

wexner center for the arts

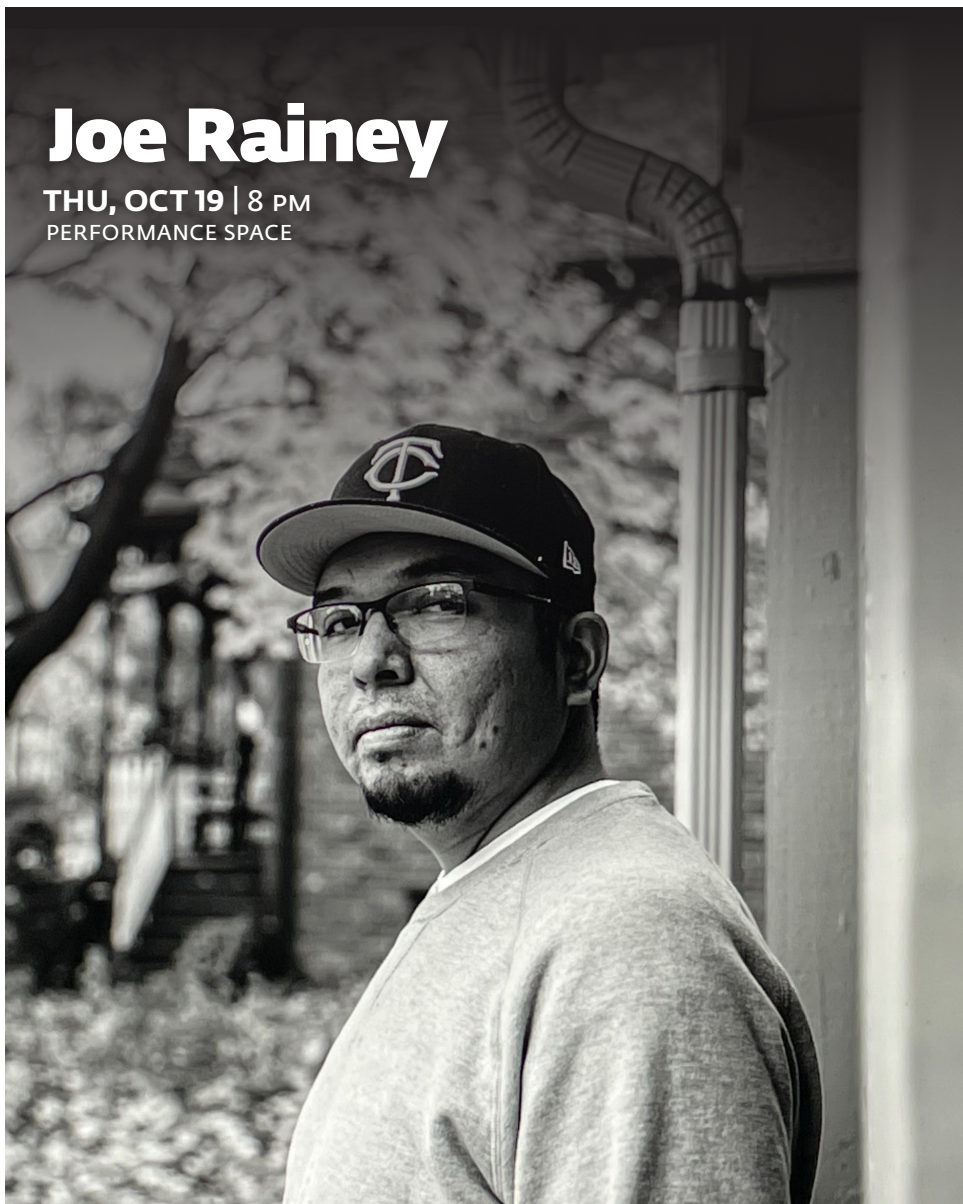
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

Joe Rainey

THU, OCT 19 | 8 PM

PERFORMANCE SPACE



AUTUMN 2023 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

PROGRAM

Joe Rainey



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POLICIES

Please silence mobile phones and other electronic devices before the performance.
All programs are subject to change. Sorry, no refunds or exchanges unless an event is canceled.

PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY



WEXNER CENTER PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY



The Wexner Family



Ohio State's Global
Arts + Humanities
Discovery Theme



VORYS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Mike and Paige Crane



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Ohio State Energy Partners

PROGRAM NOTES

Joe Rainey is a powwow singer. On his latest album, *Niineta*, he demonstrates his command of the powwow style, descending from Indigenous singing that's been heard across the waters of what is now called Minnesota for centuries. Depending on the song or the pattern, his voice can celebrate or console, welcome or intimidate, wake you up with a start or lull your babies to sleep. Each note conveys a clear message, no matter the inflection: We're still here. We were here before you were, and we never left.

Rainey grew up a Red Lake Ojibwe in Minneapolis, a city with one of the largest and proudest Native American populations in the country. The Red Lake Reservation sits five hours to the north, but Rainey grew up down in what Northerners call "the Cities," on historic Milwaukee Avenue on Minneapolis's south side. He was raised less than a mile away from Franklin Avenue, the post-Reorganization Act urban nexus of local Native American life. Rainey came of age in the heart of this community but always felt like he was living in a liminal space—not that he was uncomfortable with that. "Growing up, knowing that you weren't from the Rez, but you were repping them, was kind of weird," he says. "But I liked that."

Rainey became interested in powwow singing as a child: at the age of five, he started recording powwow singing groups with his GE tape recorder, and his mom enrolled him in a dancing and singing practice with the Little Earth Juniors soon thereafter. As a preteen he began hanging out around The Boyz, a legendary Minneapolis drum group. "They knew me as a Little Joey," he remembers. "As in, 'Hey I tried to get Little Joey to sit down and sing, but he's too shy.'" By the time he was a teenager, however, he had found enough courage to help start The Boyz Juniors, his first drum group, before going on to sing with Big Cedar, Wolf Spirit, Raining Thunder, and Iron Boy.

Eventually, his voice grew strong enough to sing in Midnite Express, a new drum group featuring some of The Boyz themselves. They were professionals, city Indians traveling all over the north country, repping their reservations and their neighborhoods on every side of every conceivable border—competing for cash and cred, carousing, providing the beat to the grass dances, always striving to capture that powwow feeling of togetherness.

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS



El Khat

Thu, Nov 9 | 8 PM

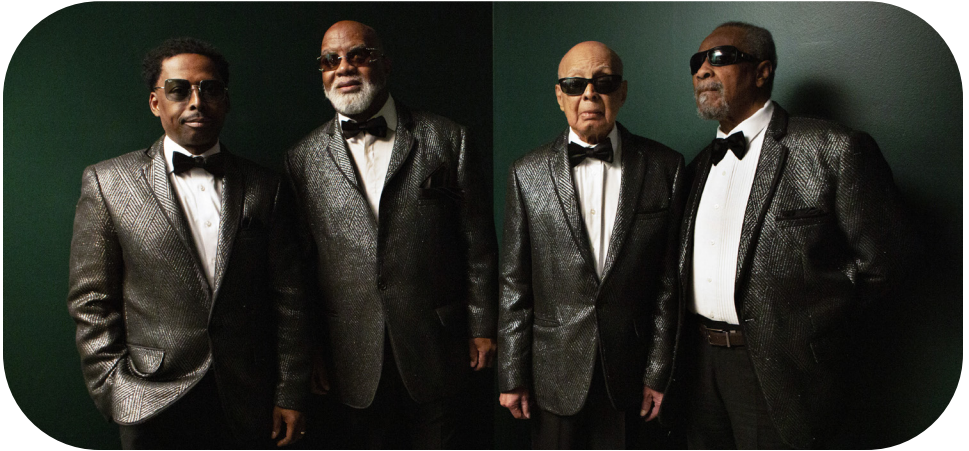
Performance Space
OHIO PREMIERE



Zoh Amba + Chris Corsano

Fri, Nov 17 | 8 PM

Performance Space



The Ohio State University Office of Academic Affairs and the Wexner Center for the Arts Present

Blind Boys of Alabama

Wed, Nov 15 | 8 PM

Mershon Auditorium

ON SALE NOW

Tickets and details at wexarts.org

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