



# Bianca Rossini

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Watching **Al Jarreau** was mesmerizing. Jarreau is an innovator of the greatest caliber. He throws out musical rules as he plunges into his full creative soul and what you hear is a brilliant artist who will change keys during one song, using his voice like a magical, perfect instrument but never losing touch with his heart and passion. And he loves Brazil, ending his set with a stirring version of Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Agua de Beber." **Ivan Lins** and **Oscar Castro Neves** added more extraordinary Brazilian music to the Festival, singing and playing intimate renderings of "Dindin" and "Velas." To have these two Brazilian giants on stage in LA was one of the Festival's rarest treats.

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**UCLA Live: Jessye Norman** is a sublime diva. In "The Five Seasons," she sang about the seasons of love, interpreting the German language as though it was her mother tongue, filled with nuances, charged with all of her being, delivered with such passion that she made me for the first time enjoy and fall in love with German Opera.

Hearing **Dianne Reeves** was like watching two performers. The first is the jazz singer who has a perfect instrument, always challenging the boundaries of her voice. The other is the storyteller who's intimate, warm and feminine. If one day she chooses to integrate both, there will be nothing she could not sing, including a soft, gentle and intimate bossa nova.

UCLA Live's director **David Sefton** announced the 2008-09 season. It's packed with great performances in a very Seftonian style, meaning: Surprising, Unique and Daring. Including performances by artists from all over the world making UCLA Live one of the most diversified venues in Los Angeles.

The **2008 Playboy Jazz Fest** celebrated 30 years at the Hollywood Bowl. I had a chance to meet and talk to **Hugh Hefner**, **Herbie Hancock**, **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, **Poncho Sanchez**, and **Bill Cosby**. At the Bowl the crowd had a blast, many people couldn't resist and danced, especially when **Dee Dee Bridgewater** sang African songs in her beautiful, colorful, and energetic style.



## 2008 Playboy Fest