

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Is This How a Marathon Feels?

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, March 10th, 2021

Danced greeting cards, rooftop ballet, reprise of an aftermath, pandemic yearbook in film, week 8 of global dance films, plus new dance films, online encores, where to submit dance videos, where to take online dance classes, and more SoCal dance this week.

This Week

Has it really been a year?

Among those marking a year without live dance performances, choreographer/producer Deborah Brockus and her **BrockusRED** dance company has assembled a program of dance films contemplating the present, the past year, and history. The films join the company's efforts including Drive-By Dance performances, helping with food banks, online lessons and workshops. Info at [BrockusRED](#). Streaming starts Thurs., March 11, noon to Sun., March 14, midnight. Free access with reservation at the site.



BrockusRED. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Getting in a groove

While Los Angeles Ballet isn't back in theaters, its dancers are popping up in new ventures like Freaks with Lines and now **LA Grooves**, a collective whose membership closely tracks the LAB dance roster. This virtual performance of new choreography from six female choreographers was filmed on a downtown rooftop. Titled *A Love Letter to LA*, this event follows up their debut program *Nutcracker Sweets* this past December which can still be rented. Performance Sat., March 13, 5 p.m. PST. \$12. Info and tickets at [LA Grooves](#).



LA Grooves' Leah McCall. Photo by Reed Hutchinson.

If this is Monday, where are we this week?

With support from three theaters, The Wallis and The Soraya in SoCal and The Harris in Chicago, **Jacob Jonas The Company** worked with more than 150 artists all over the globe to produce dance films for the series, *Films.Dance*. Pandemic restrictions still precludes travel but for 15 weeks that started January 25, a new film takes viewers to a different world destination each Monday until May 3. The films screen for free. Week 8 heads to NYC's East Park Amphitheater where New York City Ballet's Sara Mearns dances in *ANOTHER SERIOUS DANCE FILM*. The new addition joins *Dadu* set in the Dutch hamlet of Spaarnwoude, ?? – *NOW* with BeijingDance/LDTX company dancer Li Kehua (Lico), *Edging Normal* with dancer Desmond Richardson in New York, *Match* bringing five choreographers and 46 dancers drawn from 20 countries in a scene-shifting world tour, *Pássaro Distante* from Brasil, *Toke* spotlighting Danish-born dancer Toke Broni Strandby in London locales, and *Kaduna* filmed in Nigeria. Mon., 9 a.m., free. New additions each Monday to May 3. Info on the full line-up of 15 films and free subscriptions at [Films.Dance](#), [The Wallis](#), [The Soraya](#).



Films.Dance's Li Kehua (Lico). Photo courtesy of the artist.

A good thing going away

What started as a one-time response to Mother's Day last spring was so successful, **Invertigo Dance Theatre** extended its *Digital Dance Care Packages* after inquiries for something similar for graduations, birthdays or just an expression of caring in the isolated quarantine of the pandemic. Created by Invertigo dancers with the choreography inspired by three or four prompts, the trove of 90 short films have been assembled into a four-part, micro film festival series dubbed *Care Package Cinema* which concludes this week. A highlight in this finale, *Holiday Special* is a delightful couch-centered Father's Day tribute. Details at [Invertigo Dance](#). Mar., 10, 7 p.m., free with reservation. [Eventbrite](#).



Invertigo Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Is there a sequel

Originally staged in 2016 to sold out audiences, **Invertigo Dance Theatre's** *After It Happened* receives a timely encore presentation. Set in the aftermath of a natural disaster, the work considers how a community rebuilds and scavenges for signs of hope and resilience. When originally presented, the work suggested a natural disaster, maybe an earthquake or flood. A pandemic that has snatched a half million Americans and millions more around the world was not in the thinking. With the current tragedy front and center, not over, but maybe headed toward containment, *After It Happened* offers a thoughtful consideration through dance that suggests ways to create and build a new normal. The performance gains an additional component of a physical reality from the hillside stage of the open-air Ford Theater where it was filmed. Available as part of its online showcase of prior SoCal dance performances at this beloved venue. Thurs., March 11, 6:30 p.m. PST. Free with reservation at [The Ford](#) or [Invertigo Dance Theatre](#).



Invertigo Dance Theatre. Photo by Joe Lambie.

Dancin' around LA

In the absence of touring companies inside its theaters, the Music Center is giving a little love and attention to LA's dance companies as part of the series *For The Love Of L.A.* filmed in different parts of the city. A recent addition offers **Kyoko Takenaka's** martial arts-infused movement. She joins **Brianna Mims** performing in Leimert Park, **Versa-Style Dance Company's** street dancers at the beach, folkloric troupe **Pacifico Dance Company** at nine different locations representing different areas of Mexico, the tap group **Syncopated Ladies** on a downtown rooftop, **Rangoli**

Dance Company celebrating a South Asian goddess, Albertosy Espinoza's **LA Fusion Dance Theater** with Flamenco fusion duet, and Pat Taylor's **Jazz Antiqua Dance & Music Ensemble** in parks, alleys, and an empty business street. Free online at [Music Center](#).



