Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Bracing for Your Second Wind (It Will Come)

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, November 13th, 2024

Science meets dance in Hollywood and Palms, a jazzed anniversary celebration in West Adams; new contemporary choreography in Pasadena, Hollywood, and downtown; a flamenco/folklorico blend in Venice, Kabuki-infused Sondheim in Little Tokyo, more SoCal dance this busy week, and a peek at next week.

Live This Week
(through November 21)

Rhythmic moves

To mark its 30th anniversary exploring jazz dance as a vital thread in jazz music, **JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble** celebrates with new works by artistic director Pat Taylor, Bernard Brown, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead and company members. The banner is *Ritual of Rhythm.* The party is at Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., West Adams; Sat., Nov. 16, 8 pm, $30. Ebony Rep. Tickets.



JazzAntiqua Music & Dance Ensemble. Photo by Malcolm Ali

Maybe hip hop can explain AI

The mysteries surrounding Artificial Intelligence may get some clarification as **Donna Sternberg & Dancers** tackle the subject of AI in its positive and negative potentialities. For the sixth and latest edition of *Awe and Wonder,* choreographers again were partnered with scientists to create danceworks illuminating aspects of this topical scientific issues. For *AI and the Metaverse,* Sternberg enlisted scientists Yajie Zhao, David Nelson, Aiichiro Nakano, and Shrikanth Narayanan, who work in the realms of AI, digital evolution, and beyond. The scientists were paired with choreographers Tai White (hip-hop), Aubre Hill (Middle Eastern), Wilfried Souly (African), and Sternberg (contemporary). Find out what they found. Turning Point School, 8780 National Blvd., Culver City; Sat., Nov. 16, 8 pm, Sun., Nov. 17, 3 pm, $30, $25 students/seniors pre-sale, $35, $30 students/seniors at door. Donna Sternberg & Dancers.



Donna Sternberg & Dancers. Photo courtesy of the artists

Rooted feelings

In *Resonance,* the subject is empathy, considered in dance works commissioned by **LA Dance Project**. For the project, choreographers Bobbi Jene Smith, Or Schraiber, Francesca Harper, and Rauf Yasit collaborated with research scientists to consider the biological basis of empathy. The performance is followed by an audience discussion. Part of the Getty's PST exploration of science and art. Barnsdall Park 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Fri.-Sat., Nov. 15-16, 1 pm, free w/reservation at LA Dance Project.



Bobbi Jene Smith. Photo courtesy of the artist

Getting started

In an ongoing effort to cultivate young choreographers, **Nancy Evans Dance Theatre**'s program, *The Inner Voices Project*, mentors new works from concept to production. This time, the result is five premieres from Sophia Bernardo, Alice Lousen, Jackie Pierce, Jacob Schmieder-Hacker, and Mairi Tahmizyan. Guest artists Sadie Brown, Thomas Ng and trainee Julie Turner, join the NEDT dancers for the performance. ARC Pasadena (A Room to Create), 1158 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena; Sat., Nov. 16, 8 pm, Sat., Nov. 17, 4 pm, $25, $20 students/seniors. Nancy Evans Dance Theatre.



Nancy Evans Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

Just for Now

This year's **New Original Works (NOW) Fest** continues for two more weeks. Week 2 includes **Tijuana Dance Company** exploring the border city's nightlife in *Salón México*, **Ajani Brannum**'s *CONGRESS* with five performers who move, speak, and sing as themselves and their patriarchal predecessors, and **Sophia Cleary**'s *Read the Room* as rehearsal interactions become a metaphor for contemporary blurring of fact and fiction. Week 3 brings Bret Easterling and Kensaku Shinohara. More on them next week. Full festival info for each week at the website. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 14-16, & 21-23, 8:30 pm, $25, $20 students. REDCAT.



Tijuana Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

Fusion dance

Mexican folkloric dance meets Spanish flamenco as **Corina del Sol** unveils *Frida & Flamenco.* Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice, Sun., Nov. 17, 6 pm, $30. Eventbrite.



Sen?ora Corina Del Sol. Photo by Sari Makki

Not a retreat

With a focus on the “el desmadre” (the messiness) that is their first-generation Mexican American experience, **Primera Generación Dance Collective** brings their newest, *NOStalgia POP,* to the *!Hay Festival!,* co-presented by ShowBox LA. Full details at the website. Joshua Tree Retreat Center, 59700 29 Palms Highway Joshua Tree; Fri., Nov. 15, 7 pm, Sat., Nov. 16, 2 pm, $9.85-$17.85. Eventbrite.



