

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Can't Stop the Rhythm

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, December 17th, 2025

The best of DEI is alive and showcased in Downtown LA; a folkloric seasonal fete in Northridge; encore ballet scare in Venice; peak *Nutcracker* season throughout SoCal; and a peek at next week (still more Nutcrackers?)

Live This Week

Live or Stream?

The show is free! The parking is free! And it also is live-streamed. So many ways to see the **66th Annual LA County Holiday Celebration**. Sponsored by the LA County Board of Supervisors, the yearly performance showcases dance, music, and choral groups from diverse performance ecosystems throughout LA's sprawl. Dance groups include Ballet Folklórico de Esperanza, Bob Barker Marionette Theater, Carousel Dance Company, Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Company, Le Ballet Dembaya, and Reverb Tap Company. A full list of performers is at the website but as of press time, no information on the performance schedule. Livestream on [PBS SoCal](#). The Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Wed., Dec. 24, 3 to 6 pm, free, ticketing, info, and updates at [66th Annual LA County Holiday Celebration](#).



Le Ballet Dembaya at LA County Holiday Celebration. Photo by Timothy Norris

Seasonal swirlings

Marking its tenth year, the popular seasonal event **Nochebuena** — *A Christmas Spectacular* returns with extended performances. Lots of dance from **Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles** led by Kareli Montoya. The dancers get help from Mariachi Pueblo Viejo. This year's special guest is Mexican actress and multi-nominated Grammy and Latin Grammy vocalist Ximena Sariñana. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Dec. 20 2 & 7pm, Sun. Dec. 21, 2 pm, Mon. Dec. 22, 2 pm, \$54-\$79. [Nochebuena](#).



Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles. Photo courtesy of the artists

A different seasoning

For those who want a bit of fright to spice their seasonal eggnog, **The Realm Company** returns with artistic director Chasen Greenwood's *Krampus*. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Sat., Dec. 20 & 27, 7 pm, Sun., Dec. 21 & 28, 3 pm, \$58.90-\$106.17. [The Realm Company-Krampus](#).



The Realm Company. Photo by Hannah Cox

How he came here

Joined by Fanny Perez, Miralva Swaby, and Penpa Tsering, multi-disciplinary artist creator **Guadalupe Maravilla** brings the autobiographical *A Performance* to the stage in a free performance. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. Second St., Downtown LA; Fri., Dec. 19, 8 pm, free w/reservation at [Guadalupe Maravilla](#).



Guadalupe Maravilla. Photo courtesy of the artist

Find this week's bumper season of Nutcrackers here: [Link to Nutcrackers 2025](#)

A Peek at Next Week (December 26 to January 1)

Lula Washington Dance Theatre — *45th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration* and *Umoja Circle*. Lula Washington Dance Theatre, 3773 Crenshaw Blvd., Baldwin Hills; *Umoja Circle*, Sat., Dec. 27, 5 pm, \$250+, [LWDT-Umoja Circle](#). Also *45th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration*, Sun., Dec. 28, 3 & 6 pm, \$49.87, \$39.19 students/seniors, \$17.85 children under 12 years. [45th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration](#).



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert with dancers from **San Diego Ballet** at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Sun., Dec. 28, 2:30 pm, \$61-\$171. [Salute to Vienna Los Angeles](#). Also at Segerstrom Concert Hall, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Tues., Dec. 30, 8 pm, \$55.37-\$157.07. [San Diego Ballet-Salute to Vienna](#).

Grand Kyiv Ballet — *Nutcracker* at Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 743 S. Lucerne, Hancock Park; Tues., Dec. 30, 7 pm, \$44-\$79. [Grand Kyiv Nutcracker](#).

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

This entry was posted on Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 at 6:43 pm and is filed under [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Performing](#)

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