

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Dancing Into 2024

Ann Haskins · Thursday, December 28th, 2023

Record-setting emmy-nominated dancemaker moves onstage in Inglewood, Costa Mesa hosts New Year's dance from Austria, Japanese folk dance summons the new year in Little Tokyo, new contemporary ballets downtown, more SoCal dance this week, and a peek at next week.

Dual dancing

Out of the gate, LA's newest ballet company, **Hollywood Ballet**, aims to show it has both classical and contemporary chops. Its full-length *Nutcracker* in early December marked an auspicious arrival on the local dance scene. The quick follows up is a program of contemporary ballets with live music from the company's Dream Orchestra led by Daniel Suk. Co-artistic directors Petra Conti and Eris Nezha bring experience as principal dancers with Italy's La Scala Ballet, Boston Ballet, and most recently Los Angeles Ballet where HB principal Tigran Sargsyan also was a principal. The trio's resumes include full-length classics and contemporary works from Balanchine to Aszure Barton and Christopher Wheeldon. This program features choreography by Sargsyan, Jennifer Deckert, and André Megerdichian, who also directs. The Orpheum Theatre, 842 S. Broadway, downtown; Thurs., Dec. 28, 7:30 pm, \$47-\$105. [Hollywood Ballet](#).



Hollywood Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

Channeling stardom

Moving from *Dancing With the Stars* to the concert stage, **Derek Hough** arrives with his tour, *Symphony of Dance*. With his most recent emmy nomination, Hough has surpassed Debbie Allen for most Emmy nominations for television choreography. YouTube Theater, 1011 Stadium Dr., Inglewood; Fri., Dec. 29, 7 pm, \$20-\$149. [Derek Hough](#).



Derek Hough. Photo courtesy of the artist

Austrian new year

Vienna's famous *Neujahrskonzert* sets a European standard for New Year's concerts as ballet dancers perform in one of Vienna's elaborate palaces evoking the era when the Hapsburgs ruled the Austro-Hungarian empire. Dance, along with music and opera, is performed for a live (and presumably shivering) audience and also broadcast, easily vying with New York City's crystal-ball countdown. Recreating the *Neujahrskonzert*, **Salute to Vienna** tours with waltzes, polka, ballet, singing and lots of music provided by the Strauss Symphony of America. Like Vienna pastry it is definitely *mit schlag*, but a fun way to stretch the holiday celebrating with a post concert glass of champagne before committing to those resolutions. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, Sat., Dec. 30, 3 pm, \$49-\$129. [SCFTA](#).



Salute to Vienna. Photo courtesy of the artists

Japanese new year

The day-long Japanese New Year's Celebration, *Oshogatsu* features dance including folk dance from **Team Kawachi Ondo** at the Weller Court stage (123 Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka St.) at 2 & 3 pm. Other performances occur at Japanese Village Plaza (335 E. 2nd St.) in Little Tokyo; Mon., Jan. 1, 11 am – 4 pm, free. Full schedule at [JCCSC](#).



Team Kawachi Ondo. Photo by Steve Escarcega

Salsa into the new year

Among the New Year's Eve line up of music groups and vocal performers at multiple stages, look for **Stephanie "The Princess of Salsa" Stevenson** – *Gloria Molina Grand Park's NYELA* at

Grand Park, 200 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sun., Dec. 31, 8 pm, free. <https://www.musiccenter.org/>.

A Peek at Next Week (01-05 to 01-11, 2024)



Joseph Wiggan. Photo courtesy of the artist

Joseph Wiggan at the Jazz Bakery Performance Space, the Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Jan 6, 8 pm, \$35, \$25 students. [Jazz Bakery](#).

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