Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

How Are We Feeling?

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

A modern dance icon's twisty 60th in Costa Mesa and Northridge; social media and personal feelings in the Arts District; colonial considerations in Little Tokyo; Afrofuturistic perspectives in Westwood; Israel's innovative modern dance company downtown; contemporary dance fest finale in West LA; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

Turbulent times

The unsettled state of the world provides grist for *Choose the Face that best describes how you're feeling*, the newest from choreographer Laurie Sefton and her **Laurie Sefton Creates**. The program also includes *More Please (2014)* and *The Mythology of Self* considering the impact of social media. The always strong line up of dancers includes Carmen Callahan, Hunter Wayne Foster, Leah Hamel, Enya Kollek, Harry Louis, Leah McCall, Zachary Medina, Megan Pulfer, and Jane Zogbi. LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., LA Arts District; Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 20-22, 8 pm, $35 presale, $40 at door. Tickets.

Laurie Sefton Creates. Photo by Skye Schmidt Varga

A curtain closer

Curated by Barbara Mueller-Wittmann, the 2025 *Dance at the Odyssey* festival closes with the

multi-genre ***Clay Collective.*** Led by Gheremi Clay, this eclectic ensemble brings a fusion of hip hop and contemporary dance. The Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., WLA; Fri.,-Sat., Feb. 14-15, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 16, 2 pm, $25. Odyssey Theatre.

Gheremi Clay. Photo by Jimmy Love

Graham to “Gaga”

Founded in 1964 with help from the legendary choreographer Martha Graham, Israel’s **Batsheva Dance Company** established an international reputation that has continued to grow since groundbreaking choreographer Ohad Naharin assumed stewardship of the company in 1990. Known for his distinctive dance approach known as “Gaga,” Naharin has cultivated a generation of movers, this time launching them in his latest, *MoMo*, with 70-minutes of music drawn from the Laurie Anderson/Kronos Quartet album *Landfall*, Philip Glass, Arca, and Maxim Waratt. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 14-15, 7:30 pm, Sun., Feb. 16, 2 pm, $49-$163. Music Center.

Batsheva Dance Company. Photo by ascaf

Where did the time go?

For six decades **Twyla Tharp** has brought her ever innovative brand of dance to everything from modern dance to ballet companies to Broadway and to her own touring troupes. Tharp and her dancers celebrate her *Diamond Jubilee* at two SoCal venues. No surprise, Tharp eschewed any ‘greatest hits’ program, instead selecting her Olivier-nominated *Diabelli Variations* that tackled Beethoven’s masterpiece, and a new dance set to Philip Glass’ *Aguas da Amazonia*, arranged and performed live by Third Coast Percussion. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm & Sun., Feb. 16, 1 pm, $44.07 – $134.47. SCFTA. Also at Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Feb. 22, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 23, 3 pm, $47-$128. The Soraya.

Twyla Tharp. Photo by Greg Gorman

Going to ground

The ongoing salon series presented by **Heidi Duckler Dance** opens 2025 with *Truth or Consequences: Close to the Ground*, curated by dancer/choreographer **Jasmine Albuquerque**. On the program: dance by B Grosse, Maija Knapp, and Albuquerque, who also provides a short 2018 film shot in Bolivia, plus poetry from Nandi Zulu. The Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Ave., Suite 1100B, LA Arts District; Sat., Feb. 15, 6 pm, $40 presale, $50 at door. Heidi Duckler.

Maija Knapp. Photo courtesy of the artist

Part 3 of 3

The Brooklyn-based arts collective **Tribe** brings *Black Hole*, the final third of choreographer Shamel Pitts' *BLACK*. Known for combining multidisciplinary performance elements viewed through a lens of Afrofuturism, the work considers the journey of three people of African heritage. The dancers include Tushrik Fredericks, Marcela Lewis, and Pitts. UCLA Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater, Kaufman Hall, 120 Westwood Plaza, Westwood; Sat., Feb. 15, 8 pm, $38.08. CAP UCLA.

Shamel Pitts. Photo by Adeboye Brothers

Cirque goes full circle

As a youth in Guinea, Yamoussa Bangoura became enamored of cirque, going on to a career with Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, and Cavalia. Now he heads his own **Cirque Kalabanté** which brings *Afrique en Cirque* to town for one performance with Afro-jazz, percussion, and kora musical accompaniment. Cal State University LA, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 5151 State University Dr., East LA; Sun., Feb. 16, 6 pm, $25-$65. Luckman Fine Arts Complex.

Cirque Kalabanté. Photo courtesy of the artists

Influential events

Originally commissioned for the Egyptian Pavilion at the 2024 Venice Biennale, the film installation *Drama 1882* from **Wael Shawky** considers the events that countered a revolt against European colonial influence, resulting in Britain cementing its control of Egypt for another seven decades. Adapting the storied events into the form of an opera and performed in classical Arabic, Shawky choreographed, wrote, scored, and directed. This event is the latest in the museum's *Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs*. Related events include a conversation with Shawky and assistant curator Alex Sloane on Sat., Feb. 22 at 3 pm. WAREHOUSE, MOCA Geffen Contemporary, 152 N. Central Ave., Little Tokyo; Thurs., Feb. 20 – Sun., March 16, 11 am, free w/reservation at Tickets.

Bonnie Langford, Bernadette Peters, Lea Salonga and the company of Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends. Photo by Danny Kaan

With friends like these

Directed by legendary choreographer Matthew Bourne, with additional choreography from Stephen Mear, and headlined by Bernadette Peters, Lea Salonga, and a lineup of British and American musical theater luminaries, LA has the U.S. premiere of *Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends* before it goes to Broadway. Music Center, Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; official opening Thurs., Feb. 13, then Tues.-Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 2 & 8 pm, Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm, $25 – $195.50. Center Theatre Group.

A Peek at Next Week

Tanz Tanz Revolution — *Deception of a Fall* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 21-22, 8 pm, $20.50. Highways Performance.

The Soft Creates — *Spotlight* at Stomping Ground LA, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Sat., Feb. 22, 7 pm, $10. Stomping Ground LA.

Marjani Forté-Saunders — *Uplifting Black Legacy* at Annenberg Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy., Santa Monica; Thurs., Feb. 27, 7 pm, free w/reservation at Eventbrite.

Rhythm India: Bollywood & Beyond at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Sat. Feb. 22, 8 pm, $40-$80. CCPA.

Rhythm India: Bollywood & Beyond. Photo courtesy of the artists

World Ballet Company — *The Great Gatsby* at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Tues.-Wed., Feb. 25-26, 7:30 pm, $68-$114. Irvine Barclay Theatre.

UCI Dance Department — *Dance Visions* at UC Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs.-Fri., Feb 20-21 8 pm, Sat. 22, 2 & 8 pm, $34, $30 seniors, $13 students. Irvine Barclay Theatre.

Bereishit Dance Company — *Balance & Imbalance* / *Judo* at USC, Bovard Auditorium, 3551 Trousdale Pkwy, University Park; Sun., Feb. 23, 6 pm, free. Visions and Voices USC.

Boston Conservatory at Berklee — *Commercial Dance Showcase 2025* at El Portal Theater, 5269 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood; Wed., Feb. 26, 7 pm., requires registration. Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

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