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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Empire Envy

Ann Haskins · Tuesday, December 23rd, 2025

Dance and drumming celebrate Kwanzaa in Baldwin Hills; Austrian visitors mark the new year with waltzes and ballet in Costa Mesa and Downtown LA; a ballet about Santa's enforcer in Venice Beach; the parade of Nutcracker ballets continues; plus a peek at next week (January 2-8).

### *Live This Week*

#### Kwanzaa time

Three chances to enjoy the annual *Kwanzaa* celebrations with live jazz, drumming, and dance from **Lula Washington Dance Theatre**. On Sunday and Monday, the *45th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration* has two family-friendly shows. On Saturday, the higher ticket *Umoja Circle* additionally includes a reception and sneak peek film screening of *Los Angeles African Drum and Dance Legacy* by Marcus L. Miller. Lula Washington Dance Theatre, 3773 Crenshaw Blvd., Baldwin Hills; *Umoja Circle* — Sat., Dec. 27, 5 pm, \$250+, [LWDT-Umoja Circle](#). Also *45th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration* — Sun., Dec. 28, 3 pm, & Mon., Dec. 29, 6 pm, \$49.87, \$39.19 students/seniors, \$17.85 children under 12 years. [45th Anniversary Kwanzaa Celebration](#).



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

### ***Mit schlag* and champagne**

Vienna's famous Neujahrskonzert (New Year's Concert) with dancers performing in one of Vienna's elaborate palaces evokes an era when the Hapsburgs ruled the Austro-Hungarian empire, setting the 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. Offering a taste of 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. This year, the dancers are from **San Diego Ballet**, not Austria. Like Vienna pastry, the concert is definitely mit schlag, but a fun way to stretch the season with a post-concert glass of champagne before committing to those resolutions. Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Sun., Dec. 28, 2:30 pm, \$61-\$171. [Salute to Vienna Los Angeles](#). Also at Segerstrom Concert Hall, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Tues., Dec. 30, 8 pm, \$55.37 – \$157.07. [Salute to Vienna-Segerstrom](#).



Salute to Vienna. Photo courtesy of the artists

## A different seasoning

For those who want a bit of fright to spice their seasonal eggnog, **The Realm Company** returns with artistic director Chasen Greenwood's *Krampus*. Better known in Eastern Europe, the rather demonic *Krampus* allegedly follows St. Nick to deliver distress to children not the 'good' list. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Sat., Dec. 27, 7 pm, Sun., Dec. 28, 3 pm, \$58.90-\$106.17. [The Realm Company-Krampus](#).



The Realm Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

*Find this week's Nutcrackers here: [Link to Nutcrackers 2025](#)*

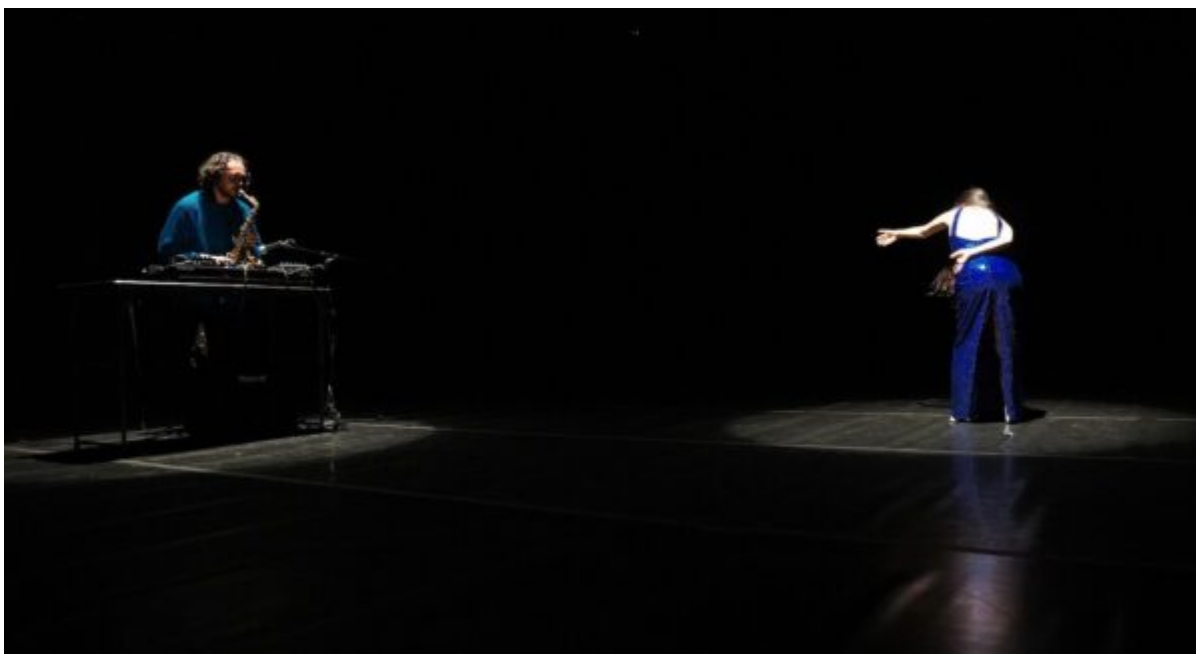
### ***A Peek at Next Week (January 2 to 8)***

**Neaz Kohani and Owen Scarlett** — *Dance at the Odyssey* at 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](#).



Owen Scarlett at Dance at the Odyssey Festival. Photo by Katie Rose Nartker

**Teresa Toogie Barcelo** — *Dance at the Odyssey* at 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

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