

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Emotional Deregulation

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, January 7th, 2026

Dance continues to concentrate and overlap at a West LA contemporary festival; ballet season and competition season previews in Irvine and El Sereno, athletic Chinese history in Thousand Oaks; plus a peek at next week's SoCal dance.

Live This Week

It's nice to share

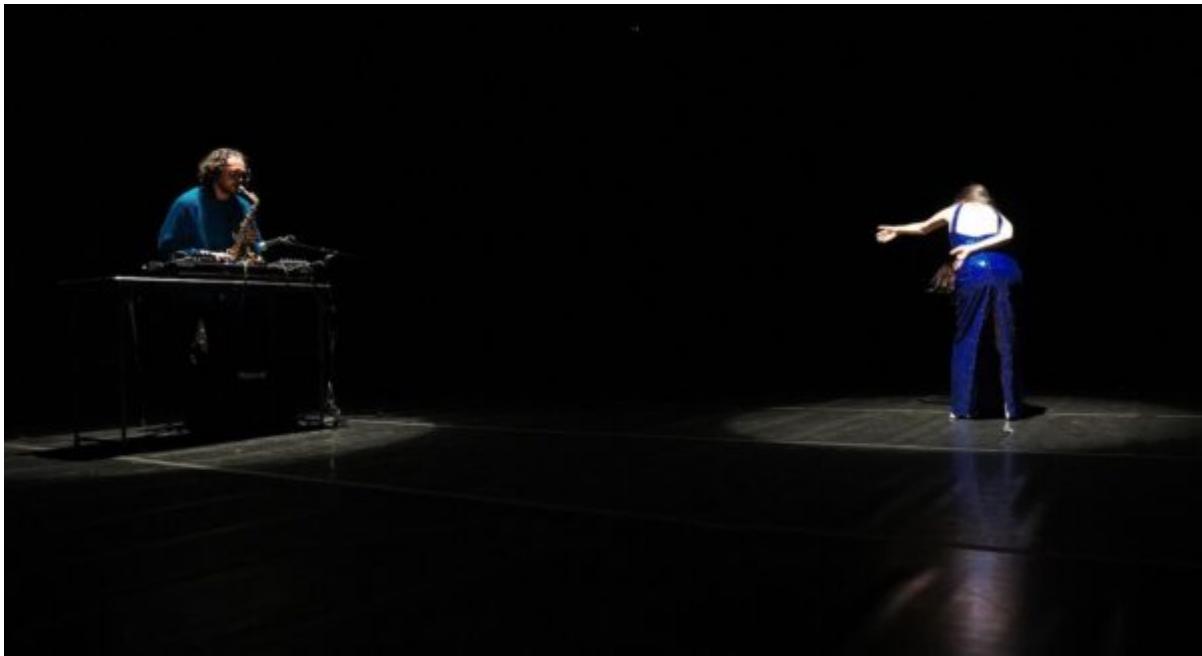
Opening the 9th year of *Dance at the Odyssey*, founder Barbara M?ller-Wittmann, expands the festival to a second theater, with the two theaters simultaneously presenting dance for six weeks to February 15. Sharing the opening show, **Neaz Kohani** and **Owen Scarlett** offer two different takes on contemporary dance. Kohani draws on dance, spoken word, and live music to consider female wisdom keepers and traditional healers in *SHE IS MY SISTER*. In his world premiere *GASP*, Scarlett evokes a pastoral setting where two creatures find mutual understanding and self discovery. Full line up at the website. Odyssey Theatre 2, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 8-10, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 11, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Neaz Kohani. Photo by Hanako Doerr

Together again

Opening the second theater for this year's *Dance at the Odyssey* festival, choreographer **Teresa Toogie Barcelo** reunites with composer Joe Berry (of electronic band M83) for the world premiere of their duet, *SOUNDBODY*. The artists describe the work as merging 'movement, breath, and sound.' With the festival expanding with two theaters simultaneously presenting dance, an avid dance fan can enjoy two shows in one trip. Complete festival line up at the website. Odyssey Theatre 3, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 9-10, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 11, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Teresa Toogie Barcelo in Dance at the Odyssey Festival. Photo by McCal Olsen

More dance festival

A former movie ranch, now a public park, inspired *Corrigan*, **Hunter Wayne Foster**'s contemplation of what happens behind the scenes of a movie set. Foster's world premiere shares the *Dance at the Odyssey* stage with *For Better or For Worse*, **Camila Arana**'s consideration of devotion from its tenderness to its brutality. Odyssey Theatre 2, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 15-17, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 18, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Hunter Wayne Foster. Photo courtesy of the artist