Versa-Style Dance. photo courtesy of the artists.

Son rearing

Drawing its title and subject matter from Clint Smith's poem *How to Raise a Son*, the poet gives voice to his words as the camera follows dancer Dennzyl Green. A current member of the **Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre**, Green performs and shares choreography credit with Brodie. The film is the latest contribution from NBDT and the South Coast Dance Alliance. Free online on [Vimeo](#).



Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre's Dennzyl Green. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Finding a new platform

Choreographer Shenendoah Harris and her contemporary troupe **Psychopomp** have taken up residence on Patreon, a platform where supporters can join at four different levels, each with its own set of perks including a variety of classes and invitations to rehearsals. Those joining at the top two tiers before March 12 get an invitation for the Sat., March 13 screening of *Sylkies* plus the artist Q & A. <https://www.patreon.com/psychopompdance>



Psychopomp. Photo by George Simian.

Online Encores

Last chance for romance

The young contemporary company **Freaks With Lines** streams *Trilogy of Relations*, three pas de deux with observations on three different types of love. Hannah Keene with AJ Abrams, Sadie Black and Ottavio Taddei and creative director/choreographer Susan Vishmid paired with Adam Bloodgood, portray the three couples. Since the premiere on Valentine's Day access is available to March 16. \$17.95-\$24.95. <https://linktr.ee/FWL>



Freaks With Lines. Photo by M. Chalifour.

Taking to the air(waves)

The SoCal contemporary ballet and aerial company **Luminario Ballet** has posted links to recent performances and also announced it has a new dance film coming soon. The films are free at <https://luminarioballet.org/>,



Luminario Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Mask breathing

Over the past year, choreographer Melissa Barak and her contemporary **Barak Ballet** shifted online several fine filmed performances, a virtual gala, and its own instagram channel. Some of the films are free at <https://barakballet.org/> and <https://www.instagram.com/barakballet/>



Barak Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists.

A show of force

One of the most powerful filmed efforts from last year remains *This is Me – Letters from the Front Lines* from **Diavolo Architecture in Motion** and its **Veterans Project**. The film's insights remain painfully true as military veterans who now are first responders confront what it means to be a warrior on the front lines of a pandemic as they gymnastically inhabit a world of pipes and moving structures while articulating the personal and professional realities of being on the front line of Covid-19. <https://www.diavolo.org/thisismefilm>



Diavolo Veterans Project. Photo by George Simian.

Locking it up

Early in the pandemic, the street dance troupe **Versa-Style Dance Company** displayed a natural affinity to online streaming of performances and classes. The most recent film, *Ending The Year With Hope*, continues online and the company has a video filmed at the beach as part of the Music Center's *For the Love of LA* series. The company's YouTube channel hosts performance videos and videos on a range of life-skills subjects geared to young adults, but with pointers for all ages. Info at <https://versastyledance.org/>. Videos on YouTube and <https://versastyledance.org/media/>



Versa-Style Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Post-grad dancing

Performances by Santa Monica College's two resident companies, **Synapse Contemporary Dance Theater** and **Global Motion World Dance Company**, stream for free at [SMC](#).



Synapse Contemporary Dance Theater. Photo courtesy of the artists.

The past comes present

While the theatre itself remains closed, the Ford continues several online series showcasing past dance and music performances. The array of local dance companies in the line up reflects how the beloved al fresco venue functioned as an informal summer dance festival showcasing the energy and diversity in SoCal dance. Look for contemporary from Lula Washington Dance Theatre, street dance from Versa-Style Dance, Brazilian from Viver Brasil, plus traditional and contemporary folkloric dance from Grandeza Mexicano Folk Ballet Company, Pacifico Dance Company, the LA Phil's exploration of Tovaangar Today with dancer Ba'ac Garcia, and contemporary South Asian, Bollywood and Bhangra dance from Achinta S. McDaniel and her Blue13. All free. Complete calendar and information at [The Ford](#).



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists.

An international dozen

A dozen dancers working remotely from three continents developed a series of short videos presented by **Nancy Evans Dance Theatre** under the banner *The Channels*. The company also added a new installment of *Figures of Speech*, new dance works inspired by literature. Free at [Nancy Evans Dance Theatre](#)



Nancy Evans Dance Theatre. Photo by Shana Skelton.

House dancing

The pandemic caught Pasadena's **Lineage Dance Company** in the midst of construction of its new Lineage Performing Arts Center as well as figuring out how to offer classes and performance in a pandemic. The construction is finished and the dance company has scored with several videos including its most recent staged in Pasadena's iconic Gamble House. Videos free online at [Lineage](#).



Lineage Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Unexpected curriculum addition

The dance department at **Cal State University Long Beach** is among those shifting online videos to new dance channels on You Tube while also streaming two performances with dancers observing strict Covid-19 protocols. Those performances and more are free at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CSULBDance>



CSULB Fall Dance Concert. Photo by Gregory RR Crosby.

