

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Contemporary Concerns

Ann Haskins · Thursday, April 10th, 2025

Wars and their impacts considered in Westwood; AIDS' ongoing influence considered at University Park; Bollywood launches a new dance series in Altadena; New York contemporary companies visit Beverly Hills and Irvine; LA contemporary troupes set up in Santa Monica and Hollywood; visual artists incorporate dance in Hancock Park and downtown; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Welcoming stage

This historic, intimate venue continues to expand its performance offerings with its first ever dance season showcasing seven of LA's top companies. This week, **Blue 13 Dance Company**, known for its blend of contemporary and Bollywood influences, is the first of the seven. Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sat., April 12, 2 & 7:30 pm, \$12-\$35. [Sierra Madre Playhouse](#).



Blue13 Dance Company. Photo by Jordan Strauss

On target

In addition to his own celebrated contemporary choreography for the dancers of his **A.I.M** by **Kyle Abraham**, the namesake dancemaker brings a program with commissioned works by other choreographers. Considering logic and information, *Year* was choreographed by Andrea Miller along with the dancers. In *The Shell of a Shell*, company alum Rena Butler explores how external forces shape individuals. Paul Singh's *Just Your Two Wrists* tackles loss and spontaneity, while Abraham contributes *2 x 4*, set to a Shelley Washington score for two baritone saxophones. The Wallis, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri., April 11, 7:30 pm, Sat., April 12, 2 pm, \$75.90-\$86.90. **A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM.**



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

First-hand perspectives

Two female artists, both choreographers and both filmmakers, collaborate in the performance *What is War*. **Wen Hui** who grew in China during Mao's Cultural Revolution and **Eiko Otake** who grew up in Post-WWII Japan began exploring how the shadow of war was inculcated into their bodies. The result, a film *No Rule Is Our Rule* and also this multi-media performance *What is War*

commissioned by CAP UCLA and the Walker Center. UCLA, The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Thurs., April 17, 8 pm, \$38.08. [CAP UCLA](#).



Wen Hui & Eiko Otake. Photo courtesy of the artists

Contemporary with wry

Since founding his New York-based **Parsons Dance Company** Caught, a solo dancer has a series of leaps in the dark, each momentarily illuminated in strobe light, as if the dancer is suspended in mid-air, an effect that invariably delights the audience. Parsons has shared that the effect involves timing and technology. That same blend of technique, theatricality, and often a wry sense of humor has become the popular company's distinguishing characteristics. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., April 17, 8 pm, \$34-\$130. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).



Parsons Dance Company. Photo by Lois Greenfield

In a rut

In this shared bill under the banner *Double Bind*, choreographers **Steph Dai** and **Sophia Oddi** unveil new contemporary works exploring what happens when one is stuck in body, mind, or both. Graduates of USC's Kaufman School of Dance, they have danced with notable SoCal choreographers, and now spotlight their own ideas. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Apr 11-12, 8 pm, \$25.63. [Highways](#).



Stephanie Dai. Photo courtesy of the artist

Impactful

Spanish dancer/choreographer **Aimar Pérez Galí** teams with Venezuelan dancer **Daniel Méndez Piña** to focus on AIDS' impact on the queer dance world. Performance of *A System in Collapse Is a System Moving Forward* is followed by a discussion and reception. USC, Joyce J Cammilleri Hall, 3620 McClintock Ave., University Park; Wed., April 16, 7 pm, free w/reservation at [Visions and Voices USC](#).



Aimar Pe?rez Gali? & Daniel Me?ndez Pin?a. Photo courtesy of the artists

Fairy tale on pointe

The respected OC training company **Festival Ballet** presents the classic story ballet *The Sleeping Beauty*. Professional guest artists Liudmila Konovalova from Vienna's Wiener Staatsballett and Vsevolod Maievskyi from English National Ballet perform the leads with the highly polished pre-professional company dancers. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Sat., April 12, 7 pm, Sun., April 13, 2 pm, \$54-\$74. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).



Festival Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

Greek roots

Choreographer/dancer **Esther Mira** is part of the creative team and also dances in the cast of *Hellas*. Written and directed by Christopher William Johnson, this new play surveys the Greek roots of western civilization, complete with dance and fight choreography. The saga is present in part on Fridays, while Saturday and Sunday offer the full marathon production. The Broadwater Mainstage, 1076 Lillian Way, Hollywood; Fri., 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun, 2 pm, thru May 11, \$25-\$30, \$20-\$25 students. [Tickets](#).



Will Rawls. Photo by Jared Sorells

Noting the gaps

His art installation *Drama 1882* just wrapped at MOCA's Geffen Museum in Little Tokyo. Now, just a few blocks up Bunker Hill, **Will Rawls'** *siccer* provides the artist's dance perspectives on the documentation and distortion of Black bodies. Rawls uses stop-action film as a metaphor for gaps in surveillance. The title *siccer* references the Latin word "sic" that usually appears in brackets to indicate incorrect spelling, part of Rawls' exploration of inaccuracies in the depiction of Black bodies. REDCAT, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Sat., April 10-12, 8:30 pm, \$27. [REDCAT](#).



LA Dance Project and Doug Aitken's "Lightscape." Photo courtesy of the artists

Shifting to the light

LA Dance Project joins with artist Doug Aitken for his art installation *Lightscape*. Aitken launches five LADP dancers to make real time movement responses as they navigate a shifting visual and immersive sonic environment. Daphne Fernberger is the movement director. Lorrin Brubaker, Jeremy Coachman, Courtney Conovan, Audrey Sides and Hope Spears are the LADP dancers. At press time, both shows are close to sold out. Marciano Art Foundation, 4357 Wilshire Blvd., Hancock Park; Sat., April 12, noon & 2 pm, free w/reservation at [Marciano Art Foundation](#).

A Peek at Next Week: 4/18 to 4/24

Mariana Valencia — *Jacklean (in rehearsal)* at REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Fri., April 24-25, 8:30 pm, \$27, \$22 students. [REDCAT](#).

This entry was posted on Thursday, April 10th, 2025 at 5:07 am and is filed under [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Performing](#), [Visual Art](#)

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