Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Opening the Aperture

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, April 16th, 2025

New York contemporary company visits in Irvine; improvisational performance downtown; AIDS' impact considered in University Park; rooting for the Greeks in Hollywood; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Improvising for real

Can a rehearsal be a performance? Find out at *Jacklean (in rehearsal)* as **Mariana Valencia** brings gesture, social dance, freestyle, and postmodern dance to improvise with musician Jazmin "Jazzy" Romero's polyvocal repertoire of cumbia, punk, jazz, and electronic music. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Fri., April 24-25, 8:30 pm, $27, $22 students. REDCAT.

Mariana Valencia. Photo courtesy of the artist

Contemporary with wry

Since founding his New York-based **Parsons Dance Company** in 1985, David Parson has choreographed an array of highly praised contemporary dances. Ironically, one of the most popular and inventive, captures airborne stillness, not movement. In Parson's *Caught*, a solo dancer has a series of leaps in the dark, each momentarily illuminated in strobe light, as if the dancer is suspended in mid-air, an effect that invariably delights the audience. Parsons has shared that the effect involves timing and technology. That same blend of technique, theatricality, and often a wry sense of humor has become the popular company's distinguishing characteristics. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., April 17, 8 pm, $34-$130. Irvine Barclay Theatre.

Parsons Dance Company. Photo by Lois Greenfield

Impactful

Spanish dancer/choreographer **Aimar Pérez Galí** teams with Venezuelan dancer **Daniel Méndez Piña** to focus on AIDS' impact on the queer dance world. Performance of *A System in Collapse Is a System Moving Forward* is followed by a discussion and reception. USC, Joyce J Cammilleri Hall, 3620 McClintock Ave., University Park; Wed., April 16, 7 pm, free w/reservation at Visions and Voices USC.

Aimar Pe?rez Gali? & Daniel Me?ndez Pin?a. Photo courtesy of the artists

Greek roots

Choreographer/dancer **Esther Mira** is part of the creative team and also dances in the cast of *Hellas*, written and directed by Christopher William Johnson. This new play surveys the Greek roots of western civilization, complete with dance and fight choreography. The saga is present in part on Fridays, while Saturday and Sunday offer the full marathon production. The Broadwater Mainstage, 1076 Lillian Way, Hollywood; Fri., 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun, 2 pm, thru May 11, $25-$30, $20-$25 students. Tickets.

Hellas. Photo courtesy of the artists

A Peek at Next Week 4-25 to 05-01

Chester Whitmore & Del Atkins at Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra

Madre; Sun., April 27, 7:30 pm, $12-$35. Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Dance & Dialogue — *Celebrate LA* at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Wed., April 30, 7:30 pm, free w/reservation at Eventbrite.

Louise Reichlin & Dancers/ Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers at Taxco Theatre, 7242 Owensmouth Ave., Canoga Park; Sat., April 26, 2 & 4 pm, $30, $20 seniors. Tickets.

LA Dances Graham 100 at the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., April 26, 8 pm, only $60 tickets available at press time. The Soraya.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Photo by Asiko

Lynn Modell/Making Dances — *Interesting Women* at Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Pasadena; Sat., April 26, 8 pm, Sun., April 27, 3 pm, $26 presale, $30 at door. Tickets.

Louise Reichlin & Dancers/ Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers at Taxco Theatre, 7242 Owensmouth Ave., Canoga Park; Sat., April 26, 2 & 4 pm, $30, $20 seniors. Tickets.

Herman Conejo/MUSE/IQUE — *Welcome to the Dream Factory* at The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; Wed., April 30, 7:30 pm. Also at The Wallis, 9390 N Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Sat., May 3, 7:30 pm, Sun., May 4, 2:30 & 7:30 pm, $75 donation for single admission, trial and season membership at MUSE/IQUE.

Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana — *Quinto Elemento (Fifth Element)* at Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., May 1, 8 pm, $34-$130. Irvine Barclay Theatre.

LA Opera — *Ainadamar* at Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., April 26 & May 3, 7:30 pm, Sun., May 4 & 18, 2 pm, Wed., May 7 & Thurs.,

May 15, 7:30 pm, $32.50- $296. LA Opera.

Astrologia — Eden Sunset, 6521 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood; Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8 pm, Thurs.-Fri., May 8-9, 8 pm, Sat., May 10, 3 & 7 pm, $50-$1,500. Astrologia.

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