

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Go With the Flow

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

Japanese dance in Westwood; storybook ballet in Hollywood; a quartet of solos in Venice; the Great Gatsby conjured up in Beverly Hills; contemporary ballet in Beverly-Fairfax, site specific fest in Echo Park; contemporary dance in Westwood, Hollywood, and downtown Arts District, more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

Unblended family

Expect a shoeless heroine as **Los Angeles Ballet** unveils Edwaard Liang's *Cinderella*, backed by a live orchestra. Liang, the incoming artistic director of DC's Washington Ballet, created his version of the storybook ballet in 2015, during his time as artistic director of Columbus, Ohio's BalletMet. Liang and LAB's artistic director Melissa Barak danced together at New York City Ballet before launching their careers as choreographers and artistic directors. Dolby Theater, Hollywood & Highland, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Thurs.- Sat., June 12-14, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., June 14-15, 2 pm, \$62-\$161 (w/fees but wo/taxes) [Ticketmaster](#).



Los Angeles Ballet “Cinderella.” Photo by Cheryl Mann

Seasonality

Under the title *Dewflower* (tsu yu ku sa), **Body Weather Laboratory** presents four solos with two familiar faces and two visitors, performance artist Dan Kwong and Bessie award winning Butoh dancer Kota Yamazak. Completing the foursome are Morleigh Steinberg and Roxanne Steinberg. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri.-Sat., June 6-7, 8 pm, Sun., June 8, 3 pm, \$21.99. [Eventbrite](#).



Kota Yamazaki. Photo by Ian Douglas

On Gatsby's centenary

Once an LA oil magnate's estate, the elegant Greystone Mansion provides a pitch-perfect, luxe setting for *Gatsby Redux*, Janet Rosten's site specific consideration of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Rosten and her **Mixed eMotion Theatrix** lead audiences through the mansion and grounds with music, text, and dancing that conjures up Gatsby's world of jazz- age privilege, poverty, and tragic romantic entanglements. Appropriate dress and footwear are recommended for the mostly outside performance that involves walking and stairs. Greystone Mansion & Gardens, 905 Loma Vista Dr., Beverly Hills; Thurs.- Sun., June 5-8 & Wed.-Sat. June 12-14, 7 pm, \$30. [Into & tickets.](#)



Mixed eMotion Theatrix in “The Great Gatsby.” Photo by Erin Herzog

Ancient reflections

Indonesian choreographer and dancer **Rianto** is known for his mastery of *Lengger*, a traditional cross-gender Central Javanese dance. In *Medium*, he explores how the ancient form reflects on contemporary issues exploring the spaces between genders and customs. The UCLA Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Sat., June 7, 8 pm, \$38.08. [CAP UCLA](#).



Rianto. Photo by Joe Benguigui.

Preview time

In advance of the full concert next week, **LA Dance Project** offers a *Studio Preview* of two works

on that upcoming program. The free, informal setting is an unparalleled opportunity to watch these incredible dancers up close, to get a feel for the choreography, and participate in a Q&A with the choreographer. At 3 pm, the offering is *Sleepwalker's Encyclopedia* by former New York City Ballet principal Janie Taylor. At 4 pm, it is Benjamin Millepied's *Triade*>, a tribute to his mentor, choreographer Jerome Robbins along with *Quartet for Five* from LADP artists in residence Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. LA Dance Project Studios, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Downtown Arts District; Sat., June 7, 3 & 4 pm, free w/reservation at [Tickets](#).



LA Dance Project. Photo by Josh Rose

Tidal terpsichore

Tucked downtown where westbound 1st Street evolves into Glendale Blvd., Vista Hermosa Park provides the venue for this year's edition of *Ebb & Flow* from the masterful site-specific performers at **Heidi Duckler Dance**. This free, family-friendly installment marks the first edition curated by incoming artistic director Raymond Ejiofor who selected this year's movers, musicians and artists Tomoko Ozawa, Jeff Morical, Stephanie Kim and Zach Gold. Dress code is Park Casual. Vista Hermosa Park, 100 N. Toluca St., downtown; Sat., June 14, 2-4 pm, free w/reservation at [Heidi Duckler](#).



Heidi Duckler Dance's "Ebb & Flow." Photo courtesy of Heidi Duckler Dance

Sizzling finale

Artistic director Tina Finkelman Burkett and the masterful dancers of BODYTRAFFIC close the season with *This Reminds Me of You*, a triptych reflecting the troupe's highly regarded emphasis on new choreography. Internationally recognized choreographer Trey McIntyre, now the company's creative consultant, reprises *Mayday*, his first work created on the company's dancers. Premiered earlier this season, *Mayday* is set to Buddy Holly's music and pays homage to Holly's life, music and death in a plane crash while on tour. Following up on last year's highly praised, Cuban Missile Crisis-inspired *Bloquea'o*, company dancer and rehearsal director Joan Rodriguez has a new work evoking an Afro-Cuban nightclub and exploring performers' offstage doubts behind those onstage smiles. The third work from company dancer Jordyn Santiago, marks her professional debut as a choreographer and provides the first company work with only female company members. Avalon Hollywood, 1735 N. Vine St., Hollywood; Thurs., June 5, 7 pm, \$60. [BODYTRAFFIC](#).



