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## MUSLIM LEADER IMAM FEISAL ABDUL RAUF SPEAKS AT UCLA

Co-presented by the Hammer Museum & UCLA Live

Wednesday, May 4, 8pm at UCLA's Royce Hall – Free admission



Los Angeles – This May the Hammer Museum and UCLA Live present a free lecture featuring **Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf** with **Reza Aslan** at UCLA's Royce Hall. In his role as chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, Imam Feisal directs projects that aim to heal conflict between Islamic and Western communities. As Imam of Masjid al-Farah, a mosque located twelve blocks from Ground Zero in New York City, he preached a message of understanding among people of all creeds. One of his projects is the Cordoba House project in Lower Manhattan, which became a cause célèbre in 2010 and he became known as the 'Ground Zero Mosque Imam.' His books include *Islam: A Search for Meaning*, *Islam: A Sacred Law (What Every Muslim Should Know About the Shariah)*, and *What's Right With Islam: A New Vision for Muslims and the West*. Imam Feisal's lecture about Islam and democracy will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with the audience, moderated by Iranian-American author and scholar Reza Aslan.

Tickets are **FREE** and available in advance at the UCLA Central Ticket Office or at the Royce Hall box office on the night of the event, subject to availability. For more information, call UCLA CTO at (310) 825-2101. **Limit 4 tickets per person.** Royce Hall is located on UCLA's campus at 340 Royce Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90095.

### About Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf

Born in Kuwait with an Egyptian heritage, and educated in England, Egypt, and Malaysia, Imam Feisal holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Columbia University in New York and a Master of Science in Plasma Physics from Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. Imam Feisal is the chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, an independent, non-partisan and multi-national project that works with state and non-state actors to improve Muslim-West relations. In this capacity, he leads projects that aim to develop youth leadership, empower women, and promote democratic ideals in Muslim societies. In 1997, he founded the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA), the first Muslim organization committed to bringing American Muslims and non-Muslims together through programs in academia, current affairs, and culture. Additionally, Imam Feisal sits on the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Center of New York and serves as Board Member to the Interfaith Center of New York.

### About Reza Aslan

Reza Aslan is an associate professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside and the author of *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* and *How to Win a*

*Cosmic War: God, Globalization, and the End of the War on Terror*. Most recently, Aslan edited *Tablet and Pen: Modern Literary Landscapes from the Middle East*.

### **ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

The museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is highlighted by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from Southern California. The museum also houses the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and oversees the management of the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

### **HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **[www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)**.

**Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11am – 7pm; Thursday, 11am – 9 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Admission:** \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff, military personnel, veterans, and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free for everyone on Thursdays. Public programs are free.

**Location/Parking:** The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free.

**Hammer Museum Tours:** For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.

### **ABOUT UCLA Live**

UCLA Live presents world-class performing acts with a global perspective, enhancing the experience by engaging, cultivating and developing artists and audiences.

UCLA Live at Royce Hall, 340 Royce Drive, Westwood. [www.uclalive.org](http://www.uclalive.org).