Primera Generacion Dance Collective. Photo by Steve Rosa

Booker prize to puppetry

The master puppeteers of **Handspring Puppet Company** who created *War Horse,* joined forces with **Cape Town's Baxter Theatre** to create *Life & Times of Michael K.* Based on the 1983 Booker Prize winning novel by Nobel Laureate J.M.Coetze, the story follows a humble man on an epic journey. Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Bram Goldsmith Theater, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 21-23, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Nov. 22-23, 2 pm, $39-99. The Wallis.



Life & Times of Michael K. Photo by Fiona McPherson

Just dreaming

The recurring rooftop soiree *Truth or Consequences* from **Heidi Duckler Dance** opens the fall/winter season with an exploratory opera, *Life Cycle of a Fever Dream,* from Julia Edith Rigby. The Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Ave., Suite 1100B, downtown; Sat., Nov. 16, 4-6 pm, $35. Heidi Duckler.



LA Opera's "Romeo and Juliet." Photo by Robert Millard

Opera moves

Known for her contemporary troupe *Hysterica*, Kitty McNamee has been a frequent choreographer for **LA Opera**, including the 2005 and 2011 productions of Gounod's *Romeo & Juliet.* This time McNamee is directing the opera that has the chorus and leads dancing as well as singing. Music Center Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Thurs. Nov. 14, 7:30, Sun., Nov. 17, 2 pm, Wed. & Sat., Nov. 20 & 23, 7:30 pm, 7:30 pm, $33.50-$400. LA Opera.



Kit DeZolt as Commodore Matthew Commodor Perry performing "Lion Dance." Photo by Teolindo.

Back to the overtures

When **East West Players** chose Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures* for the 50th anniversary of the show's Broadway premiere, it also lured back former artistic director Tim Dang who directed the show when EWP moved to its current mid-sized theater in Little Tokyo. Dang not only brings a background in dance, he brought in three additional choreographers, Broadway dancer/choreographer Yuka Takara, Kabuki consultant Kirk Kanesaka (aka Ganky? Nakamura), and fight director Amanda Noriko Newman. The show continues EWP long history presenting Sondheim in a theater sized to allow audiences to see the full show and still hear every precious lyric. David Henry Hwang Theater in the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo; Thurs., Fri. & Mon, 8 pm, Sat. 2 & 8 pm, Sun. 5 pm, thru Dec. 1. $15-$74. East West Players.

Back on the Beach

The granddaddy of all the cirques, **Cirque du Soleil**, returns with its signature tent and the show *Kooza*, brimming with acrobats and clowns. The two month run offers lots of time to catch the show, maybe more than once? Under the Big Top at Santa Monica Pier, 1550 Pacific Coast Hwy., Santa Monica; thru Sun., Jan. 5, $58-$344. Details on the many dates and times at the website. Cirque du Soleil.



Cirque du Soleil. Photo courtesy of the artists

Teasing

The title says it all: *The Empire Strips Back: A Burlesque Parody*. The show returns after its 2022 run at this venue. The Montalbán Theatre, 1615 Vine St., Hollywood; Thurs., 7:30 pm, Fri., 7 pm, Sat., 7 & 9:30 pm, Sun., 4 pm, thru Dec. 1. $44-$109. The Empire Strips Back.

A Peek at Next Week (November 22-28)

Urban Bush Women at the Music Center, Mark Taper Forum, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri, Nov. 22, 7: 30 pm, Sat., Nov. 23, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 24, 2 pm, $33-$70. Music Center.

Little Women Ballet Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer St., Montecito Heights; Fri.-Sun., Nov. 22-24, 6:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Nov. 23-24, 3 pm, $60. Details at Little Women Ballet. Tickets.



Little Women Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

Caleb Teicher & Conrad Tao — *100th Anniversary of Rhapsody in Blue* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Nov. 23, 8 pm, $42.94-$99.44 SCFTA.

Rudy Perez Retrospective — *Celebrating the late postmodern legend's 95th Birthday* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Sun., Nov. 24, 3 pm, $25, $20 students/seniors. Highways.

Ballet BC at the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Nov. 23, 8 pm, $48-$118. The Soraya.

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