
Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Black Friday Alternatives

Ann Haskins · Thursday, November 27th, 2025

Named choreographers showcase new work in University Park; seasonal folkloric starts up in East LA; site specific explorers in Downtown LA; this week's Nutcrackers; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

In sight, on site

For four days, **Heidi Duckler Dance** converged dancers, designers, artists and other creative thinkers to create original, site-inspired works under the banner *MAP LIVE!*. The culminating result is on view in this singular event that includes a conversation with leaders in the process including including Alejandro Perez (movement), Jeff Morrical (movement), and Joanna Lynn-Jacobs (voice). Bendix Building, 106 Maple Dr., 11th Floor, Downtown Arts District; Wed., Dec. 3, 7 pm, \$15. [Heidi Duckler Dance](#).



Heidi Duckler Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

Feliz navidad

Celebrate the holiday season with folkloric dance and music as *Diciembre Mexicano* returns to the stage. **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** and **Ballet Folklórico De Esperanza** are joined by Mariachi Tesoro de San Fernando and the Cencamatl Choir in festive dance, music and song. Luckman Fine Arts, 5151 State University Dr., East LA; Sat., Nov. 29, 8 pm, \$30-\$68. [Grandeza](#).



Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Five making new work

Choreographers who also are faculty at **USC Kaufman School of Dance** present new works danced by Kaufman students in *Fall 2025 BFA Showcase*. Slated are works by Hope Boykin, Tyce Diorio, d. Sabela grimes, JA Collective (Jordan Johnson and Aidan Carberry), and Jackie Kopesak. USC Kaufman School of Dance, 3400 Watt Way, University Park; Thurs., Dec. 4, 7:30 pm, Fri., Dec. 5, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 6, 2 pm, free w/reservation [Kaufman BFA showcase](#).



USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance. Photo by Rose Eichenbaum

This week's Nutcrackers

Debbie Allen's Hot Chocolate Nutcracker in Redondo Beach; **Westside Ballet** in Santa Monica; **Anaheim Ballet** in Anaheim; **American Contemporary Ballet** in Downtown LA; **Classical Arts Entertainment** in Escondido. [Link to Nutcrackers 2025](#).



Debbie Allen's Hot Chocolate Nutcracker. Photo courtesy of the company

A Peek at Next Week: (December 5 to 11)

Foothills Dancemakers at A Room to Create (ARC), 1158 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena: Sat., Dec. 6, 8 pm, Sun., Dec. 7, 7 pm, \$30. [Foothills Dancemakers](#).

d. Sabela grimes — *Parable of Portals* at Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Mid-City; Thurs., Dec. 11, 8 pm, \$25.14 – \$46.08. [d. Sabela grimes](#).

CalArts Winter Dance at REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., Downtown LA; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 5-6, 8 pm, \$20, \$16 students. [CalArts Winter Dance](#).



BODYTRAFFIC. Photo courtesy of the artists

BODYTRAFFIC at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 11-13, 7:30 pm, \$42-\$108.90. [BODYTRAFFIC](#).

Will Rawls — *Made in LA* at the UCLA Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Dec. 6, Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, Sat., Feb. 7 & 28, 2026, noon to 4 pm, free. [Hammer Museum](#).

And more Nutcrackers! [Link to Nutcrackers 2025](#).

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