Alone with others watching

Not content to simply be online with filmed dance, the site specific performance ensemble **Heidi Duckler Dance** launched its 35th anniversary with live walk-up or drive performances at sites throughout L.A. An array of projects can be found at <https://heididuckler.org> and films at <https://heididuckler.org/reelsfilms/>.



Heidi Duckler Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

The movement and the music

Choreographer Pat Taylor's work for her **JazzAntiqua Dance and Music Ensemble** ranges from pure celebration of the music to thoughtful considerations of the fight against racism and injustice. Videos stream for free at <http://www.jazzantiqua.org/javideoclips.html> and https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jazz+antiqua+dance+ensemble



JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Silver screen shifting

The year of the pandemic has brought several filmed dance ventures and a recent change of leadership for **LA Contemporary Dance Company**. The films plus info on the new artistic director, classes, and other activities at [their website](#).



LA Contemporary Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Feel like screaming?

Its award-winning film *Screaming Shapes!* is just one of several videos from choreographer Sophia and the dancers of **Iris Company** continuing for free online at [Iris Company](#).



Iris Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Multi-screens

With a new weekly online broadcast of a past performance, classes, workshops, and conversations, **Viver Brasil** was among the earliest LA dance companies to shift online and continues as one of the most active with videos, classes, workshops and more. <https://www.viverbrasil.com/covid19-update> The troupe also is part of KCET's *Southland Sessions* streaming at [KCET](#).



Viver Brasil. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Is it a question?

During the initial Covid-19 shutdown, 15 dancemakers created 90-second solos reflecting the range of reactions to the shelter-in-place order last spring. All 15 are collected in Emily Mast and Yehuda Duenyas' project *HOW ARE WE*. Stream for free on [Vimeo](#).



Carlton. Photo courtesy of the artists.

More in the lunchbox

Live streamed performances continue intermittently but REDCAT's instagram channel offers a collection of prior dance performances including **Genna Moroni**, **Tzong-Han Wu**, and **Rosanna Gamson/World Wide**. Free at [Instagram Channel](#).



Genna Moroni. Photo by Silvia Grav.

Moving Offstage

The *Music Center Offstage* continues to stream new and encore video clips and performances. Visitors include Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company and Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, local troupes include Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy, Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts, and Infinite Flow. <https://www.musiccenter.org/tmc-offstage/>.



Ballet Hispanico. Photo by Paula Lobo.

When one was not enough

Last June's four-part **BlakTinx Dance Festival** presented choreography from 20 Black and Latino dancemakers. All four programs continue for free online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYY0tD7m1o6IY3H8V7YbjIw>



BlakTinx. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Knock twice & tell them Jacob sent you

One of the first SoCal companies to offer a live performance in a parking lot, Jacob Jonas and his eponymous **Jacob Jonas The Company** performed *Parked* with vehicles encircling the "stage," their headlights illuminating the socially spaced dancers performing to live music by Anibal

Sandoval. A short film documenting the one-night only event continues to stream. Info at <http://jacobjonas.com/>. Film on [Vimeo](#).



Jacob Jonas The Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Live music, virtual dance

Dance continues to be part of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra's 20-21 online season, including dancer/choreographer **Shauna Davis** in the premiere of composer/musician Derrick Spiva Jr.'s two part work *Mind The Rhythm*. LACO's music director Jaime Martin conducts. Link to free performance at <https://www.laco.org/close-quarters/>



Shauna Davis. Photo by Chris Emile.

Dance just can't quit them

Part panel discussion, part video clips and photos, part cross pollination of ideas—the Musco Center's *Ever a Dancer* surveys different dance worlds in a livestreamed format. This installment assembles a quartet of familiar faces who contribute Asian and South Asian viewpoints to the discussion including **Tomas Tamayo**, **Hiroko Hojo**, **Dulce Capadocia**, and **Malathi Iyengar**. Free with registration and more info at the [Musco Center](#).



Rangoli Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Platforms to Submit Video Dance

Dare Dancing

With cautions about staying safe while filming, organizers Sarah Elgart and Cultural Weekly announced round 4 of *Dare to Dance in Public* with the theme of *Pandemania*, meaning a hyper energized state. Info on the judges, prior winners, plus rules and regulations for submission at [Dare to Dance in Public Film Festival](#). The group's other film endeavor Six Foot Dances is still accepting one-minute films. Current submissions on [Dare to Dance in Public](#).



Dare to Dance. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Online Dance Classes

Pandemic exhaustion? Get thee to a dance class!

On-line dance classes continue on zoom, instagram and other on-line platforms, many classes free, low cost or suggesting a donation. One central, constantly updated source on dance classes and in-depth reporting on SoCal dance, [LA Dance Chronicle](#) lists on-line dance classes including any cost and contact info. Grab a chair or clear off a corner of the room and use this time to dance. [LA Dance Chronicle](#)



Dance classes listed on LA Dance Chronicle.

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