

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Langorous Locomotions

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, August 13th, 2025

Street dance in Culver City and the Hollywood Hills; contemporary dance in East LA and El Sereno; Mexican folkloric in Santa Monica and the Hollywood Hills; Korean dance in Hancock Park; dancing musicals in Hollywood, Downtown, and Santa Monica; more SoCal dance this week, and a peek at next week.

Live This Week

A sign of summer

Several Arvo Pärt compositions anchor choreographer Raiford Rogers' *Islands in the Sea*, this summer's new work for his annual concert. Also on the program, *Glassworks*, set to Philip Glass and *Restless* to music by Zbyněk Matějka. Rogers recruits excellent professional dancers on summer hiatus from their companies to essay the architectural movement of his **Raiford Rogers Modern Ballet**. This year's dancers include a number of current and former members of Los Angeles Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, and LA's vibrant freelance ballet community. The company this year includes Gustavo Barros, Marco Biella, Sadie Black, Bobby Briscoe, Joshua Brown, Laura Chachich, Sarah-Ashley Chicola, Cassidy Cocke, Poppy Coleman, Lillyan Fife, Lester Gonzales Ramos, Anna Jacobs, Julianne Kinasiewicz, Tetyana Martyanova, Jasmine Perry, Lucas Segovia, Jacob Soltero, Mate Szentes, and Paige Wilkey. Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Cal State University Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., East LA; Sat., Aug. 16, 7 pm, \$24-\$63. [Ticketmaster](#).



Raiford Rogers Modern Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

For(d) the present

Compared with the past when it was an informal summer dance festival for LA-based companies, this venue has given dance short shrift in recent summers. But a few dance events are finally coming up, starting this week as **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** with guest choreographer **César Macíme** takes the stage with *Serenatas y Bodas de México*. The LA-based folkloric ensemble continues its 20 year effort to preserve and champion Mexican culture along with contemporary explorations. Onstage help comes as **Teocalli Ballet Folklórico México** and **Mariachi Tesoro de San Fernando** join the festivities that include a new dance inspired by Oaxaca's *muxes*, who are recognized as a third gender within the Zapotec culture. The Ford Theater, 2851 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Sat., Aug. 16, 8 pm, \$75-\$102. [Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet](#).



Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

A tale of endurance

As part of the ongoing celebration of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Korea at the end of WWII, **Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Academy** bring the dance drama, *Gwanghui*. Dancers and musicians fuse movement, music and Korean tradition to tell the story of Korean dancers who endured until that liberation. Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 743 S. Lucerne, Hancock Park; Sat., Aug. 16, 7 pm, \$30-\$100. Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Academy.



Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Academy. Photo courtesy of the artists

Commercial to concert

Led by directors MaryAnn Chavez and Monika Felice Smith the **LUME Collective** pursues

contemporary dance with a commercial edge. The four shows present work by five choreographers under the banner *Desolation*. The choreographers include Marco Palomino, Macy Swaim, MaryAnn Chavez, Mikey DellaVella, and Felice Smith. Stomping Ground, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Sat.-Sun., Aug., 16-17, 6 & 8:30 pm, \$12-\$25, Zoom \$14 (6 pm shows only). [LUME Collective](#).



Marco Palomino. Photo courtesy of the artist

Like a tapestry

In ancient Mexico, the word for dance was *itotia*. Now in its 6th year, the *World Itotia Festival* is hosted by **Ballet Folklórico Flor de Mayo** and provides a spotlight for a range of international dance groups here in SoCal. The event annually celebrates the cultural mosaic of America with

groups bringing dance from around the world in a ticketed Friday concert and a free, outdoor Saturday performance. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Fri., Aug. 15, 7 pm, \$25. [Ballet Folklórico Flor de Mayo](#). Also at 3rd St. Promenade, 1351 3rd St., Santa Monica; Sat., Aug. 16, 3 pm, free.



Ballet Folklórico Flor de Mayo. Photo courtesy of the artists

Immersive moves

For *Mosaic: A Night of Cinematic Music, Live Strings, and Movement*, dancer **Darrel “Friidom” Dunn** is featured, joined by dancers/choreographers Gvmby (Gum-Bee), Allie Costello, Cassandra Tsohis, and Jon Gifted. Each brings dance moves to the stage with Emersion Music playing live. Kirk Douglas Theater, 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City; Thurs., Aug. 21, 7:30 pm, \$28.52-\$55.20. [Eventbrite](#).



