Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

As the Crows Fly

Ann Haskins · Thursday, April 6th, 2023

A decade tapped in Costa Mesa, an activist's death considered downtown, classical South Asian dance deconstructed in Santa Monica, traditional Bharatanatyam in University Park; flamenco in Santa Clarita, a peek at next week, and more SoCal dance this week (April 7 to 13)

Live This Week

Avian mixed messaging

Seeking to deconstruct classical South Asian Bharatanatyam dance, **Ashwini Ramaswamy** draws on modern and traditional African dance as well as contemporary modern dance known as Gaga. The choreographer and a trio of dancers bring the result, *Let the Crows Come*, evoking the metaphor of crows as messengers to the living and guides after death. BroadStage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., April 7-8, 7:30 pm, $40-$70. BroadStage.

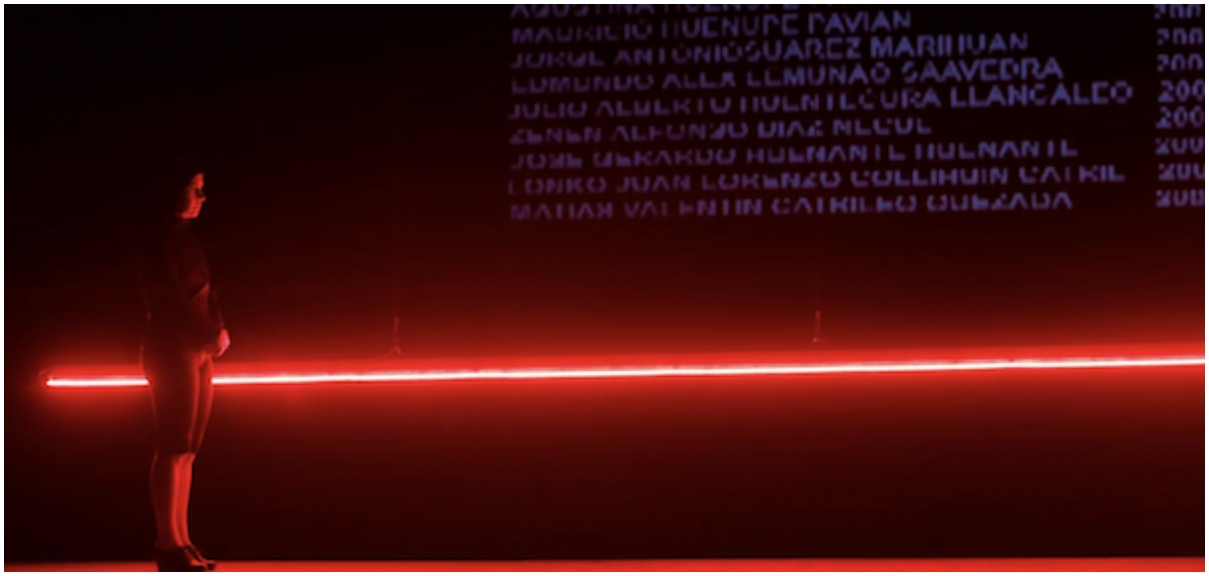
Ashwin Ramaswamy's "Let the Crows Come." Photo by Jake Armour

Blending bodies and voices

Drawing on events following the death of an indigenous activist/farmer at the hands of Chilean police, *Amor a la muerte (Love to Death)*, **Lemi Ponifasio**'s new work combines the artistry of

Chilean contemporary flamenco dancer **Natalia Lemi Ponifasio** and Mapuche artist/singer/composer Elisa Avendaño Curaqueo. The work is presented without subtitles in Spanish and Mapudungun (the language spoken by the Mapuche people of south-central Chile).

REDCAT at Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Fri.-Sat., April 7-8, 8:30 pm, Sun., April 9, 3 pm, $30, $25 students. REDCAT.



Lemi Ponifasio. Photo courtesy of the artist

Marking the decade

In a short ten years, Michelle Dorrance picked up a MacArthur Genius Award and built a tap dance company hailed as the future of the art form. The choreographer and her **Dorrance Dance** stop off on their 10th anniversary tour. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., April 8, 7:30 pm, $29-$109. SCFTA.

Dorrance Dance. Photo by Hayim Heron

Fast Feet

Mijal Natal and **Irit Spector** contribute choreography as flamenco dance and music from Spain's Andalusia region take the stage in *Un Pozo Chico.* The Main, 24266 Main St., Santa Clarita; Fri., April 7, 8 pm, $25-$35. The Main.

Irit Specktor. Photo by Ephrat Spector

If it's Sunday, is it Belgium?

Two Brussels-based companies, **Chaliwaté Company** & **Focus Company** arrive on their first US tour, bringing *Dimanche,* a collaborative effort focused on neglected need for climate change. BroadStage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Thurs.-Sat., April 13-15, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., April 15-16, 2 pm., $40-$60. BroadStage.

Chaliwaté Company & Focus Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

A way to start the day

Set in a beautiful, circular chamber concert venue, **Leela Dance** brings classical South Asian dance to this concert with music ensemble Salastina. This concert initiates a planned, ongoing collaboration of the two organizations. There also is a livestreamed option. Doheny Mansion, Pompeian Room, 10 Chester Pl., University Park; Sat., April 8, 11 am, $20, $10 students, $10 livestream. Salastina.

Leela Dance Collective. Photo courtesy of the artists

All electric

Timed to coincide with *First Friday* events on nearby Abott Kinney Boulevard, **High Voltage** offers an eclectic, ever-changing line-up of performers, often with dance. Electric Lodge,

1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., April 7, 8 pm, $10. Electric Lodge.

A Peek at Next Week

Los Angeles Dance Festival 2023 at Brockus Project Studios,618 B Moulton Ave., Lincoln Heights; Sat.-Sun., April 15-16, 8 pm, Fri.-Sun., April 21-23, 8 pm, and Fri.-Sat., April 28-29, 8 pm, Sun., April 30, 6:30 pm, $15. Los Angeles Dance Festival.

The Realm Company at Stomping Ground, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Sat., April 15, 6 pm, $50-$200 Red Riot Entertainment.

Backhausdance at L.A. Dance Project Studios, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Sat. April 15, 8 pm, $30, $20 students Backhausdance.

Backhausdance. Photo by Shawna Sarnowski

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Tour at McCallum Theatre, 7300 Fred Waring Dr. Pam Desert; Fri., April 14, 8 pm, Sat., April 15, 2 & 8 pm, Sun., April 16, 2 & 7:30 pm, $55-$125. McCallum Theatre. Also at Dolby Theatre, Hollywood & Highland, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. Wed.-Fri., April 19-21, 8 pm, Sat. April 22, 2 & 8pm, Sun., April 23, 1 & 6 pm, $39-$149. Dolby Theatre.

Hillel Kogan & Mourad Bouayad – *We Love Arabs* at Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, 10361 W. Pico Blvd., West LA; Thurs., April 20, 8 pm, $30-$40. Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz.

Of Note

SoCal dance out of town — Orange County contemporary troupe **Akomi Dance** performs in New York City this week, invited to be part of the *New Wave Dance Festival*. Akomi Dance.

More SoCal dance on tour — Contemporary troupe **Invertigo Dance** performs *Formulae and Fairytales* at North Carolina's Wilson Center, roughly three years after the originally scheduled 2020 tour was cancelled by the onset of Covid.

Get the application ready — LA-based **Blue13** dance company invites proposals for a two-week residency program to increase the visibility of Asian American Pacific Islander-identifying choreographers to create new work. Deadline is **April 25** for the residency in June that concludes with performances. Info and application at Blue13.

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