

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Hopeful Hearts

Ann Haskins · Thursday, February 12th, 2026

A lovestruck festival opens in Laguna Beach; dueling festival finales in West LA; French/North African urban dance in Beverly Hills; swans flutter into four SoCal venues, guitarist amid dancers in Cerritos; faculty dancemakers in Irvine; more SoCal dance this week, and a peek at next week.

### *Live This Week (thru February 19)*

#### From French streets

With its distinctive blend of urban street dance, *Capoeira*, polished contemporary movement, and an enormous swath of gold fabric that can create worlds, the French/North African **Compagnie Hervé Koubi** concludes the four city California leg of its current U.S. tour. The calling card is the critically acclaimed *Sol Invictus*, described by the choreographer “as a celebration of hope in dark times that comes from antiquity, celebrating bonds that unite intertwined with the cycle of the seasons.” The Wallis, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 19-20, 7:30 pm, Sat., Feb. 21, 2 pm, \$42.90-\$110.90. [The Wallis](#).



Compagnie Hervé Koubi. Photo by Melaniem Lhote

## Odyssey wrap up #1

Early movies are the subject as choreographer Jennifer Jonassen and her **Intrepid Dance Project** unveil *Silent Fiction*. The world premiere features dancers Rachel Carlson-Zuniga, Nate DeLuca, Ari DeSano, Loreena Garcia, Doug Goldstein, Lise Hart, Juan D. Mendoza, Oneiros Villarreal-Burns, who also receive collaborator credit. *Dance at the Odyssey* at Odyssey Theatre 2, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 13-14, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 15, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Intrepid Dance Project. Photo by Lotta Photos

## Odyssey wrap up #2

Under the direction of co-founder Barbara M?ller-Wittmann, the *Dance at the Odyssey* festival closes out six weeks of dense programming that this year expanded to two theaters. The final festival entry, from **Hannah Millar + Imprints**, includes the world premiere of *One World*, with a special performance of *Way in Over My Head* choreographed by Peter Chu. *Dance at the Odyssey* at Odyssey Theatre 3, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Sat., Feb. 14, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 15, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Hannah Millar's Imprints Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

### Backstage and onstage

This year's jam-packed **Laguna Dance Festival** opens four days of dance. First up on Thursday, the festival offers an informal "backstage" showcase with Ohio's **Dayton Contemporary Dance** in advance of its mainstage performance on Friday. Saturday's Valentine-themed show *Heart 2 Heart*, features pas de deux from a line up of visiting dancers. Several SoCal dance companies take the stage on Sunday. Check the website for more details. All performances at Laguna Playhouse, 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach; *Backstage with Dayton Contemporary Dance* — Thurs., Feb. 12, 6 pm, free with ticket; *Dayton Contemporary Dance* — Fri., Feb. 13, 7 pm, \$75, \$25 students; *Heart 2 Heart (multiple companies in pas de deux program)* — Sat., Feb. 14, 7 pm, \$75-\$250, \$25 students, So Cal dance companies—Sun., Feb. 15, 3 pm, \$75, \$25 students. [Laguna Dance Festival](#).





Dayton Contemporary Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

### **Those who teach, also do**

Choreography by the faculty of **UCI Claire Trevor Department of Dance** is showcased in *Dance Visions 2026*. Artistic directors Kelli sharp and Linsay Gilmour assembled a program reflecting a range of contemporary and classical dance. UC Irvine, Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 19-20, 8 pm, Sat., Feb. 21, 2 & 8 pm, \$34, \$30 seniors, \$13 students. [The Barclay](#).



UCI Dance Visions. Photo courtesy of the artists

### Swans a-flutter

The LA-based touring company **World Ballet** brings its *Swan Lake* to four SoCal venues, two with a live orchestra. The Alex Theatre, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Tues.-Wed., Feb. 17-18, 7 pm, \$67.05-\$147.45 (w/fees). [Swan Lake The Alex](#). Also at Fred Kavli Theatre (with live orchestra), 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Wed., Feb. 19, 7 pm, \$61.25 – \$143.25. [Swan Lake Fred Kavli Theatre](#). Also at Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita; Fri., Feb. 20, 7 pm, \$50-\$115 (w/fees) [Swan Lake — Santa Clarita](#). Also at Irvine Barclay Theatre (with live orchestra), UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Tues.-Wed., Feb. 24-25, 7 pm, \$91-146 (w/fees). [Swan Lake-Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).



World Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

### Guitar dancing

Known as a stunning guitarist and consummate showman, **Benise** is also known for surrounding his music with dancers adept at flamenco, tango, the many other genres he explores. This visit, the show is *25 Years of Passion*. And yes, there will be dancers. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 pm, \$48-\$142. [Benise](#).



Benise. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Ballet benefit

A half dozen ballet dancers perform in *Gala of Love*, a benefit for **American Dance Project** and its Reseda-based ballet program for Special Needs children. The Learning Center Blackbox Theatre, 7915 Lindley Ave., Reseda; \$100 & \$150, Sat., Feb. 14, 5 pm, [American Dance Project](#), Sun., Feb. 15, 2 pm, [American Dance Project](#), \$100-\$150.

### *A Peek at Next Week (February 20-26)*

**Kyreeana Breelin Alexander** — *We Cool* at UCLA, The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Feb. 21, 8 pm, \$38.08-\$48.67. [Kyreeana Breelin Alexander](#).

**BODYTRAFFIC** at Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, 10361 W. Pico Blvd., West LA; Thurs., Feb. 26, 8 pm, \$42.85. [BODYTRAFFIC](#).

**Grupo Corpo/LA Phil** — *Revolución diamantina* at Disney Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 26-27, 8 pm, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 1, 2 pm, \$84-\$364.50. [LA Phil](#).



Grupo Corpo. Photo courtesy of the artists

**USC Kaufman Dance** — *Fresh Sesh* at USC Gloria Kaufman International Dance Center, 849 W. 34th St., University Park; Thurs., Feb. 26, 5:30 & 7:30 pm., free with reservation [USC Kaufman](#).

**Lineage Dance** — *Healing Blue* at Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Pasadena; Sun., Feb. 22, 4 pm, \$33.42, \$23.02 students/seniors. [Lineage Dance-Healing Blue](#).

**Grand Kyiv Ballet** — *Snow White* at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Fri., Feb. 26, 7 pm, \$49-\$79. [Tickets](#).

**Alonzo King LINES Ballet** — *Ode to Alice Coltrane* at the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat. Feb. 21, 8 pm \$46-\$94. [LINES Ballet](#).





Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

**Thuy Vân Dance** at Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sun., Feb. 22, 4 pm, \$25. [Thuy Vân Dance](#).

**Colburn Tap** — *Tap Fest: Listen to This* at Zipper Hall, Colburn School, 200 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Sat., Feb. 21, 7 pm, \$35. [Colburn School Tap](#).

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