

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Dancing Out One Year and Into the Next

Ann Haskins · Monday, December 23rd, 2024

*Kwanzaa* celebrations in Crenshaw; a cirque closes in Santa Monica; a star dancer and friends alight in Riverside; New Year's ballet and champagne served up in Costa Mesa and downtown; 2024's last *Nutcracker* onstage in Hollywood; and in the wings, a new year of dance awaits its cue.

### Live This Week

#### One more celebration

As Christmas, Chanukah and all those *Nutcracker* ballets wind down, Kwanzaa takes its turn, led by **Lula Washington Dance Theatre**. L.A.'s African American community was where Kwanzaa began and its attention to values of children, family, and community are cause for all to celebrate. LWDT's annual *Kwanzaa* performances have the company's high energy dancers, joined by alumni, students, and guest artists. The opening noon event, an *Umoja Circle Celebration*, is also a fundraiser. All performances are family friendly, just like Kwanzaa. Lula Washington Dance Theatre, 3773 Crenshaw Blvd., Crenshaw; Sat., Dec. 28, 1, 4 & 5 pm, \$35, \$20 students/seniors, \$10 children under five years, Sat., Dec. 28, noon, \$250. [Tickets](#).



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo by Clay

#### The last *Nutcracker* standing

As the curtain closes on the *Nutcracker* for the season, the final performances belong to **Los Angeles Ballet**. Set in 1912 Los Angeles, LAB concludes the season accompanied by the Los Angeles Ballet Orchestra. Dolby Theatre, Hollywood & Highland, 6801 Hollywood Blvd.,

Hollywood; Fri. Dec. 27, 7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 28, 2 pm, \$58-\$161. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).



Los Angeles Ballet. Photo by Reed Hutchinson

## Star dancing

A popular and established presence on *Dancing With the Stars*, **Derek Hough** and his wife Hayley Erbert Hough had just begun a 2023 holiday tour when her sudden, life-threatening health issues led to the tour's cancellation. This year the tour is back on, with both Hough's and a cadre of dancers taking on genres including flamenco, hip hop, jazz, modern, and all sorts of ballroom dance in *Dance for the Holidays*. Fox Performing Arts Center, 3801 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside; Fri., Dec. 27, 7 pm, \$64-\$332. [Derek Hough](#).



Derek Hough. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Empire envy

Vienna's famous *Neujahrskonzert* (New Year's Concert) with dancers performing in one of Vienna's elaborate palaces evoke an era when the Hapsburgs ruled the Austro-Hungarian empire and set a European standard for celebratory concerts. Even today, the dancing along with music and opera selections are performed for a live (and presumably shivering) Viennese audience and also broadcast nationally, easily vying with New York City's crystal-ball countdown. Recreating the *Neujahrskonzert*, **Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert** tours annually 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 season 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. 28, 3 pm, \$55.37-\$157.07. [SCFTA](#). Also at Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Sun., Dec. 29, 2:30 pm, \$65-\$155. [LA Phil](#).





Salute to Vienna. Photo courtesy of the artists

## New year, last chance

After a two month fun, the granddaddy of all the cirques, **Cirque du Soleil**, prepares to take down its signature giant tent after the closing performances of its acrobat and clown-filled *Kooza*. 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](#).

This entry was posted on Monday, December 23rd, 2024 at 8:20 pm and is filed under [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Performing](#)

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