

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Choke Points

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

Haunted ballet in El Segundo and downtown; Philippine ballet in Westwood; contemporary ballet in Hollywood and downtown; South Asian dance in Santa Monica; contemporary dance in Lincoln Heights, Beverly Hills, Culver City, and Hollywood; jazz dance in Lake Forest; more SoCal dance this busy week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

All that glitters

After its world premiere at Australia's Brisbane Dance Festival last month, SoCal gets the U.S. premiere of **LA Dance Project**'s *Gems Trilogy*. Choreographer Benjamin Millepied combined three earlier ballets—*Reflections* (2013), *Hearts & Arrows* (2014), and *On the Other Side* (2016)—set to music by David Lang and Philip Glass, reworking aspects of each, particularly the last one. The endeavor pays homage to George Balanchine's ballet *Jewels* which was inspired and underwritten by Van Cleef and Arpels, also a major sponsor of LADP. New York sees *Gems* next spring, but first continues this venue's presentation to dance. Wallis Center for the Performing Arts, 390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 23-25. 7:30 pm, \$42.90-\$108.90. **LA Dance Project**—*Gems*.



LA Dance Project in “Hearts & Arrows.” Photo by Laurent Phillippe

Dances with objects

Continuing its impressive work with military veterans, **Diavolo** offers performances of *Escape*. Vets and Diavolo’s dancer/gymnasts move inside, outside, over and through the often outsized architectural structures that are signature elements of Jacques Heim’s choreography. Amping up the excitement, everything and everyone is up close and personal in the intimate studio setting. Proceeds support ongoing military and educational programs. L’Espace Diavolo Studios, 616 Moulton Ave., Lincoln Heights; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 6 pm, thru Sun., Nov. 23, 6 pm, \$51.74-\$93.14. [Diavolo—Escape](#).



Diavolo Veterans Project. Photo by George Simian

Devotion

The relationship between deity and devotee is the focus of Aparna Ramaswamy's newest work *Ananta, the Eternal*, performed by the South Asian Bharatanatyam ensemble **Ragamala Dance Company**. The performance also brings her together with her sister Ashwini Ramaswamy, also a dancer and choreographer, for their first duet. Musicians from Chennai, India provide live accompaniment for this interplay of dance, music, and poetry. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Sat., Oct. 25, 7:30 pm, \$45-\$70. [Ragamala Dance Company](#).



Ragamala Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artist

Marking 30

New York-based **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** brings artistic director Dwight Rhoden's choreography and the company's uber-athletic dancers led by Desmond Richardson. The announced program includes *Retro Suite*, a collection of works by Rhoden created over the company's three decades, plus his 2023 *For Crying Out Loud*, set to U2's music. The Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Fri.-Sat., Oct. 24-25, 7:30 pm, Sun., Oct. 26, 2 pm, \$55-\$163. [Complexions-Dorothy Chandler Pavilion](#).



Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

Amor

Piazzolla's luscious *Libertango* and Stravinsky's luminous *Firebird* are the music for new works for **Luminario Ballet** by Damien Diaz and company artistic director Judith FLEX Helle. With its distinctive blend of ballet and aerial, the company takes the stage and goes airborne for *Siempre Amor—Love Always*. The evening includes live music by the Thrillharmonic Orchestra, plus works from choreographers Dreya Weber and Jamal Story. Special performances and guests join the dancers for this event which offers an optional pre-show gala benefit. Avalon Hollywood; 1735 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Sun., Oct. 26, 8 pm, \$40-\$125 (show only) \$450-\$650 (gala at 5:30 pm) [Luminaro Ballet gala](#).



Luminario Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

A fortunate bird

A radiant bird symbolizing good fortune and linking earthly and spiritual realms, the *Sarimanok* is also the title of the ballet being danced as the **Philippine Ballet Theater** stops off on its U.S. tour. Accompanying the company offstage, are an exhibition of Filipino crafts and a display of the island nation's fashion designers. UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Ct., Westwood; Sat. Oct. 25, 7 pm, \$75-\$200. [UCLA Royce Hall | UCLA](#).



Philippine Ballet Theater. Photo courtesy of the artists

Seasonal slayer

Returning as that toothy vampire, Eduard Sargsyan leads the cast of **West Coast Ballet**'s *Dracula*. As of press time, tickets are almost sold out, but there is a waitlist. El Segundo Performing Arts Center, 640 Main St., El Segundo; Fri.-Sat., Oct. 24-25, 8 pm, \$20-\$55. [West Coast Ballet](#).



American Contemporary Ballet. Photo by Anastasia Petukhova

Death and live music

Opening its fall season, **American Contemporary Ballet** offers choreographer Lincoln Jones' *Death and the Maiden* and *Burlesque: Variation IX*. As always, the dances are accompanied by live music. ACB Studios, Bank of America Plaza, Co-150, 333 S. Hope St., Downtown; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm, to Sat., Nov. 1, \$65-\$140. [ACB](#).



