

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Complicated Topography

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

Scientists weigh in on a dance about a scientist; memories evoked in Beverly Hills; twisty dancers in Long Beach; beloved novel and a folklore threat get their own ballets in Hancock Park and West LA; contemporary dance in Culver City and downtown; last chance for Kabuki-infused Sondheim in Little Tokyo; more SoCal dance including *Nutcracker* ballets this busy week, and a peek at next week.

Building memories

A scent, a song, a warm breeze can stir a memory, a sensory relationship the contemporary company **BODYTRAFFIC** explores this season under the banner *This Reminds Me of You*. The company returns with three premieres to one of its most frequent venues. Inspired by the work of the late Black Angeleno visual artist, Ernie Barnes, Juel D. Lane's *Incense Burning On A Saturday Morning: The Maestro* receives its full world premiere. The two West Coast premieres are Matthew Neenan's *I Forgot the Start* with a playlist that includes music by Sinéad O'Connor, and new artistic associate Trey McIntyre's *Mayday* set to rock legend Buddy Holly songs. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 7, 2 & 7:30 pm, \$49-\$79. **The Wallis**.



BODYTRAFFIC. Photo courtesy of the artists

Twisty turnings

Making appearances at two SoCal venues, the ever-inventive **Pilobolus** returns with its signature blend of dance and gymnastics to tell evocative stories. This visit brings *re:CREATION* with beloved company classics like *Walklyndon*, *Bloodlines*, and *Rushes*, plus a new work, *Tales from the Underworld*. Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Sat., Dec. 7, 8 pm, \$55. [Carpenter PAC](#). Also at Smothers Theater, Pepperdine University, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Sun., Dec. 8, 7 pm, \$28-\$58. [Pepperdine University](#).



Pilobolus. Photo courtesy of the artists

The scientists weigh in

Years before Benedict Cumberbatch's film portrayal raised the public profile of British mathematician Alan Turing, he had grabbed the attention of choreographer and **Invertigo Dance Theatre** artistic director Laura Karlin. She was fascinated by the man responsible for breaking the Nazi's enigma code, father of computer technology whose work was so secret he received no credit during his lifetime which ended tragically in suicide with a poisoned apple, a choice Karlin linked to Turing's obsessive fondness for Disney's *Snow White*. In the type of 'collision of art and science' promised by the Getty-sponsored PST series, excerpts from Karlin's highly praised result will be performed, followed by discussion of Turing's life and work by CalTech scientists in a program dubbed *Turing Tests, Apples, and Queens*. California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Blvd., Pasadena; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 6-7, 8 pm, \$30-\$40, \$10 students w/i.d. [Caltech](#).



Invertigo Dance Theatre. Photo by Joe Lambie

A novel approach

After three highly successful, site-specific performances of their ballet version of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel *Little Women*, choreographer Emma Andres and the dancers move from the stately Victorian mansions of Heritage Square to a proscenium theater for the full-length **Little Women Ballet**. Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Sat., Dec. 7, 2:30 & 7 pm, \$28-\$40. [Little Women Ballet](#).



Little Women Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

When it's personal

Personal stories from the LGBTQIA+ cast are captured by **Mixed eMotion Theatrix (MeMT)** in the dance/theater work *So Now You Know, Personal Stories in Motion: The Queer Community*. Performers getting personal include Donny Collinson, Maze Felix, Lee-Ron, Joshua Tyler Rogers, Nurit Siegel Smith, Jamal Wade, Tiffany Wolff, and Kate Coleman who also directed and choreographed. The Wende Museum, Glorya Kaufman Cultural Center, 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Fri., Dec. 6, 2 & 8 pm, Sat., Dec. 7, 8 pm, free. [Eventbrite](#).



Mixed eMotion Theatrix (MeMT). Photo by Barry Weiss

Naughty and not nice

Drawing from European folklore about *Krampus*, a watchful figure that snatches naughty children, **The Realm Company**'s newest brings a bit of another holiday's fright zone to this holiday season. Convoy Studios, 3764 Glendon Ave., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 6-7, 7:30 pm, Sun., Dec. 8, 3 pm, \$53.65 - \$90.41. [Tickets](#).



