

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Complicated Topography

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

A melange of star crossed lovers in Beverly Hills, giving voice to autism in Santa Monica, contemporary dance in West Adams, Sylmar, Pasadena, and Atwater Village; the 1960's revisited in Brentwood; Vogue ball in Little Tokyo; first of the season's vampires in Hollywood; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

Reconnections

From the reviews of the recent La Jolla Playhouse performances, **Jenn Freeman**'s dance/theater piece *Is It Thursday Yet?* effectively uses dance, narration, video and tape to tell the exterior story of the diagnosis of her Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at age 33, while dance evokes the interior story of her feelings and efforts to navigate a puzzling exterior world. A dancer/choreographer in her own right, Freeman called on Tony-winning choreographer Sonya Tayeh to shape this telling. The BroadStage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica, Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 3-5, 7:30 pm, \$40-\$85. [The BroadStage](#).



Jenn Freeman. Photo by Matthew Murphy

Deja vu all over again?

The LA Dance Project performances of *Romeo & Juliet Suite* are described as the Los Angeles premiere, yet it strongly resembles earlier iterations in 2018 and 2019 performed at Disney Hall and the Hollywood Bowl with the LA Phil, now described as ‘previews.’ Choreographed by LADP artistic director Benjamin Millepied, this, like the prior versions, presents a combination of dance onstage and then Millepied following the dancers with a steady cam that livestreamed dancing in offstage portions of Disney Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and now this historic post office turned theater. Once again, there are three casts of lead lovers—male/female, male/male and female/female. All elements seem to be present, perhaps reworked and expanded, yet no LA Phil. Whatever the work’s evolution, LADP’s superb dancers are always worth a watch. The Wallis, 9390 N Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 10-12, \$49-\$109. [The Wallis](#).



LA Dance Project. Photo by Josh Rose

Demystifying

Launching its 44th season, **Benita Bike's DanceArt** continues its local touring under the direction of founder/choreographer Benita Bike. The modern dance troupe brings a program of dance and discussion that seeks to demystify the art of dance and dancemaking. The dancers include Sarah Chan, Lauren Gold, Dakota Merritt, Dalya Modlin, and Emily Wallace. LA Mission College, AMP Theater, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar; Wed., Oct. 9, 7 pm, free. [DanceArt](#).



Benita Bike's DanceArt. Photo by Dean Walraff

Not Alone

In 1967, engineers teamed with avant garde artists in the groundbreaking *Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.)*, now the subject of an archival exhibition *Sensing the Senses*. Two afternoon performances of *Sensing the Future*, complement the exhibit and include choreographer Deborah Hay's *Solo Two* (2024), revisiting her *Solo* choreographed for 16 dancers in 1966. Getty Center, Museum Courtyard, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Sat., Oct. 5, 4 pm, Sun., Oct. 6. 2 pm, free. [The Getty](#).



Deborah Hay. Photo by Peter Moore

Salon dancing

Under the banner *Speakeasy-Orange Dog Review*, the ever-insightful choreographer Rosanna Gamson and the dancers of **Rosanna Gamson/WorldWide** offer contemporary dance in an intimate setting. Residence, 2757 Clyde Ave., West Adams; Sat., Oct. 5, 7 pm, \$25-\$100. [Eventbrite](#).



Rosanna Gamson/World Wide. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Time to heal

Drawing on women from all over the U.S., **Lineage Dance** presents *Healing Blue*, focused on women's struggles and triumphs confronting cancer. Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Glendale; Sun., Oct. 6, 5 pm, \$25. [Lineage PAC](#).



Lineage Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

Enter through the alley

Opening its third season, **Work in Progress/LA** spotlights **Stephanie Dai** and **Keilan Stafford**. Organized by choreographers Kate Wallich, Stephanie Zaletel and Belize Wilhelm, this artist-run collective partners with this venue to “stir up deep dance discourse” in the LA dance community. The changing line up for the monthly Monday events runs through next April, each providing a peek and preview of what some of LA’s cutting edge choreographers are up to. G-Son Studios, 3218 Glendale Blvd., Atwater Village (enter through the alley); Mon., Oct. 7, 7:30 pm, \$15. [Tickets](#).



Stephanie Dai. Photo courtesy of the artist

And now they are 11

For more than a decade, **Banjee Ball Foundation** has built a following for LA Ballroom and Vogue. Partnering with MOCA, *Build This House* opens this season's Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Program with a ball. The event also offers a free Friday evening workshop before Saturday's ticketed ball. Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, 152 N. Central Ave., Little Tokyo; Sat., Oct. 5, 5-10 pm, \$12. [Tickets](#), info at [Banjee Ball Foundation](#).



