
Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Inadvertent Lies

Ann Haskins · Thursday, January 9th, 2025

Dance tilts to West LA venues to start the new year as a Crenshaw-based contemporary company celebrates 45 years, a UCLA museum hosts a Congolese visitor, and a Westside theater opens a six-week dance fest; plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week

A long time with more to come

If there is an LA dance company that personifies the Sondheim survivor lyrics ‘*Good times and bad times, I’ve seen them all, and my dear, I’m still here,*’ Lula Washington, with her eponymous **Lula Washington Dance Theatre**, certainly has confronted and overcome more than their share of adversity. For 45 years, the powerhouse choreographer, dancer, and mentor cultivated diverse generations of dancers and built a studio against financial odds and political headwinds. This performance launches this anniversary season with the premiere of *Something to Think About*, Washington’s homage to the late postmodern choreographer Rudy Perez and a revival of Donald McKayle’s *I’ve Known Rivers*. The occasion, dedicated to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., also includes the MLK solo from *The Movement* set to an early Dr. King speech. Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, 10361 W. Pico Blvd., WLA; Thurs., Jan. 16, 8:30 pm, \$40, \$25 students/seniors. [Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz](#).



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

On confabulation

Curated by co-founder Barbara Mueller-Wittman, the *Dance at the Odyssey* festival has proven a welcome showcase for new work presenting new ideas. Opening the six week *Dance at the Odyssey* festival, **Alejandro Perez & Gretchen Ackerman** return with a new work, *Losing the truth of the thing*. Their work at a prior festival gained praise for the effective blending of street and contemporary dance as well as Perez' early mastery of directing the audience's eye. This time the subject is how memory, without any intent to deceive, mistakenly recalls false information. Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., WLA; Sat., Jan. 11, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 12, 2 pm, \$25. [Odyssey Theatre](#).



Alejandro Perez & Gretchen Ackerman. Photo by Ale Carmona

And the festival goes on

The second entry in the 2025 *Dance at the Odyssey* festival, **Brandon Mathis**, comes with the caution that his ritual-based *Vitellaria Paradoxa* involves both nudity and the burning of sage. The 50-minute work draws on a jazz score to explore the meaning of being comfortable in one's body. Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., WLA; Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 16-18, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 19, 2 pm, \$25. [Odyssey Theatre](#).



Brandon Mathis. Photo by Brandon Mathis

A closer look

While a concert performance by Congolese dancer/choreographer **Faustin Linyekula** comes over the weekend, this gallery performance offers a more intimate encounter with this important African artist. The free event is full, but there is a wait list. UCLA Fowler Museum, 308 Charles E. Young Dr. North, Westwood; Thurs., Jan. 16, 6 pm, free, fully reserved, but wait list at [UCLA](#).



Faustin Linyekula. Photo by Sarah Imsand

A Peek at Next Week (January 17-23)

Faustin Linyekula — *My Body, My Archive* at UCLA, Freud Playhouse, MacGowen Hall, 245 Charles E Young Dr. East, Westwood; Sat., Jan. 18, 8 pm, \$38. [UCLA](#).

Martha Graham Dance Company — *100th Anniversary* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Jan. 18, 7:30 pm, \$44.07-\$134.47. [Martha Graham Dance Company](#). Also at San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave., San Diego; Sat., Jan. 25, 7:30 pm, \$70.50-\$115.50. [La Jolla Music Society](#).



The Martha Graham Dance Company. Photo by Melissa Sherwood

The Peking Acrobats at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Jan. 18, 8 pm, \$55.37 \$111.87. [SCFTA](#).

Stomp at the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Jan. 18, 3 & 8 pm, Sun., Jan 19, 3 pm, \$75-\$95. [The Soraya](#).

This entry was posted on Thursday, January 9th, 2025 at 6:42 am and is filed under [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Performing](#)

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