The Realm Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

How they see AI

CAP UCLA's incoming director Edgar Miramontes and REDCAT's chief curator/deputy program director Daniela Lieja Quintanar join forces to present **rafa esparza & MUXX Collective** in *Live Night: Cruising Bodies, Spirits, and Machines*. Part of a series showcasing artists using artificial intelligence with Indigenous, Brown, and Queer perspectives. Esparza is at 6:30 pm, the MUXX Collective at 7:30 pm, and a DJ takes over at 9 pm. United Theater on Broadway, 929 S. Broadway, downtown Arts District; Sat., Dec. 7, 6 pm, \$47.28 to \$71.28. [CAP UCLA](#).



CalArts Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

New for winter

Lots of new choreography is in store for the winter edition of **CalArts Dance**, showcasing work by LA-based former students now making their way as professionals. The lineup includes Kyreena Breelin Alexander, Brigette Dunn-Korpela, Jobel Medina, and Chorong Yang. REDCAT at Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 5-6, 8:30 pm, \$20. [REDCAT](#).

A folkloric season

Celebrating a *Merry-Achi Christmas*, **Folklórico Revolución** provides the dance as it joins Sol de México de José Hernández and Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles for this seasonal performance. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Fri-Sat., Dec. 6-7, 7 pm, Sun., Dec. 8, 2 pm, \$40-\$91. [Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts](#).



Versa Style Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

For 20 years, **Versa Style Street Dance Company** has been a bastion for hip hop and street dance culture, performance, preservation, and educating generations of youth. *Dancing Our Legacy*, the 20th anniversary performance and gala, benefits the company's *Hip Hop Dance Festival* coming on May 23 to 25. Join the party. Inner City Arts, 720 Kohler St., downtown Arts District; Sat., Dec. 7, 1-3 pm, \$50 and up. [Versa Style](#).

An extended overture

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. 8. \$15-\$74. [East West Players](#).



Kit DeZolt as Commodore Matthew Commodore Perry performing “Lion Dance.” Photo by Teolindo.

Tap that Nut

Bringing a tap dance version, **Dorrance Dance** employs the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn arrangement of the familiar Tchaikovsky tunes in *The Nutcracker Suite*. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Thurs., Dec. 12, 8 pm, \$48-\$118. [The Soraya](#).



Dorrance Dance. Photo by Christopher Duggan

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](#).

Notable Nutcracker Ballets This Week

A complete round up of Nutcracker ballets available at: [And the Nuts Have It](#)

American Ballet Theatre with the Pacific Symphony — Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 12-13 & 19-20, 7 pm, Sat. Dec. 14 & 21, 2 & 7 pm, Sun., Dec. 15, 12:30 & 5:30 pm, Wed., Dec. 18, 7 pm, Sun., Dec. 22, 11:30 am & 4:30 pm, \$32.77-\$282.50. [SCFTA](#).

Los Angeles Ballet at Pasadena Civic Auditorium, 300 E. Green St., Pasadena; Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 7, 6 pm, Sun., Dec. 8, 2 pm, \$44-\$137. Performances at other venues at website. \$44-\$137. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).

Inland Pacific Ballet at Bridges Auditorium, 450 N. College Way, Claremont; Sat.-Sun., Dec. 7-8 & 21-22, 2 pm, \$39-\$101. Also at Fox Performing Arts Center, 3801 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside; Sat.-Sun., Dec. 14-15, 2 pm. \$41-\$136. [Inland Pacific Ballet](#).

A Peek at Next Week (December 13-19)

Max Martin & Mandolin Burns — *Lovers' Piece* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 13-14, \$20.50. [Highways](#).



Gregory Maqoma. Photo courtesy of the artist

Gregory Maqoma — *The Land We Carry* at The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Dec. 14, 8 pm, \$38.08. [CAP UCLA](#).

San Pedro Festival of the Arts — *Encore Performance!* at Alta Sea, 2451 Signal St., Berth 60- (farthest berth closest to the Ocean), enter door 35, San Pedro; Sun., Dec. 15, 1-3, free. [San Pedro Festival of the Arts](#).

This entry was posted on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024 at 5:57 pm and is filed under [CBD](#), [Film](#), [TV](#), [Streaming](#), [Podcasts](#)

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