Darrel “Friidom” Dunn’s “Mosaic” with Alyse Rockett. Photo by Steven Vargas

Street and stories

Bring a hat and sunscreen for a sunny (hopefully), family-friendly morning with **UniverSOUL Hip Hop** as the street dancing story-tellers presents *WonderLand*. Expect the stage performance to morph into a communal dance party. As an *LA Soundscapes* event, the 10 am pre-show offers interactive activities and art-making aimed, like the show, for ages three years and up. Ford Theater, 2850 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Sun., Aug. 17, 11:30 am, \$13. [UniverSOUL Hip Hop](#).



& Juliet. Photo by Matthew Murphy

Two chances for “What if?”

Exploring what would have happened if, after finding Romeo dead, she had decided not to die with him, the Tony-nominated **& Juliet** opens for a month-long run downtown before moving to Costa Mesa for several more weeks. Preview clips at the venue website. Ahmanson Theater, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown; Tues.-Thurs., 7:30 pm, Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 2 & 8 pm, Sun., 1 & 7 pm, thru Sun., Sept. 7, \$51-\$259. [Center Theater Group](#). Also at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Sept. 9-21. [SCFTA](#).



Raven Scott in “The Fantasticks.” Photo courtesy of the artist

Easy to remember

History’s longest running play, *The Fantasticks*, currently is steps away from the runway at Santa Monica airport. The song source for *Try to Remember*, *Much More*, and *Soon It’s Gonna Rain*, this is not known as a dancing musical, but choreographers Jennifer Oundjian and Erik Hall make the most of the dancing sections in this compact space (after this show, the respected **Ruskin Group Theatre** moves nearby where it will have two theaters, perhaps with space to add dance to its theater offerings, following the lead of West LA’s *Odyssey* and the *Sierra Madre Playhouse*). The cast, all strong singers, also can move, particularly Raven Scott who has CalArts in her background. She hasn’t a line or a song, yet as “The Mute” occupies space in a way that commands the eye whether she’s dancing, or a wall, or a witness propelling the musical along. *Ruskin Group Theatre*, 3000 Airport Ave., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 2 pm, thru Sun., Aug. 24. \$30-\$45. [The Fantasticks](#).



Shucked. Photo courtesy of the artists

Let the corn puns begin

This is the first time a dancing corn cob chorus line has been included among upcoming dance events, but it is one of the highlights of *Shucked*, the Tony-nominated musical about a farm town where the corn is dying and a swindling ‘corn doctor’ offers dubious help. A bit like *The Music Man* with corn instead of a boys band. The reviews from the Broadway run suggest lots corn puns, some hopeful fun, and Sarah O’Gleby’s choreography, including that corn cob kickline. After this national tour moves on, it returns in November for an Orange County run. An extended YouTube clip from *Good Morning America* ([Shucked on GMA](#)) provides a corny taste. Pantages Theater, opens Tues., Aug. 19, 7:30 pm, then Tues.-Thurs., 7:30 pm, Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 2 & 8 pm, Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm, thru Sun., Sept. 7, \$44-\$246. [Shucked](#)

A Peek at Next Week: (Aug. 22-28)

Lula Washington Dance Theatre — *45th Anniversary Celebration* at The Ford, 2850 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Sat., Aug. 23, 8 pm, \$29-\$48. [Lula Washington Dance Theatre](#).



Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo by Timothy Norris

16th Annual MixMatch Dance Festival at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Aug. 29-30, 7 pm, Sun., Aug. 21, 2 pm, \$25.99 (w/fee). [MixMatch Dance Festival](#).



Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre. Photo by Cheryl Mann

Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre — *Carmen* at The BroadStage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Sun., Aug. 24, 5:30 pm, \$60.54-\$125.23. [PBDT•LA](#).

MashUp Contemporary Dance Company — *Choreography Open Mic Night* at The Pickle Factory, 2828 Gilroy St., Frogtown; Sat., Aug. 23, 8 pm, \$15. [MashUp Open Mic Night](#).

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