Carlos Spivey's "The Power of Love" and Sammy Davis' "It's All About the Bass". Both festivals are presented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center.

Saturday's Day of the Drum Festival will be led by Masters of Ceremonies, "The Gentleman of Jazz" James Janisse, and world class drummer and percussionist Ndugu Chancler. The day will kick off with a Yoruba ground blessing ceremony by Alaadun which unites all cultures based on common themes and principles. The afternoon will be a beautiful mix of cultures featuring the Korean Classical Music and Dance Company, the rhythms of North African Moroccan music with Amazigh 6/8, Afro-Venezuelan and West African traditional music and dance from Le Ballet Dembaya.

Sunday's Jazz Festival will again open with the Yoruba ground blessing followed by Sherwood Sledge with his trio offering a touch of gospel, blues and jazz. The internationally famed father-daughter collaboration, Jasmine Tommaso Quintet will bring Jasmine's lush vocals to the stage accompanied by her father, jazz bassist Giovanni Tommaso. Dayren Santamaria and Made in Cuba is sure to get hands clapping and dancing feet tapping with their spirited Afro-Cuban rhythms, before multi-talented Eloise Laws brings her R&B sound to the Towers. To conclude this year's festivals the Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars will light up the stage with straight ahead classics you won't want to miss!

Watts Towers Art Center, 1727 East 107<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles 90002 [www.wattstowers.org/events](http://www.wattstowers.org/events)

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