



**Theatre Raymond Kabbaz 2018-2019 Season Opening Night
With Guitar Virtuoso Robben Ford
1 evening, 2 concerts
Friday, September 21, 2018 at 7:00pm & 9:30pm**

LOS ANGELES, CA – **Theatre Raymond Kabbaz (TRK)**, the innovative performance space at **Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles**, kicks off its' 18th season on **Friday, September 21, 2018** with **Robben Ford Quartet** in concert at **7:00pm and 9:30pm**.

Robben Ford's latest album, *Into The Sun*, debuted at #2 on The Blues Charts and shines a bright light on his artful, contemporary songwriting and stunning playing. The five time Grammy nominee describes the 11 song set as "one of the top recordings I've ever done" and Guitar Player Magazine claims it "explores the breadth of Ford's sophisticated, visionary writing and playing, creating a new chapter in his brilliant musical history."

Robben has recorded more than 35 albums under his own name and with various bands. There's also his session and sideman work, which included hundreds of concert appearances and albums by Miles Davis, George Harrison, Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt, Barbara Streisand, Charlie Musselwhite, KISS, Ruthie Foster, Warren Haynes, Jimmy Witherspoon, Larry Carlton, Brad Paisley, Gregg Allman, Phil Lesh and Rickie Lee Jones. Robben continues to tour heavily and teach master classes in the US and worldwide.

An important and essential component of Robben's career is his commitment to teaching and passing on what he's learned over the past 40 years to current and future musicians. His instructional videos and clinics over this this time have culminated in a collaboration with TrueFire and the birth of the Robben Ford Guitar Dojo. Robben also hosts his annual Traveling Dojo Guitar Camp in upstate NY every August.

Robben Ford will be joined by Toss Panos (drums), Jimmy Haslip (bass), and Jeff McErlain (guitar).

The 2 shows, each 75-90 minutes long, will take place at Theater Raymond Kabbaz, which is located at 10361 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90064 (310-286-0553). The performances will feature catered pre-concert receptions at 6:30 pm and 9 pm. A no-host bar will be available. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$30 for students and \$50 for premium seating. To learn more about this event and Theater Raymond Kabbaz, please visit <http://www.theatreraymondkabbaz.com>. Tickets are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/ofmdyxh>

Robben Ford –

Robben Ford is one of the premier electric guitarists today, particularly known for his blues playing, as well as his ability to be comfortable in a variety of musical contexts.

Born in 1951 in Woodlake, California, and raised in Ukiah, Robben was the third of four sons in a musical family. He began playing the saxophone at age 10 and the guitar at age 14. Robben and his brothers created the *Charles Ford Blues Band* in honor of their father. In the late 1960's, Ford frequented the Fillmore and Winterland auditoriums in San Francisco to see Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Cream, Led Zeppelin, Albert King, B.B. King and all of the progenitors of blues.

Robben's first attempt at forming his own jazz quartet was picked up by legendary blues singer Jimmy Witherspoon, which brought Robben to L.A. He toured the U.S. and Europe with Witherspoon and was seen by Tom Scott and members of The L.A. Express. Robben was invited to play guitar on their tour and played on two recordings with Mitchell and The L.A. Express.

In 1977, he was approached by Elektra Records, which produced his first solo recording, *The Inside Story*, with a group of musicians who went on to become the Yellowjackets. Ford worked briefly with Miles Davis in 1986 and can be heard on Davis' Montreux box set. Ford released his album, *Talk to Your Daughter* in 1988. He joined Philippe Saisse, Marcus Miller and J.T. Lewis in the cast of The Sunday Night Band for the second and final season of the late-night NBC television program, *Sunday Night* in 1989. In the 1990s he released the albums, *Robben Ford and the Blue Line*, and *Tiger Walk*.

Robben Ford has received five Grammy Award nominations and was named one of the "100 Greatest Guitarists of the 20th Century" by Musician magazine. He credited pianist and arranger Roger Kellaway and saxophonist and arranger Tom Scott, whom he met while playing for Joni Mitchell, as a major influence on his musical development.

An important and essential component of Robben's career is his commitment to teaching and passing on what he's learned over the past 40 years to current and future musicians. His instructional videos and clinics over this time have culminated in collaboration with TrueFire and the birth of the Robben Ford Guitar Dojo. The wealth of his expertise and creativity is generously presented in these state-of-the-art productions, and will be, for years to come.

Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz –

Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz (TRK) is a non-profit institution dedicated to the promotion of art and culture in the West Los Angeles area. This 220-seat theater welcomes multidisciplinary and multicultural shows. TRK's mission is to be an open window on French and international cultures and to inspire and sustain a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Links –

- Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz (TRK) – <http://www.theatreraymondkabbaz.com>
- TRK on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TheatreRaymondKabbaz/>
- Facebook event - <https://www.facebook.com/events/675584056148989/>
- Robben Ford Official website - <http://robbenford.com/>

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For more information, photos or to schedule an interview, please contact us by email at trk@lyceela.org or by phone at 310-286-0553.