

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Onstaging Sensibility

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, August 19th, 2026

Legacy ballet centennial celebration in Santa Monica; a puppet debut after 40 years in Eagle Rock; Mexico's African influences in the Hollywood Hills; LA-based Butoh master teams with Bay area vocalist in Venice; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live Performance This Week (ending August 27)

Party en pointe

Before he built his reputation in LA's ballet world for his work in film and television, for teaching, and as artistic director of Pacific Ballet Theatre for three decades, **Andrei (Bill) Tremaine** danced with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, following in the footsteps of his mother Elena Wortova, who danced with the original Ballet Russes led by Sergei Diaghilev. As Tremaine turns 100, **Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre** celebrates **with *A Ballet Russe Gala Centennial***. The special evening boasts ballets drawn from the Ballet Russe era, including excerpts from *Raymonda*, *Gaîté Parisienne*, *Firebird*, *Scherezade*, and *The Polovtsian Dances* from the opera *Prince Igor*. The event holds special meaning since Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre's longtime artistic director, Natasha Middleton, is Tremaine's daughter, continuing the family's deep ballet legacy. At the BroadStage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Sun. Aug. 23, 5:30 pm, \$71.21-\$108.55 (includes fees). [Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre](#).



Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre. Photo by Cheryl Mann

NorCal/SoCal meet up

Two thoughtful, mesmerizing performers — Bay Area-based poet and mover **Aine Nakamura** and LA's Butoh master **Oguri**—explore the potentialities combining words, voice and body in *Koto Koto ... Kara (da) Kara*. Set in a Venice art gallery, this single performance is free, but be aware seating is limited and first come, first serve. At ARCANE Space, 324 Sunset Ave., Unit G, Venice; Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30 pm, free. info.arcanespace@gmail.com.



Oguri. Photo courtesy of the artist

Music moves

Under the title *Demure Asian Rage*, **Leanna Keith & Yeeman “ManMan” Mu** employ music and movement to improvisationally explore what lies beyond emotional reactions to their Asian experience. At Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Aug. 21-22, 8 pm. \$25, \$20 students/seniors. [Highways](#).



Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

All the folk

The African diaspora’s contributions to Mexican culture are celebrated as **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet** is joined by **Souly Dance Arts** in *Tercera Raíz (Third Root)*. Mariachi Tesoro de San Fernando provides musical support for the dancing. At the Ford, 2850 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Fri., Aug. 21, 8 pm, \$75-\$102. [The Ford](#) | [Home](#).



Souly Dance Arts. Photo courtesy of the artists

Tracking

Its puppet-driven version of *the Nutcracker* is a SoCal holiday staple, and its other family-friendly repertoire continues to charm each generation, but now, **Bob Baker Marionette Theater** has a premiere, its first addition in 40 years. The train-themed production, *Choo Choo Revue* boasts 100 new, handcrafted puppets and 21st century technology, including projections thanks to equipment donated by the LA Opera. Bob Baker Marionette Theater, 4949 York Blvd., Eagle Rock; Thurs., 10:30 am, Fri., 10:30 am, 7:30 pm, Sat., 10:30 am, 1:30 & 7:30 pm, Sun., 10:30 am & 1:30 pm, thru Sun., Aug. 30, \$25 (+3 fee). [Choo Choo Revue](#).



Bob Baker Marionette Theater. Photo by Winona Bechtle

A Peek at Next Week (August 28 -September 3)

MashUp Contemporary Dance Company — *Katherine Helen Fisher Residency Showcase* at the Pickle Factory, 2926 Gilroy St., Frogtown; Sat., Aug. 29, 8 pm, Sun., Aug. 30, 3 pm., \$25. [MashUp Contemporary Dance Company](#).

Janine Durning — *The Invitation Situation* at the Stomping Ground, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Fri.-Sat., Aug. 28-29, 8 pm, Sun., Aug. 30, 2 pm, \$15-\$30. [The Invitation Situation](#).

The Dancing Storytellers — *Indian Mythology and Me* at Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sat., Aug. 29, 11 am, \$20. [Dancing Storytellers](#).



Shag With a Twist. Photo by J. Hill Photo

Shag with a Twist at the Grand Annex Music Hall, 434 W. 6th St., San Pedro; Sat., Aug. 29, Sept. 26, & Oct. 3, 8 pm, \$55.20-\$65.87. [Shag with a Twist](#).

Heidi Duckler Dance — *¡ORDENA! Burbank* at Magnolia Park, West Magnolia Blvd, between N. Hollywood Way and N. Catalina St., Burbank; Fri., Aug. 28, 6:15 & 7:15 pm, free w/reservation at [Heidi Duckler Dance Ordena Burbank](#).

Ballet of Lights — *Sleeping Beauty* at the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Sat., Aug. 29, Sun., Sept. 13, Sun., Oct. 4, 4 & 6 pm, \$43-\$69. [Ballet of Lights](#).

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