The 'B's have it

LA-based **Kevin Williamson + Company** team with pianist Hao Huang to bring two new works to *Dance at the Odyssey*. Lester Horton Award-winning Williamson summons an array of characters in *blue* to explore Huang's evocation of compositions by Ryuichi Sakamoto. The second premiere, *beasts*, finds Divya Ahuja, Rian Alcid, and Sasha Marian-Librett surveying movement that veers from ferocious to frightened. Odyssey Theatre 3, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA;

Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 15-17, 8 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Kevin Williamson. Photo by Taso Papadakis

Season preview

For **Ballet Project OC**, its *Winter Gala* is both a season preview performance and a fundraiser to support the upcoming season. Look for choreography by company founder/director Ally Helman and others. Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Wed., Jan. 14, 7 pm, \$56.25-\$103.95. [Ballet Project OC](#).



Ballet Project OC. Photo courtesy of the artists

Competition preview

Under the banner *Dreamscapes*, **Elevation Studios & Off the Floor** premiere live dance pieces that will be part of the upcoming competition season. Guest choreographers include Lenny Arnold, Lauren Slack, and Aaron Williams. Faculty choreographers include Cheri Avalos, Colleen Hendricks, Abrianna Herring, Matthew Kubbitz, Parris & Rashida Mann, and Moises Parra. Student dancemakers include Ricci Lloyd, Micah Velez, Summer Perry, and Audrey Wilson. Stomping Ground, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Sat., Jan. 10, 7:30 pm, Sun., Jan. 11, 6:30 pm, \$33.85, \$28.52 students. [Elevation Studios](#).



Shen Yun. Photo courtesy of the artists

Cautionary return

Presenting itself as “China before communism,” the touring company **Shen Yun** built its reputation on the athleticism, flexibility, and group precision of its dancers, but dodged questions about its connections with China’s banned Falun Gong. More recently, the organization has faced accusations of dancer abuse and a lawsuit alleging child labor violations. In that context, the company tours four local venues from now through early February. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Thurs., Jan 15, 2 pm, Fri, Jan. 16, 7 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 17-18, 1 pm, \$86-\$186. Also at The Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Thurs., Jan. 22, 2 pm, Fri., Jan., 23, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 24-25, 1 pm, \$91-\$231. Also at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1 pm, \$94.40-\$196.95. Also at Long Beach Terrace Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach; Fri., Feb. 6, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 7-8, 1 pm, \$89-\$218. [Shen Yun](#).



The Wiz. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Ease on down the road

Before the cottage industry surrounding the musical and now two film versions of *Wicked*, Frank Baum’s book *The Wizard of Oz* fueled the musical and film version of **The Wiz**. The musical theater revival of *The Wiz* arrives at the only SoCal stop on its North American tour. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; opens Tues., Jan 13, 7:30 pm, then Tues.-Fri., Jan. 13-16 & 20-23, Sat., Jan. 17 & 24, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., Jan. 18 & 25, 1 & 6:30 pm, \$44-\$159. [The Wiz](#).

A Peek at Next Week (Jan. 16-22)

Versa-Style and Friends — Celebrating the LA Street Dance Community at Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Mid-City; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17, 8 pm, Sun.,

Jan. 18, 3:30 pm, \$30. [Versa-Style & Friends](#).

Madame Bando Hidesomi's School of Traditional Japanese Dance — *Yuubi: Elegance and Grace of Nihon Buyo* at JACCC Aratani Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; Sun., Jan. 18, 1:30-5:30 pm, \$50-\$100. [JACCC Aratani Theatre](#).

Heidi Duckler Dance — *A Living Legacy* (1985-2025) at LA City Hall, P. Rio Bridge Gallery, 200 N. Spring St., Downtown LA; Fri., Jan 16, 6-8 pm, \$40. [Heidi Duckler Dance](#).



David Roussèvre. Photo courtesy of the artist

Dance Camera West — 2026 Festival Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, Thurs.-Fri., Jan. 22-23, 7:30 pm, Sat., Jan. 24, 2 pm, \$27.10 (w/fees), Gala honoring David Roussèvre-Thurs., Jan. 22, 8:45 pm, \$158.35 (w/fees) [Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz](#). Also at Colburn Zipper Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Sat., Jan. 24, 7 pm, \$25. [Colburn](#). Also workshop and films at Philosophical Research Society, 3910 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Feliz; Sun., Jan. 25, [Dance Camera West](#).

Will Rawls — *Unmade* at Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Jan. 17, Sat., Feb. 7 & 28, noon to 4 pm, free. [Hammer Museum](#).

Peking Acrobats at Carpenter Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Sat., Jan. 17, 8 p.m., \$38.75-\$58.75. [Peking Acrobats](#).

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