BODYTRAFFIC in Joan Rodriguez' new work. Photo by Guzman Rosado

Into the spotlight

A kinder, gentler version of the competitions proliferating in the performing arts, the **Music Center Spotlight Grand Finale** focuses on SoCal high school students in dance and ballet, as well as classical and non-classical voice, instrumental music, with the recent addition of acting. Over many months, applicants are winnowed down to a group of semi-finalists who participate in workshops, feedback, and master classes, before two are selected in each category to perform on the Music Center stage. This year's final young dancers in ballet are Liam Geoffroy from Huntington Beach High School and Kiera Sun from Cabrillo Point Academy. The finalists in the dance category are River Novin and Emma Donnelly from The Bishop's School. Ahmanson Theatre, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri., June 6, 8 pm, free w/reservation [Music Center](#).



Music Center Spotlight Awards. Photo courtesy of the artist

All electric

Scheduled to coincide with *First Friday*'s open galleries and shops along nearby Abbot Kinney Blvd., the usually eclectic **High Voltage** series spotlights dance for its June show. Announced performers include Dalya Modlin, Sadie Crystal, Livya Howard-Yashar, and Elizabeth Yochim. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., June 6, 8 pm, \$15 pre-sale, \$20 at door. [Eventbrite](#).

Two for the toe shoes

The latest from **American Contemporary Ballet** is a shared bill with George Balanchine's luminous *Serenade* and the premiere of *The Euterpides* with choreography by artistic director Lincoln Jones to music composed by 20-year old Alma Deutscher. Both works have live music. **American Contemporary Ballet** at Television City, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Stage 33, Beverly-Fairfax District; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm, thru Sat., June 28, \$65-\$140. [American Contemporary Ballet](#).



American Contemporary Ballet. Photo by Will Davidson.

Coming from the fringe

From June 12 to 29, **Hollywood Fringe Festival 2025** takes to various venues within a short radius, with performances that include dance and dance-influenced physical theater. Many of the performers are scheduled for different times on different days. The long list of performers, venues, days and times are at the website, and allows for a search that links to “dance/physical theater.” Various venues in Hollywood; Thurs., June 12 -Sun., June 29, various times. [Hollywood Fringe](#).

Shakespeare moves

Adapter, director and choreographer **John Farmanesh-Bocca** returns with *Lear Redux: A Quantum Fantasia*, the latest in his “Redux” series boldly reconsidering the classics. The event also reunites him with choreographic collaborators **Not Man Apart-Physical Theatre Ensemble** along with New American Theatre and the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble. Jack Stehlin tackles the part of King Lear, surrounded by Eve Danzeisen, Dennis Gersten, Dash Pepin, Jade Sealey, Ahkei Togun, and Emily Yetter. The Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., WLA; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 2 pm, Wed. June 11 & 25, 8 pm, thru Sun., July 13, \$20-\$43. [Odyssey Theatre Ensemble](#).



LA Opera's *Rigoletto*. Photo by Kyle Flubacker

An opera with dancers and clowns

When the **LA Opera** opened Verdi's *Rigoletto* last week for six Music Center performances, it more closely resembled the 2023 Atlanta Opera production than the original 2019 and 2022 performances in Houston and Dallas, Texas, all directed by Tomer Zvulun. After the Texas shows, the director Zvulun tasked Atlanta-based choreographer **Ricardo Aponte** with lightening the dark tale of lust, revenge, and privileged cruelty with dancers and clowns. In addition to the dance moves, Aponte's assignment included choreographing banana juggling into the opera. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sun., June 8 & 15, 2 pm, Thurs., June 12, Wed., June 18, & Sat., June 21, 7:30 pm. \$37.50-\$450. [LA Opera](#).



Life of Pi. Photo courtesy of the artists

Who needs CGI?

Jaw-dropping puppetry anchors **The Life of Pi**, the award-winning theatrical retelling of Yann Martel's best-selling novel about a 16-year old shipwreck survivor adrift in a lifeboat with four animals, notably a Bengal tiger. Nick Barnes and Finn Caldwell created the puppetry for the original, Olivier award-winning British production that went on to Broadway and won several Tony awards. Anyone who sniffs that puppetry isn't dance or choreography should watch the multiple actors' tightly orchestrated manipulations as well as the puppet's choreographed moves, and then just shush up. Everyone else can sit back and marvel. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Tues.-Fri., June 3-6, & 10-13, 7:30 pm, Sat., June 8 & 14, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., June 9 & 15, 1 & 6:30 pm, \$44.07-\$157.07. [SCFTA](#).

A Peek at Next Week: (June 13-19)

LA Dance Project — *Gatherings* at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri., June 13, 7:30 pm, Sat., June 14, 2 & 7:30 pm, \$53-86.90. [LA Dance Project](#).

Miguel Gutierrez — *Super Nothing* at UCLA Freud Playhouse, McGowan Hall, 245 Charles E. Young Dr. East, Westwood; Fri.-Sat., June 13-14, 8 pm, \$38.08. [Miguel Gutierrez](#).



Miguel Gutierrez. Photo courtesy of the artist

Kenneth Walker Dance Project — *Boundless* at PDA Black Box, 4322 Katella Ave., 2nd Floor, Los Alamitos; Sun., June 15, \$24.60 (w/fees). [Kenneth Walker Dance Project](#).



Kenneth Walker Dance Project. Photo by Scott Edwards

Zoe Rappaport — *A/VOID* at Chromasonic Field, 677 Imperial St., downtown Arts District; Fri.-Sat., June 13-14, 7:30 & 9:30 pm, \$35-\$55. [Tickets](#).

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu — *Market Demographics* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., June 13-14, 8 pm, \$30.75 (w/fees) [Highways](#).

Pacifico Dance at Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sat., June 14, 11 am, \$12. [Tickets](#).

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