Jazz Spectrum Dance Company. Photo by Tony Mierzwicki

Jazz hands

This intimate space offers *Continuing the Legacy*, a behind the scenes preview of **Jazz Spectrum Dance Company**'s upcoming season. Artistic director Janell Burgess follows in the footsteps of founder Christine Baltes with choreography dedicated to the preservation and forward progress of

jazz dance. Spectrum Dance Studio Theater, 22661 Lambert St., Suite 204-205, Lake Forest; Sun., Oct. 26, 6:30 pm, \$40. [Jazz Spectrum Dance Company](#).



Jazz Spectrum Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

Cooperative dance

What do Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Mexico, Korea, and Thailand have in common? All are among the members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group and dancing here in LA in advance of an APEC summit in South Korea. The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles plays host to dance companies from those seven member nations in **APEC 2025 Korea Cultural Night**. Korea may host the trade talks, the KCC is bringing the dancing here. Details at the website. Colburn School, Zipper Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Tues., Oct. 28, 5:30 pm, free w/reservation at [APEC 2025](#).

Contagious?

In *The Loneliness Triptych*, choreographer Leilah Weinraub and the dancers of **Volta Collective** explore whether loneliness is an epidemic. Everyday objects, including a mattress, rug, and office chair, emerge as potential symbols of longing, sexuality, and power. New Theater Hollywood, 6500 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood; Fri. -Sun., Oct. 24-26 & Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 8 pm, \$25-\$35. [Volta Collective](#).



Volta Collective. Photo by Roger Martin Holman

Dance on the avenue

It's **Grand Ave Arts** as the theaters, museums, and other arts institutions along downtown's Grand Avenue take to the street with dance, music, arts and five hours of family fun. Look for dance from Colburn School along with the music and vocal events. Along Grand Ave., 1st St. thru 6th St., Downtown LA; Sat., Oct. 25, 11 am – 4 pm, free. [Grand Ave Arts](#).

Processioning

Choreographer Holly Johnston joins forces with Ana Maria Alvarez and the dancers of **Contra-Tiempo** for *Roots of Loving Us- A Ritual Procession*. Part performance, part ritual, the procession is also a ceremony of adoption, turning formerly given-away clothes and items—one person's orphaned belongings—into another's chosen treasure. The event is a movement metaphor for turning what has been discarded into what is beloved through a ritual of adoption. Glorya Kaufman Community Center, Wende Museum, 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Sat., Oct. 25, 7:15 pm, \$0-\$25. [Contra-Tiempo](#).

Directly

While Ana Maria Alvarez and **Contra-Tiempo** are partnering with Cornerstone Theater for *Direct Address*, as of press time no seats are available. No wait-list information is available. The Ford Theatre. 2850 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Fri., Oct. 24, 8 pm, \$29-\$44. [The Ford](#).



CONTRA-TIEMPO. Photo courtesy of the artists

How little?

Choreographer turned playwright **Rudi Goblen**'s *Little Boy/Little Man* includes moves from choreographer **Christopher Scott**. Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Ave., Westwood; Wed.-Thurs., 7:30 pm, Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 3 & 8 pm, Sun., 2 pm, thru Sun., Nov. 2, \$45-\$139. [Little Boy/Little Man](#).

A Peek at Next Week (October 31 to November 6)

Pony Cam — *Burnout Paradise* at UCLA Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Sat.-Sun., Nov. 1-2, 8 pm, \$38.08-\$48.67. [Pony Cam](#).

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui — *Sutra (with the Warrior Monks of the Shaolin Temple)* at Luckman Fine Arts Complex, CalState LA, 5151 State University Dr., East LA: Sun., Nov. 2, 7 pm, \$49-\$98. [Ticketmaster](#).



Warrior Monks of the Shaolin Temple. Photo courtesy of the artists

Sara Mearns — *See the Music, Hear the Dance* at Trudi Zipper Dance Institute, Colburn School, 200 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Sat. Nov. 1, 7 pm, \$35. [Sara Mearns](#).

CSUDH Faculty Dance Concert — *Dreams and Diversity* at University Theatre, Cal State University Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson; Wed.-Sat., Nov. 5-8, 7 pm, Fri., Nov. 7, 1 pm, \$20, \$12 students/seniors. [CSUDH Dreams & Diversity](#).

MashUp Contemporary Dance Company — *15th Anniversary* at the Stomping Ground, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Sat., Nov. 1, 7:30 pm, \$35. [MashUp Contemporary Dance Company](#).

Will Rawls — *Unmade* at the Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Nov. 1, Sat., Dec. 6, Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, Sat., Feb. 7 & 28, 2026, noon to 4 pm, free. [Hammer Museum](#).



Will Rawls. Photo by Sarah M Golonka

LA Unbound at Glendale Community College, 1500 N. Verdugo Rd., Glendale; Sun., Nov. 2, 4 & 7:30 pm, \$24-\$30. [LA Unbound](#).

Works in Progress (WIP) Season 4 — *Kirsten Schnittker + Jobel Medina* at Wende Museum, Glorya Kaufman Community Center, 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Mon., Nov. 3, 7:30 pm, free w/reservation at [WIP](#).

Max 10 at the Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Nov. 3, 8 pm, \$15. [Max 10](#).

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