

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

When a MacArthur Genius Taps Into Computers

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, May 1st, 2019

After dark dancing from sidewalk to light booth downtown, Cinco de Mayo dance celebrations in Northridge and Pasadena, world dance in East Hollywood and Santa Monica, contemporary dance with a mountain view in Glendale, flamenco meets tango in Venice, and more SoCal dance this busy week.

5. Two holidays in one show

Traditional dances from Mexico celebrate both Mother's Day and Cinco de Mayo as artistic director Gema Sandoval and her **DanzaFloricante/USA** present *5 de Mayo*. Dances come from Nayarit, Sinaloa, Jalisco, the Mayan area of the Yucatán and turn of the century Mexico with help from the ensemble's musical collaborators Mariachi Mezxicapan. ARC Pasadena, 1158 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena; Sat., May 4, 8 p.m., \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, \$15 students & seniors at door, \$5 children under 12 years at door. 323-261-0385. <http://www.danzafloricantousa.org/store.php>.



DanzaFloricante/USA. Photo by David Castro.

4. Just a bit of emotion

Led by Corina del Sol, **España Flamenco** takes the stage with dancers and musicians including Yolanda Arroyo, Paca Arroyo, Claudio Otero, Lauren Woods, plus special guest artists in *Pasión! Flamenco & Tango*. Details at <http://electriclodge.org>. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Sun., May 5, 3 p.m., \$25-\$27. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pasion-flamenco-tango-tickets-54720981930>



Corina del Sol. Photo courtesy of the artist.

3. All about after dark

The starting point is the night as **CalArts Dance** considers dreams, darkness, stars, and clubs under the umbrella title *Nocturne*. The show promises that the choreographers who include Julie Bour, Dimitri Chamblas, Brigitte Dunn-Korpela (B.DUNN Movement), Nina Flagg, Rosanna Gamson, Spencer Theberge, Sam Wentz, Stephanie Zaletel (szalt) have created an "immersive, multi-track installation" from the sidewalk through the lobby and into the light booth, dressing rooms and the

venue's actual theater. Details at <https://redcat.org>. REDCAT at Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Fri-Sat., May 3-4, 8:30 p.m., \$20, \$16 students. <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/1003497>.



CalArts Dance's Brigitte Dunn-Korpela. Photo by Daniel Deleon Studio.

2. A sunset setting

The light slowly changing as the sun sets on the San Gabriel Mountains adds a special extra element to the dancing as contemporary choreographer Jessica Kondrath's **GRAYSCALE** performs works driven by music. This is the second of three offerings in this venue's deservedly long-running dance series. Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St., Glendale; Sat., May 11, 6 p.m., free. <https://www.brandlibrary.org>.



GRAYSCALE. Photo by Denise Leitner.

1. Ask Alexa to tap dance

Winner of a 2015 MacArthur Fellowship and hailed as the current face of tap dance, Michelle Dorrance brings her **Dorrance Dance** to town for one performance. Collaborating with Bessie Award-winning Nicholas Van Young, Dorrance developed, and her troupe performs on, percussive electronic tap boards where the dancers' movements simultaneously create or contribute to the music, a result dubbed ETM or Electronic Tap Music. Years ago, L.A. tapper Al Desio and others experimented with electronically amplified taps, but those efforts predated the marvel of microchips and few before Dorrance applied the idea to larger group works such as *ETM: Double Down* which receives its West Coast premiere. Dorrance employs a range of music in support of free-ranging tap styles and ideas. Overall, the troupe is less the intense, almost internalized percussive tapping of Savion Glover or the contained elegance of Fred Astaire, and more closely recalls the joyful, exuberant, athletic tap style of Gene Kelly, if Kelly had played around with an electronic tap board. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m., \$39-\$119. <https://www.scfta.org/events/2019/dorrance-dance>.



Dorrance Dance. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

Other dance of note:

A three day festival celebrating Cinco de Mayo opens with *Patria Grande (Big Homeland)* performed by **Ballet Folklórico Universidad De Colima**. The Soraya Center for the Performing Arts, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Fri., May 3, 8 p.m. \$34-\$79. (818) 677-3000. <https://www.thesoraya.org/>.



Ballet Folklórico Universidad De Colima. Photo courtesy of the Mariachi Heritage Foundation.

Everyone gets into the act as dance and music ensembles drawn from faculty and students perform in **CalArts' World Music and Dance Festival**. Find a complete line up and schedule of performers at the website. CalArts, Remo & Ami Belli Stage & Wild Beast Concert Pavilion,

24700 McBean Parkway, Valencia; Fri., May 3, 5:30 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., May 4-5 11:30 a.m., free with reservation. <https://music.calarts.edu/world-music-and-dance-festival>.

With the current tv series tracking the relationship of dancer Gwen Verdon and choreographer/director Bob Fosse who choreographed and directed *Pippen*, the new production of the musical from **Lineage Dance** is well timed. For this dance-drenched show, Lineage's dancers are joined by singers and actors to fully realize the musical, a supposed biography of Pippen, the son of the conqueror Charlemagne and his *Candide*-like travails. First United Methodist Church, 500 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena; Fri., May 3, 10 & 17, 8 p.m., Sat., May 11 & 18, 8 p.m., Sun., May 5, 12 & 19, 7 p.m., \$20-\$35. <https://www.lineagepac.org/>.

Gathering a world of dance on one stage, Santa Monica College's ensemble **Global Motion** brings West African, flamenco, ballet, folkloric and salsa among other dance. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Sat., May 4, 4 & 7:30 p.m., Sun., May 5, 7:30 p.m., \$20. <http://www.smc.edu/ACG/Marketing/Events/Pages/Dance.aspx>.



Milka Djordjevich, photo courtesy of France Los Angeles Exchange (FLAX).

The interplay of the architecture contained in R.M. Schindler's famous concrete "Slab-Tilt" Schindler House in West Hollywood and artist Alison Knowles' 1960's intermedia piece The Play House is grist for *Shelter or Playground-The House of Dust at the Schindler House*, a series of performative investigations. Last month the four month exhibit launched with a day of performances from an international roster of choreographers including locally-based **Milka Djordjevich**. Djordjevich's work is the only dancemaker getting a repeat showing, twice a month until June. Details on the architecture and avant garde movement that inspired this event and the extended endeavor that incorporates Djordjevich's performances at <https://makcenter.org>. Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Rd., West Hollywood; Sat., May 4 & 18, June 1, 3 p.m., free. <https://makcenter.org>. Milka Djordjevich, photo courtesy of France Los Angeles Exchange (FLAX);

The **So Cal Folk Fest** covers a lot of geography with dance and music from Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Ukrainian Culture Center, 4315 Melrose Ave., East Hollywood; Sun., May 5, noon to 7 p.m. \$10, \$20; \$10 students, age 12 and under, free. <http://www.socalfolkfest.com/>.



Shen Yun 2019. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Promising to distill millennia of Chinese culture in a swirl of colorful costumes and in sync dancing, the touring production **Shen Yun 2019** continues its visit to local venues. Dolby Theatre, 6801 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m., Sat., May 4, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Sun., May 5, 1 p.m., \$80-\$200. Also at McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert; Thu. & Sat., May 9 & 11, 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat., May 10-11, 2 p.m., \$80-\$165. <https://www.shenyun.com/la>.

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