Banjee Ball. Photo by RyB Productions

Will there be blood?

Twilight Saga meets Faust, with a twist, in **Blood/Love: A Vampire Popera**. The immersive rock musical opens this week at the aptly named Crimson, a Hollywood pop up gothic nightclub. Running through November 2, the vampire-meets-rock-star event injects a devilish romance into the spooky season. The Crimson, 6356 Hollywood Blvd., First Floor, Hollywood; Thurs.-Sat., thru Sat., Oct. 19, 7 & 9:30 pm, then, Wed.-Sat, Oct. 23-Nov. 2, 7 & 9:30 pm, \$59-\$119. [Blood/Love](#).



Blood/Love. Photo by Graham Washatka

Animalia

A bit of dance, some sleight of hand, and a lot of fun as **Liz Toonkel** returns with her *Magic for Animals*. Elysian Theater, 1944 Riverside Dr., Echo Park; Sat., Oct. 5, 10 pm, \$20-\$25. [Elysian Theater](#).



Liz Toonkel. Photo courtesy of the artist

Taxing

In the satiric *Urinetown*, puns and double entendres take over a town that charges for bathroom privileges. **Liz Hoefner Adamis** choreographs and Daniel Nakawatase directs for CAL REP. Studio Theater, Cal State University Long Beach, north side of the Theatre Arts Building, accessible via 7th Street and East Campus Drive, Long Beach; Wed.-Sat., Oct. 2-5 & 8-12, 7:30

pm, Sat., Oct. 5 & 12, 2 pm, Sun., Oct. 13, 2 pm, \$25, \$23 seniors. Tix – Ticket Sales.



Max 10. Photo courtesy of the artists

It's a 10

The mostly monthly program **Max 10** gives ten performers ten minutes each onstage. Hosted by venue director Joel Shapiro and curated by the staff, dance is a mainstay in the line up of performances. A post-show reception gives a chance to chat with the artists. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Oct. 7, 7:30 pm, \$10. [Electric Lodge](#).



The Empire Strips Back. 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; Opens Thurs, Oct. 11, 7:30 pm, then 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 (October 11-17)

Jay Carlon with **Micaela Tobin** — *WAKE* at Don Quixote, 2811 E. Olympic Blvd., Boyle Heights; Fri., Oct. 11, 8:30 pm, \$35. [RA Tickets](#).

West Coast Ballet — *Dracula* at El Segundo Performing Arts Center, 640 Main St., El Segundo; Sat., Oct. 12, 7 pm, \$43.45. [Eventbrite](#).

Organización Secreta Teatro — *A Girl Grows Wings* at LA Theatre Center, 514 S. Spring St., downtown; Sat., Oct. 12, 8 pm, then Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 17-19, 8 pm, Sun., Oct. 13 & 20, 4 pm, \$10-\$45. [LA Theatre Center](#).

A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham at the Carpenter Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Sat., Oct. 12, 8 pm, \$40. [Carpenter Performing Arts Center](#).



A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham. Photo courtesy of the artists

Wildhorse Native American Association — *Celebrating Indigenous People's Day* at the Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Sat., Oct. 12, 11 am, free w/parking. [The Getty](#).

ICBT Pace Ballet — *Swan Lake* at the Wilshire Ebell, 4401 W. 8th St., Sat., Oct. 12, 2 & 7 pm, \$73.34-\$137.36, [Eventbrite](#). Also at the Long Beach Terrace Theatre, 300 E. Ocean Ave., Long Beach; Sun., Oct. 13, 2 & 7 pm, \$112-\$155. [Ticketmaster](#). Also at the Alex Theater, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Thurs., Oct. 17, 7 p.m., Fri., Oct. 18, 2 & 7 pm, \$71-\$169. [Ticketmaster](#). Also at La Mirada Theatre, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada; Sun., Oct. 20, 2 & 7 pm, \$15.40-\$121. [La Mirada Theatre](#).

American Contemporary Ballet at CBS Television City, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Fairfax; Fri.-Sat., Oct. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, Thurs., Oct. 17, 24 & 31, 8 pm, \$65-\$140. [American Contemporary Ballet](#).

Laye Rhythm — *Switch* at USC, Gloria Kaufman International Dance Center, 849 W. 34th St., University Park; Wed., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm, free w/reservation at [Visions and Voices](#).

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