

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

A Certain Invitation to an Uncertain Season

Ann Haskins · Saturday, December 18th, 2021

Folkloric Christmas celebration in East LA, five local dance ensembles share the stage downtown, snowglobe dances in Santa Monica, *Nutcracker* ballets explode across the city, more live SoCal dance to the year's end, and a peek at what's coming next year.

Live This Week

Holiday hosting in a new home

Celebrating its first Christmas in its new home, **Danza Floricanto/USA** pays tribute to Mexican holiday traditions with *Navidad en el Barrio*. This is the 17th year for the company's seasonal performance, the first at Casa del Mexicano, 2900 Calle Pedro Infante, E.LA; Sat., Dec. 18, 7 pm, \$10, \$15 at door. [Danza Floricanto](#) or 213-466-2611.



Danza Floricanto/USA. Photo by Frank Sandoval

LA dances at the Music Center

Five SoCal dance ensembles are among the 20 musical groups performing live in this year's three-hour *Music Center Holiday Celebration*. **Dembrebrah West African Drum and Dance**,

contributes *Koredjuga*, from the border of Mali and Guinea. Directed by *Riverdance* alum Maeve Croke, the **Celtic Irish Dance Academy** brings quick stepping Irish dance and **Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy** returns with *Geom-mu*, a Korean sword dance. Kathak dance from North India is the offered by **Leela Youth Dance Company** while **Pacifico Dance Company** brings folkloric dance and music that reflects the Peruvian influences evident in the Mexican state of Guerrero. At the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri., Dec. 24, 3-6 pm, free (and free parking!). Details and Covid protocols at [PBS](#) and [KCET](#).



Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy. Photo by Gennia Cui

Globe dancing

Shoppers can enjoy some seasonal dance with the high-kicking ladies of **The Beach Belles & a Ballerina in a Snow Globe**, both performing at Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica; daily, Fri., Dec. 17 to Fri., Dec. 24, 3 to 7:30 pm, free. Details and Covid protocols at [Santa Monica Place](#).



The Beach Belles. Photo by Mathew Tucciarone

A touch of Irish for the season

Irish dance is part of the music and song-filled **Celtic Angels Christmas**. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Wed., Dec. 22, 8 pm, \$40-\$60. Details, tickets & Covid protocols at [Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts](#).

Last to roll out

In January 2021, LA choreographer **Jacob Jonas and his Jacob Jonas/The Company** began a weekly roll out of 15 short dance films with artists from around the world under the banner *Films.Dance*. The project earned boasting rights with many of the films later winning film festival awards. This past September, a second edition *Films.Dance Round Two* began, again with dance, dancers, and filmmakers from around the world rolled out one week at a time. The last of original films premiere on Dec., 20, but the entire roster continues to be available for viewing at [Films.Dance](#).



“Films.Dance Round 2.” Photo courtesy of the artists

Post-modern rituals

The first-ever retrospective of the work of choreographer and video artist **Blondell Cummings: Dance as Moving Pictures** includes videos, interviews, and photographs continue at Art+Practice, 3401 W. 43rd Pl., Leimert Park; Wed.-Sat., noon-6 pm, to Feb. 19, 2022, free. Research guide at [Getty Research Institute](#), exhibition at [Art+Practice](#).



Photo by Blondell Cummings.

Museum moves

Performance and dance are the metier of several artists in both of this museum's big fall exhibits, *Witch Hunt* and *No Humans Involved* at UCLA Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Tues.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm to Jan. 22, 2022, free no reservation required. Details and Covid protocols at [Hammer Museum](#).

This Week's Major Nutcrackers

(See "[The 'Nuts' Are Back](#)" for full list of 2021 Nutcrackers)

- **Los Angeles Ballet** at UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Ct., Westwood; Fri., Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Sat.-Sun., Dec. 18-19, noon & 5 p.m. Also at Dolby Theater, Hollywood & Highland, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Thurs., Dec. 23, 8 pm, Fri., Dec. 24, noon, Sun., Dec. 26, 11 am & 4 pm. Details, tickets and Covid protocols at [Los Angeles Ballet](#)



Los Angeles Ballet's "Nutcracker". Photo by Reed Hutchinson

- **American Ballet Theatre** at Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Wed.-Fri., Dec. 15-17, 7 pm, Sat., Dec. 18, 2 pm & 7 pm, Sun., Dec 12 & 19, 12:30 & 5:30 pm, Wed.-Thurs., Dec. 15-16, 7 pm. Details, tickets and Covid protocols at [SCFTA](#)



American Ballet Theatre's "Nutcracker". Photo by Gene Schiavone

A Peek at Next Year

Dance Camera West at Theatre Raymond Kabbaz, W.LA; Thurs.-Sat., Jan.6-8 [Dance Camera West](#)



Shade Théret. Photo courtesy of the Odyssey Theater.

Shade Théret opens *Dance at the Odyssey* at Odyssey Theatre, W.LA, Sat., Jan. 8. [Odyssey Theatre](#)

Shen Yun at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa; Sat., Jan. 1, 1 & 6 pm. [Shen Yun](#)



Salute to Vienna. Photo courtesy of the artists

Salute to Vienna at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Jan. 1, 7 pm. Also at Disney Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Sun., Jan. 2, 2:30 pm. [Salute to Vienna](#)

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