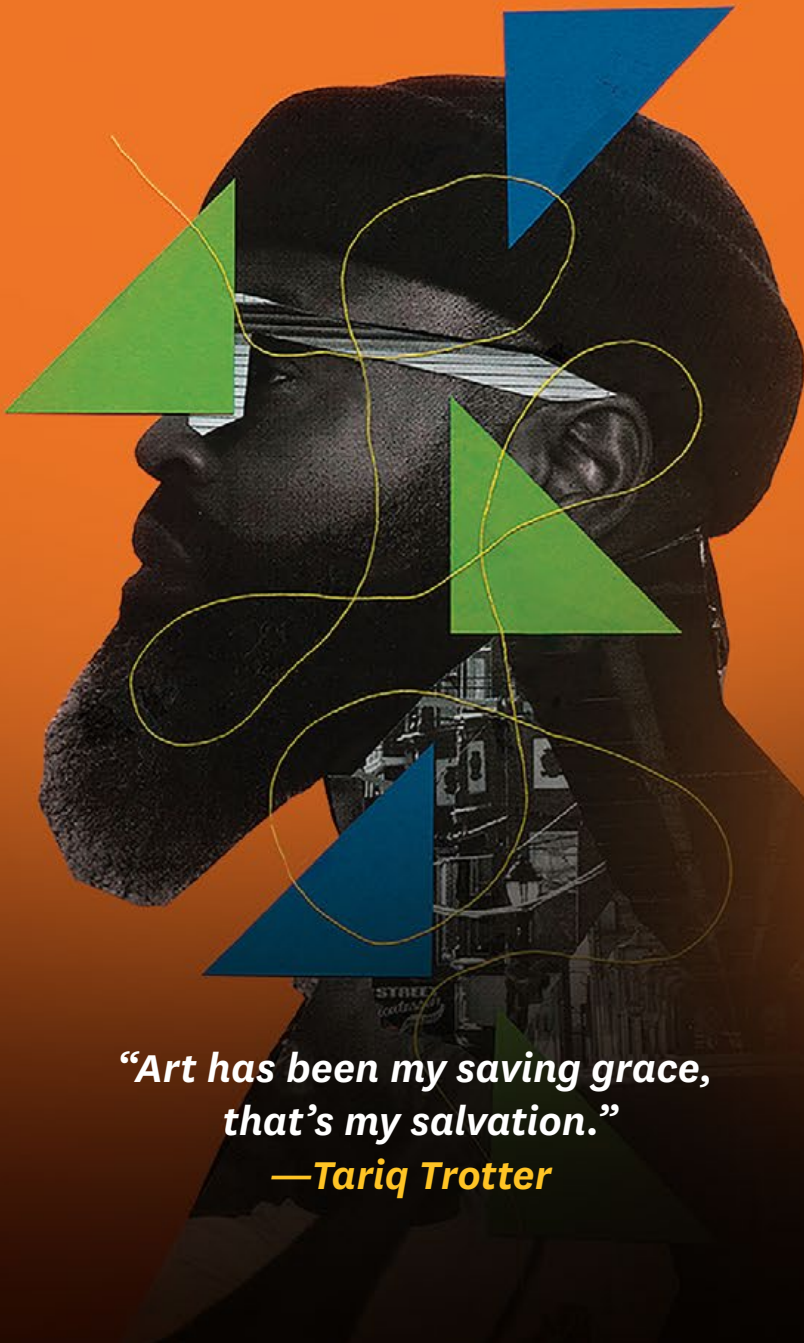


The Upcycled Self

An Evening with BLACK THOUGHT FROM THE ROOTS

Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 7 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium
University of Southern California



**“Art has been my saving grace,
that’s my salvation.”**

—Tariq Trotter

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tariq Trotter aka Black Thought is a platinum-selling, Grammy-winning cofounder of The Roots and the author of *The Upcycled Self: A Memoir on the Art of Becoming Who We Are*.
- Trotter will be in conversation with Jason King, Dean of the USC Thornton School of Music.

TARIQ TROTTER

Tariq Trotter is the lead MC of the hip hop band The Roots and a critically acclaimed solo artist, actor, writer, and producer. He has won four GRAMMY Awards and three NAACP Image Awards. The Roots have released more than a dozen albums and have been the house band on *The Tonight Show* for more than a decade. Trotter co-produced the original Broadway cast recording of *Hamilton* and starred in the Broadway musical *Black No More*.

Trotter was born in Philadelphia in 1973. *The Upcycled Self* is his first book.

VOCABULARY CORNER

upcycle — upcycling is creative reuse or recycling; the term is often used to describe transforming old clothing into new items, or creatively repurposing items that might otherwise be discarded

INFLUENCES

In a *New York Times Magazine* profile of Tariq Trotter, Reginald Dwayne Betts noted that Trotter cites these artists and thinkers among his influences:

Octavia Butler (1947–2006) — science fiction writer whose work is embraced by Afrofuturist, Black feminist, and other social justice visionaries; author of *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*, among many other books

Ralph Ellison (1914–1994) — writer, critic, and scholar best known for his novel *Invisible Man*

Frantz Fanon (1925–1961) — theorist, writer, and psychiatrist whose work and thought has deeply influenced anti-colonial and post-colonial thought and movements; author of *The Wretched of the Earth* and *Black Skin, White Masks*, among other books

Fela Kuti (1938–1997) — musician and activist who launched Afro-beat

Richard Wright (1908–1960) — writer who sparked the Black protest literary movement of the post-World War II era; author of the novel *Native Son* and the autobiography *Black Boy*, among other books

ALBUMS BY THE ROOTS

Organix (1993)

Do You Want More?!?!?!? (1995)

Illadelph Halflife (1996)

Excerpts from the Forthcoming Event (1996)

