Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Please Note the Nearest Exit

Ann Haskins · Thursday, November 19th, 2026

Taiwanese contemporary dancers tour to Westwood; gymnastic dancers' victorious return from Australia; South Asian dancers installed in Pasadena; contemporary fest finale in Downtown LA; nostalgic dancers reopen historic theater in Canoga Park; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week and dance news of note.

Live Performance This Week (ending November 26)

Homecoming

Anytime choreographer Jacques Heim and the dancers/gymnasts of **Diavolo** take the stage is an occasion. The company returns home from Australia's Brisbane Festival with rave reviews for *Escape*. The show, with the often towering sculptural structures that define Heim's work, was seen in the Diavolo studios earlier this summer. The structure and 22 dancers moving with split second timing have returned to take the stage at its most frequent proscenium venue. At the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff Ave., Northridge; Sat., Nov. 21, 8 pm, Sun., Nov. 22, 3 pm, $42-$99 (includes fees). https://thesoraya.org/en/whats-on/genres/dance/.



Diavolo/Architecture in Motion. Photo by George Simian

Two from Taiwan

Under artistic director Cheng Tsung-lung, **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan** stops off on its U.S. tour with a double bill of contemporary dance. *Blue Hour* considers solitude and the brief light as night transitions to day. In contrast, *Beckoning* explores Taiwanese street dance. At UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Ct., Westwood; Sat., Nov. 21, 8 pm, $45.08-$72.02. Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.



Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan. Photo courtesy of the artists.

New for now

Dance is a major component for two of the three performers sharing the stage *REDCAT NOW Week 3*. **Friidom** employs various street dance genres in *THE TETHER*, exploring dance as a metaphor for community support and connection. **Tarren Johnson** draws from dance theater for *High Earners Not Rich Yet*, referencing how affluent appearance sometimes is only veneer. Chica Barbosa goes for film and text and performer Bia Borinn to reconsider Marilyn Monroe in *Marilyn Times. A*t REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., Downtown LA; Thur.-Sat., Nov. 19-21, 8 pm, $25+$2 fee. REDCAT NOW Week 3.



Friidom. Photo by Jordan Sortero.

A moving installation

Audiences enter into *Living Landscapes*, an installation crafted by artist Gautam Rangan using light, sound, sculpture, and movement to create a world inspired by 16th century Ragamala paintings. **Arpana Dance Company** contributes the movement with music composed by Aashray Harishankar for tabla player Robin Sukhadia. At USC Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena; Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 19-20, 7:30 pm, free w/reservation Living Landscapes.



Arpana Dance Company. Photo by Ackerman & Gruber.

Something renewed

LA City's renovated Madrid Theatre reopens just in time to celebrate the theater's centennial. Among the opening event's performers, **LA Choreographers & Dancers** premieres *Madrigate*, choreographed by artistic director Louise Reichlin and referencing the company's 1999 residency at the theater. At the Madrid Theatre, 21622 Sherman Way, Canoga Park; Thurs., Nov. 19, 6 pm, free with reservation (sold out as of press time). Madrid Theatre reopening



Louise Reichlin – LA Choreographers & Dancers. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Slow down

At the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival, white chalked figures slowly dangled down the face of LA's venerable Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, stunning a mesmerized audience arrayed across the Music Center Plaza, introducing the post-apocalyptic Butoh art, and fueling **Sankai Juku**'s rise as international touring performers. This tour, the company brings *Totem: Void and Height*, the last work by company founder Ushio Amagatsu who died in 2024. At the Granada Theatre, 1214 State St., Santa Barbara; Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm, $20-$100. https://artsandlectures.ucsb.edu/.



Sankai Juku. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Pop up dance

In partnership with the Teatro Regio di Parma and the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce, **Hollywood Ballet** and **Pasadena Civic Ballet** participate in Verdi OFF, an Italian Arts movement that takes dance and other performing arts to the streets of Italy, and now to the streets of LA. The dance component is led by Petra Conti and Eris Nezha whose bios include Italian roots as principal dancers with Italy's acclaimed La Scala Ballet, locally with Los Angeles Ballet, and most recently helming Hollywood Ballet. The event-filled week kicked off with an black-tie gala before shifting to street performances, food events, dance workshops, and pop up performances. Unfortunately, there is no central website information, and the participating organization's websites announce the overall event, but so far lack detail on the events, access or parking. What is known so far is street performances are set for Sat., Nov. 21 at the Venice Beach Skatepark at 1 pm; at Santa Monica Pier at 2 pm (but not where on the pier which is under reconstruction); on Sun., Nov. 22 at the Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of Grauman's Theater at 1 pm; and at Lake Hollywood Park at 2 pm (unclear exactly where), but if you spot the dancing, it is free. More info is promised to be posted on the chamber of commerce instagram account at https://www.instagram.com/iaccw_la.



Hollywood Ballet’s Petra Conti. Photo by Costin Radu.

Best of all possible worlds

The star power presence of Patty Lupone and Scott Bakula may fuel public attention to **LA Opera**’s production of *Candide*, but the dozen dancers who articulate Leonard Bernstein’s opera are in the hands of choreographer and associate director **Eric Sean Fogel**. At the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA: Sat., Nov. 21, Wed., Dec 2, Sun., Dec. 5, & Thurs., Dec. 10, 7:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 29, Sat., Dec. 5, & Sun. Dec. 13, 2 pm, $25.50-$308. LA Opera-Candide



LA Opera's "Candide." Photo by Ken Howard.

A Peek at Next Week (November 27 to December 3)

USC Kaufman School of Dance — *Restaging Masterworks* at USC Bing Theatre, 3400 Watt Way, University Park; Thurs., Dec. 3, 7:30 pm, Fri., Dec. 4, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 5, 2 pm, free w/reservation at Kaufman Dance



Pacifico Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Pacífico Dance Company — *Mujeres de Mexico: Stories in Motion* at Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Fri., Dec. 4, 8 pm, $15 (with fees). Pacifico Dance Company

Debbie Allen Dance Academy at Grand Performances, 350 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Thurs., Dec. 3, 5:30 pm, free. Grand Performances

Dance News of Note

LA-based **Jacob Jonas The Company** tours to Paris' Théâtre de la Ville Dec. 17-18 and to Teatro a Mil in Santiago, Chile Jan. 14-16. They will be back in LA for March performances at the Saroya on March 13.

Commercial choreography in eight categories including film, music video, television, commercials, and digital content was honored earlier this month at the 16th annual World Choreography Awards at Hollywood's Avalon. Too many honorees to list here. Full coverage at World Choreography Awards.

After years of renovation, the Vision Theater (formerly Leimert Theatre and the Watchtower) celebrated its reopening last weekend under the aegis of LA City's Cultural Affairs. Located at 3314 W. 43rd Place, the theater complex will be home to the non-profit. Where Art Can Occur (WACO) which will operate the theater and program performances.

This entry was posted on Thursday, November 19th, 2026 at 4:48 am and is filed under Theatre, Music, Dance, Visual/Design, Performing, Visual Art
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