Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Axonometric Viewpoints

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025

The inheritability of trauma considered in Brentwood; tap dance riffs with live jazz in Sierra Madre; centenary celebration of a modern dance legend in Northridge; feministic dance in Pasadena; contemporary dance in Canoga Park and downtown; flamenco in Irvine and downtown; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Just a riff

Jazz tap master **Chester Whitmore** joins bassist Del Atkins to explore the history of jazz. A protégé of tap legend Fayard Nicholas (of the Nicholas Brothers), Whitmore has established his own credentials as a performer and choreographer for others and with his own Black Ballet Jazz. Atkins brings five musicians to aid in the jazz and tap collaboration in the latest entry in this venue's new dance series. Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sun., April 27, 7:30 pm, $12-$35. Sierra Madre Playhouse.



Chester Whitmore. Photo courtesy of the artist

Channeling Graham

Three soloists from the **Martha Graham Dance Company** join local dancers from **Lula Washington Dance Theatre**, plus students from USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, Cal State University Northridge Dance, and the LA County High School for the Arts. The evening includes works by Graham and new works inspired by her, including one from choreographer Lula Washington. Although she established her fame in New York, as a teenager Graham lived in Santa Barbara, and after seeing Ruth St. Denis perform in Los Angeles, became a student at the Denishawn School in LA. Having this performance here as part of the *Graham100 Celebration* marking the legendary choreographer and her company's centenary, is a nice nod to those Graham SoCal roots. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., April 26, 8 pm, only $60 tickets available at press time. The Soraya.



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

What makes them interesting

A collection of dance and film works that comment on daily life, *Interesting Women* brings the satirical contemporary perspective of **Lynn Modell/Making Dances**. In addition to Modell and guest choreographer Janis Brenner, the dancers include Andrea Blesso, Ann Fonte, Amy Jill, Jillian Maclaughlin, Lynn Modell, Lonnie Stanton, and Nora Stephens. The company arrives after sold out east coast performances including Boston Center for the Arts and the Providence Fringe Festival. Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Pasadena; Sat., April 26, 8 pm, Sun., April 27, 3 pm, $26 presale, $30 at door. Tickets.



Lynn Modell/Making Dances. Photo courtesy of the artists

A hurtful heritage

Is trauma inheritable, something that is passed on to subsequent generations? That epigenetic question is explored by the contemporary company **Donna Sternberg & Dancers** in *Ancestor Voices*. As a choreographer, Sternberg is known for her many years partnering with distinguished scientists to translate scientific concepts into understandable, accessible movement. The venue may focus on the Jewish community, but history shows the concerns sadly apply to Uganda, Cambodia and beyond. Skirball Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Brentwood; Tues. & Thurs., April 29 & May 1, 8 pm, $15-$20. Skirball Center.



Donna Sternberg & Dancers. Photo courtesy of the artists

Tennis anyone?

A world premiere and two works from the repertoire mark this performance by **Louise Reichlin & Dancers/ Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers**. The new contribution is *HEART*, and from Reichlin's oeuvre, *A Jewish Child's Story* and selections from *The Tennis Dances*. Announced dancers are Alana Astor, Carmen Tienda, Camille Imperial, Sophie Kim, Alice Lousen, Ashley Magana, Emily Mcguire, Coree McKee Gonzalez, Mcknnly Moren, Brooke Sinton, Jamil Morgan, and Reichlin. A program includes a post-performance discussion. Taxco Theatre, 7242 Owensmouth Ave., Canoga Park; Sat., April 26, 2 & 4 pm, $30, $20 seniors. Tickets.



Louise Reichlin & Dancers/ Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers. Photo courtesy of the artists

Going solo

In *Welcome to the Dream Factory*, American Ballet Theatre principal **Herman Conejo** makes a solo appearance with the musical ensemble **Musique** to explore the musical impact of European immigrants on film music in the 1930s and 1940s. One show at two venues. The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; Wed., April 30, 7:30 pm. Also at The Wallis, 9390 N Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Sat., May 3, 7:30 pm, Sun., May 4, 2:30 & 7:30 pm, $75 donation for single admission, trial and season membership at Muse/ique.



Herman Cornejo. Photo courtesy of the artist

Persuasive percussion

Grammy-nominated composer Jose Luis de la Paz provides the score for *Quinto Elemento (Fifth Element)*, the 75-minute work for six dancers of **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana**. Grammy-nominated composer Jose Luis de la Paz provided the score and dancer Patricia Guerrero provided the choreography as the popular flamenco company stops off on its current tour. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., May 1, 8 pm, $34-$130. Get Seats!.



Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana. Photo courtesy of the artists

Expanding dance

Professional dancers highlight **Dance & Dialogue**‘s *Celebrate LA.* Announced performers include LA Jazz Dance Company under the direction of Jackie Sleight as well as dancers Jorge Rivas, Shantel Urena, G’bari Gilliam, and Darrell (Friidom) Dunn. Led by Ricka Glucksman Kelsch, the non-profit offers multi-generational programs expanding dance knowledge and participation. The event includes a special performance by LA’s seasoned (60+) dancers under the direction of Bill Goodson. Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Wed., April 30, 7:30 pm, free w/reservation Eventbrite.



LA Jazz Dance Company. Photo by Denise Leitner

Quebec calling

Combining contemporary dance with a circus show, the Quebec-based **N.Omes** arrives for a single performance. Theatre Raymond Kabbaz, 10361 W. Pico Blvd., W.LA; Thurs., May 1, 7 pm, $44.52, $28.52. Eventbrite.



N.Omes. Photo courtesy of the artists

Just a rehearsal?

Can a rehearsal be a performance? To explore that question, **Mariana Valencia** takes to the stage with musician Jazmin “Jazzy” Romero for improvised dance, sound and text. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Fri., April 24-25, 8:30 pm, $27, $22 students. REDCAT.



Mariana Valencia. Photo courtesy of the artist

Lorca lore

Directed and choreographed by Deborah Colker, **LA Opera's** *Ainadamar* draws on Flamenco and Spanish dance to augment a libretto by David Henry Hwang to recount poet/playwright Frederico Garcia Lorca's last days. The opera takes its title from the site where Lorca was executed as part of Francisco Franco's reign of terror to eliminate artists whose work opposed Franco's dictatorship during the Spanish civil war. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., April 26 & May 3, 7:30 pm, Sun., May 4 & 18, 2 pm, Wed., May 7 & Thurs., May 15, 7:30 pm, $32.50- $296. Ainadamar – LA Opera.



LA Opera's "Ainadamar." Photo by Marty Sohl

Greek roots

Choreographer/dancer **Esther Mira** is part of the creative team and also dances in the cast of

Hellas, written and directed by Christopher William Johnson. This new play surveys the Greek roots of western civilization, complete with dance and fight choreography. The saga is present in part on Fridays, while Saturday and Sunday offer the full marathon production. The Broadwater Mainstage, 1076 Lillian Way, Hollywood; Fri., 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun, 2 pm, thru May 11, $25-$30, $20-$25 students. Tickets.



Hellas. Photo courtesy of the artists

A Peek at Next Week (May 2 to May 8)

Grupo Corpo at the Music Center, Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 7:30 pm, Sun., May 4, 2 pm, $27-$78. Music Center.

Hollywood Ballet — *From Tradition to Innovation* at the Alex Theatre, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Sat., May 3, 7:30 pm, $50.99-$114.99. Tickets.

Nannette Brodie Dance Theater — *An Evening of Dance & Community* at Spectrum Dance Center, 22661 Lambert St., Suite 204, Lake Forest; Sun., May 4, 7 pm, $50, $30 students. Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre.



Pennington Dance Group. Photo by Denise Leitner

Pennington Dance Group — *Spirit of Dance* at Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St., Glendale; Sat., May 3, 5 pm, free. Brand Library.

LA Dance Project with the LA Phil — *Rituel* at Disney Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Thurs. & Sat., May 8 & 10, 8 pm, Sun., May 11, 2 pm, $55-$219. LA Phil.

Jacob Jonas/The Company — *OWL* at private warehouse, address provided w/ticket purchase, Santa Monica; Fri., May 2, 8 pm, $55. Jacob Jonas.

Kevin Williamson — *Blue* at Stomping Ground LA, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8 pm, $17.85. Eventbrite.



Kevin Williamson. Photo courtesy of the artist

Max 10 at Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., May 5, 8 pm, $15. Eventbrite.

Astrologia — Eden Sunset, 6521 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood; Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8 pm, Thurs.-

Fri., May 8-9, 8 pm, Sat., May 10, 3 & 7 pm, $50-$1,500. Astrologia.

Orange County Ballet Theater — *Momentum 2025* at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Tues., May 6, 7:30 pm, $44-$54. Irvine Barclay.

USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance — *10th Anniversary Gala* at USC, Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, 849 W. 34th St., University Park; Sat., May 3, 5 pm reception, 6 pm performance, 8 pm dinner/dancing, $1,500-$7,000. USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance 10th Anniversary Gala.

Laguna Dance — *20th Birthday Bash & Fundraiser* at Lyon Air Museum, 19300 Ike Jones Rd., Santa Ana; Sat., May 3, 5 pm reception/dinner, 7 pm performance, $250. Laguna Dance.

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