Things Fall Apart (1999)

Phrenology (2002)

The Tipping Point (2004)

Game Theory (2006)

The Best of the Roots (2006)

Rising Down (2008)

How I Got Over (2010)

John Legend / The Roots—*Wake Up!* (2010)

Dilla Joints (2010)

Undun (2011)

Betty Wright and The Roots—*Betty Wright: The Movie* (2011)

Elvis Costello and The Roots—*Wise Up Ghost* (2013)

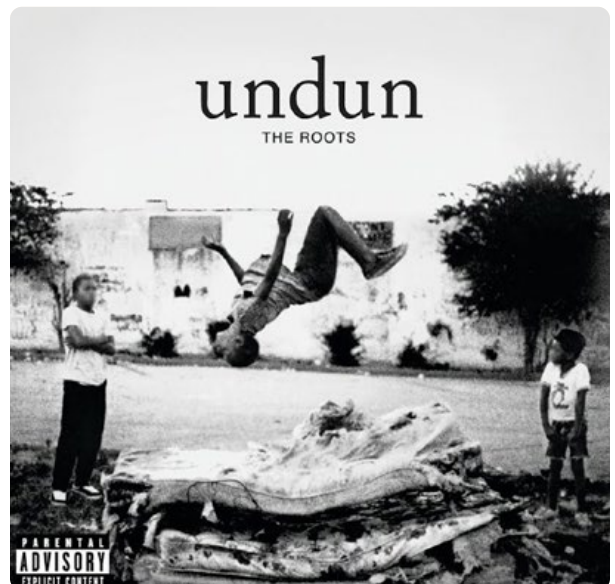
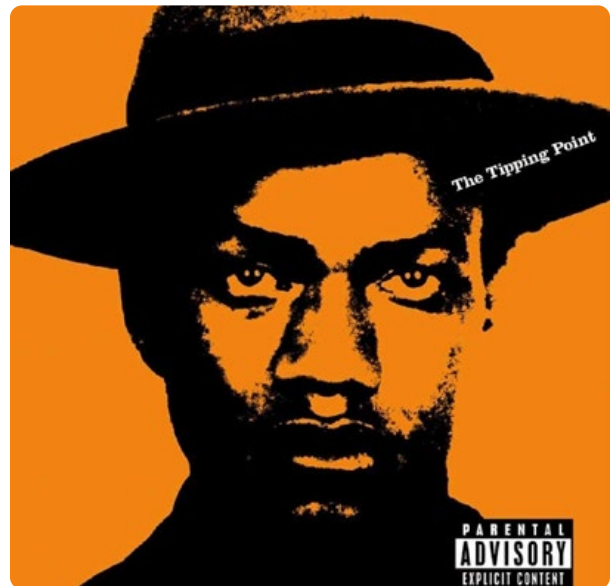
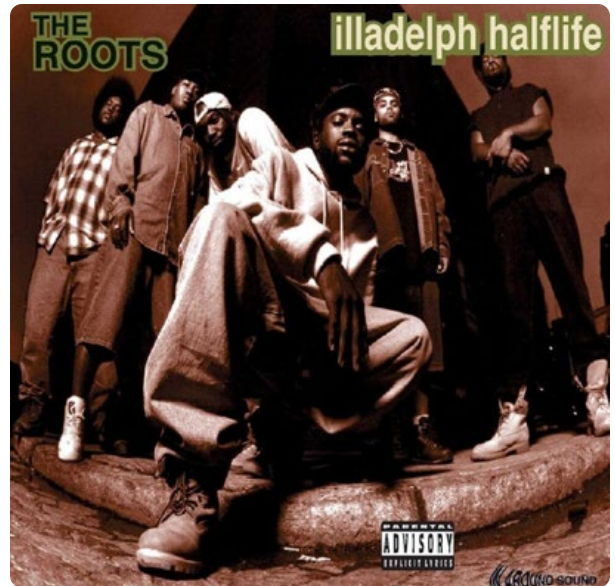
...*And Then You Shoot Your Cousin* (2014)

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- What does the title *The Upcycled Self* mean?
- What has life taught Tariq Trotter?
- How can art be a salvation?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Upcoming Visions and Voices events:
 - 1/19/24:** [Nobody Knows: \(Un\)Muted Voices: 43rd Annual USC Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
 - 2/28/24:** [waheedworks: Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest](#)
 - 3/2/24:** [Cypher Summit Block Party](#)
- Classes and events at the USC Thornton School of Music music.usc.edu
- USC Student Equity and Inclusion Programs seip.usc.edu
- USC Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs cbcsa.usc.edu
- USC First Generation Plus Success Center firstgenplussc.usc.edu



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DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

Christina Snider of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

- Adam Bradley, [*Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop*](#) (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2017).
- William Jelani Cobb, [*To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic*](#) (New York: New York Univ. Press, 2007).
- Michael Eric Dyson, [*Know What I Mean? Reflections on Hip-Hop*](#) (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2010).
- Paul Edwards and Kool G. Rap, [*How to Rap: The Art and Science of the Hip-Hop MC*](#) (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2009).
- Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogbar, [*Hip-Hop Revolution: The Culture and Politics of Rap*](#) (Lawrence: Univ. Press of Kansas, 2022).

DATABASES

- [Black Studies Center](#)
- [Black Thought and Culture](#)
- [Ethnic NewsWatch](#)
- [Musical America](#)
- [Music Periodicals Database](#)

JOURNALS

- [The Black Scholar](#)
- [The Journal of Hip Hop Studies](#)
- [Journal of Black Studies](#)

STREAMING VIDEO

- [Hip-hop and Politics' Complicated 50-year Relationship](#) (Washington Post Videos, 2023).
- [Freestyle the Art of Rhyme](#) (Palm Pictures, 2004).

