Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Delusional Limerence

Ann Haskins · Thursday, February 29th, 2024

Jazz fuels contemporary dance in Santa Monica and contemporary ballet downtown; female street dancers go to college in University Park; a flamenco fest commutes between Redondo Beach and Hancock Park; Delibes meets A.I. in Costa Mesa; dancing to Etta James in Mid-City; modern dance deciphered in Sylmar; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

What is real?

In the endearing 1870 comedic ballet *Coppelia*, Swanhilda and Franz have an fractious romance that is disrupted when Franz becomes enamored of a lovely girl sitting on a balcony who really is a mechanical doll the dollmaker hopes to bring to life. It is a plot ripe to be propelled into the present, asking an audience to consider the possibilities if the doll wasn't mechanical, but powered by 21st century A.I. Artistic director/choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot and **Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo** have done just that with *Coppél-i.A.* The architecture of the familiar plot is there but the Delibes score has been replaced with music suited for now. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Thurs.-Fri., March 7-8, 7:30 pm, Sat., March 9, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., March 10, 1 pm, $39-$149. SCFTA.

Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo. Photo courtesy of the artists

Telling tales

Since 1993, choreographer Pat Taylor and her **Jazzantiqua Dance & Music Ensemble** have employed contemporary jazz dance to tell stories, usually to jazz music, often played live. The joyous, high energy company returns with excerpts from company works under the banner *The Stories We Tell* along. Guest artists Jahanna Blunt, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, Charles Reese, and S. Pearl Sharp also provide contributions. A post performance reception is included in the ticket. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Sat., March 2, 8:30 pm, $25, $20 seniors/students. Performance | Highways | Santa Monica.

Jazzantiqua Dance & Music Ensemble. Photo by Malcolm Ali

Getting a degree in hip hop

Putting a spotlight on often overlooked female contributions to the artform, the four-hour long *Cypher Summitt Block Party* brings together **Ladies of Hip Hop**, **Toyin Sogunro** of the **Nefer Global Movement**, and **Breakthrough Hip Hop.** USC, Glorya Kaufman International Dance Center, 849 West 34th St., University Park; Sat., Mar. 2, 2 to 6 pm, free w/reservation at Cypher Summit Block Party 2024.

Cypher Summitt Block Party. Photo courtesy of the artists

To the pointe

Music from Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton, Johnny Dodds, and Igor Stravinsky back choreography for *Jazz,* the latest from **American Contemporary Ballet** artistic director Lincoln Jones. ACB Studios, Bank of America Plaza, 333 S. Hope St., Suite C-150, downtown; Fri.-Sat., March 1-2, Thurs.-Sat., March 7-9 & 14-16, Thurs.-Fri., Ma4. 21-22, 8 pm, $60-$140. Season XII Jazz — ACB.

American Contemporary Ballet. Photo by David Auerbach

Flamenco with visas

This year's **LA International Flamenco Festival** brings impressive dance and music visitors from Spain for two programs at two venues. The opening act at each theater is LA-based flamenco dancer **Mizuho Sato** with pianist Andrés Barrios. Thursday in Redondo Beach, dancer **Karime Amaya** is paired with Spanish guitar master Tomatito. On Saturday in Hancock Park, Madrid-based flamenco innovator **José Maya** joins avant garden flamenco guitarist Rycardo Moreno. Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Redondo Beach; Thurs., March 7, 8 pm, $35-$90. Also at Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St., Mid-Wilshire; Sat., March 9, 8 pm, $40-$90. LA International Flamenco Festival.

Mizuho Sato. Photo courtesy of the artist

At last!

The stature of **BODYTRAFFIC** and its splendid dancers is underscored by the caliber of choreographers company artistic director Tina Finkelman Berkett attracts to set their works on the company. Trey McIntyre for one, doesn't let just anyone dance his ballets. The upcoming program, *In Pursuit of Love*, offers a triptych including *Blue Until June*, McIntyre's rapturous tribute to Etta James (yes, *At Last* is one of the songs). Also on the program, Micaela Taylor's reconsideration of the Puccini opera *Madame Butterfly* and Ethan Colangelo's *Recurrence*. Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Audrey Irmas Pavilion, 3663 Wilshire Blvd, Mid-City; Thurs., Feb. 29, 7:30 pm, $50. BODYTRAFFIC.

BODYTRAFFIC. Photo courtesy of the artists

Woven spaces

A new work using fabric to carve and connect the space and dancers of **Benita Bike's DanceArt** as well as a remembrance of the love and challenge of the relationship with her mother, highlight this performance of Benita Bike's choreography. LA Mission College, AMP Theatre, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar; Thurs., Feb. 29, 7 pm, free. Benita Bikes Danceart Company.

Benita Bike's DanceArt. Photo by Dean Walraff

The foot has it

Choreographer Michelle Elkin provides the moves for the new production of **Footloose the Musical** at the Colony Theater, 555 N. Third St., Burbank; opens Sat., March 2, 8 pm, then Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 2 & 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm, thru Sun., March 17, $55-$75, Colony Theater.

A Peek at Next Week

New Shoes at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., March 8-9, 8:30 pm, $25, $20 students/seniors. Highways Performance Space.

home/LA & MoFundamental — *The We in Me: Beyond House Resilience* at The Box Gallery

parking lot, 805 Traction Ave., Little Tokyo; Sat., March 9, 5 pm, free w/reservation at Eventbrite.

Kybele Dance Theater at the Glorya Kaufman Performing Arts Center, 3200 Motor Ave., Cheviot Hills; Sat., March 9, 7:30 pm, Sun., March 10, 3 pm, $30-$45, $20 students. Kybele Dance tickets.

Kybele Dance Theater. Photo courtesy of the artists

LA Dance Project — *Moving Parts* and *Tirade* at LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Sat., March 2, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 & 3 pm. free w/reservation at LADP.

Dance in Flight at Smothers Theater, Pepperdine University, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Thurs.-Fri., March 14-15, 8 pm, Sat., March 16, 2 & 8 pm, $20. Pepperdine University.

Niosha International Conservatory of the Arts — *The Story of Nowruz* at Irvine Barclay Theater, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine, Sun., March 10, pm, $65-$250. Irvine Barclay Theater.

Of Note

Canceled

Israel's famed **Batsheva Dance Company** led by choreographer Ohad Naharin has cancelled its scheduled U.S. tour that included Santa Barbara's Granada Theatre on March 5. Tickets will be refunded. UCSB.

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