Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

# Reconnecting a Disconnected

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, September 25th, 2024

Messiaen maximized in Beverly Hills; Bollywood on South Asian climate resilience in the Hollywood Hills; Greek finale in Malibu; a novel's new episode in Heritage Square; diagnosing reality in Santa Monica; first of the season's vampires in Hollywood; more SoCal dance this busy week, plus a peek at next week.

## *Live This Week*

### Adding duo to duet

Olivier Messiaen's *Harawi* for a voice and piano gets physicalized as Grammy-award winning soprano Julia Bullock and pianist Conor Hanick are joined by choreographers/dancers **Bobbi Jene Smith** and **Or Schraiber.** Messiaen's heartfelt lyrics were inspired by poetry in Quechua, an indigenous Andean language from Perú and Bolivia. This single performance is presented in collaboration with the prestigious Ojai Music Festival. The Wallis, Bram Goldsmith Theater, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Tues., Oct. 1, 7:30 pm, $39-$69. The Wallis.

Harawi with Julia Bullock and Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Counter punching climate change

The plight and resilience of South Asia as climate change batters with unprecedented weather disasters gets a powerful consideration in **Blue13 Dance Company**‘s latest, *100 Seconds to Midnight.* Artistic director/choreographer Achinta S McDaniel and her dancers draw on moves from contemporary to ballet to Bollywood to tell their story. The Ford Theatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Sat., Sept. 28, 8 pm, $10-$65. The Ford.

Blue 13 Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Reconnection

From the reviews of the recent La Jolla Playhouse performances, **Jenn Freeman**’s dance/theater piece *Is It Thursday Yet?* effectively uses dance, narration, video and tape to tell the exterior story of the diagnosis of her Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at age 33, while dance evokes the interior story of her feelings and efforts to navigate a puzzling exterior world. A dancer/choreographer in her own right, Freeman called on Tony-winning choreographer Sonya Tayeh to shape this telling.

The BroadStage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica, Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 3-5, 7:30 pm, $40-$85. The BroadStage.

Jenn Freeman in “Is It Thursday Yet?” Photo by Matthew Murphy

## Get the picture?

With the banner *This Picture Reminds Me of You*, artistic director Tina Finkelman Burkett and the superb dancers of **BODYTRAFFIC** open their 2024-2025 season with this hometown performance before leaving on a West Coast tour. The program includes *Incense Burning On A Saturday Morning: The Maestro*, a world premiere by Juel D. Lane paying tribute to Ernie Barnes, an LA visual artist known for his vibrant paintings and a style often described as “elongated and filled with movement.” From the repertoire, Michaela Taylor’s *Snap* set to music by James Brown, and company member Joan Rodriguez’ *Bloquea’o* with original music by Pedro Osuna complete the program. Wilshire Boulevard Temple, 3643 Wilshire Blvd., Mid-City; Thurs., Sept. 26, 7:30 pm, $60. BODYTRAFFIC.

BODYTRAFFIC. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Flow like a river

Blending theatre and dance, **Nil Bosca** references the legendary river to recount the story of *Euphrate*, the child of a French mother and Turkish father, whose literal and figurative travels lead her from one home in France to find another home in Turkey. The performance is in French with English subtitles. Theatre Raymond Kabbaz, 10361 W. Pico Blvd., WestLA; Thurs., Sept. 26, 8 pm, $40, $30 seniors/students. Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz.

Nil Bosca. Photo courtesy of the artist

## What happens next

Like a mini-series that provides a pause before new episodes, choreographer/artistic director Emma Andres and the dancers of **Little Women Ballet** return with the second episode in this three-part ballet version of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel *Little Women*. As with the first installment in May 2023, the company again performs in and among the Victorian manor houses of Heritage Square. The immersive performance sends the divided audience on different routes with a 'goodie bag' of items to be employed during the show. After the final bows, the audience gathers together to enjoy desserts and a chance to chat with performers. Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer St., Montecito Heights; Fri., Sept. 27, 6:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Sept. 28 & 29, 3 & 6:30 pm, $60. Details at Little Women Ballet. Tickets.

Little Women Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Pure pleasure

Under the banner *Dance is Pleasure*, Andrew Pearson brings his **Bodies in Play** for the last of two performances at this venue. This time, the movers are *Pearson*, Cristina Florez, Alex Rix (with choreography by Katelyn Sanchez), Melissa Schade, Marisa Ervin and Emma Vicaña. LA LGBT

Center, Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, 1125 N. McFadden St., Hollywood; Fri., Sept. 28, 8 pm, $25-58. Tickets.

Andrew Pearson's Bodies at Play. Photo by Casey Kringle

## Last dance with Greeks

This summer's Getty Villa theater offering is a world premiere considering possibly the least known hero of the Trojan War. **Tiffany Rea-Fisher** provides the choreography for Classical Theater of Harlem's *Memnon*, written by Will Power and directed by Carl Cofield. And no, Memnon is not a nickname for Agamemnon, a much better known and completely different fellow. These excellent late summer theatrical excursions provide a special experience, live and in an outdoor amphitheater, just as the Greeks intended. Getty Villa outdoor theater, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 26-28, 8 pm, $45 (Thurs.), $50 (Fri.), $55 (Sat.), $40 students & seniors (Thurs. only). Getty.

Classical Theatre of Harlem's "Memnon." Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography.

## A theater adds dance

Under the new artistic and executive director Matthew Cook, this well-known theater venue expands its offerings, adding programs of music, film and a *Dance @ The Playhouse* series. First up, the popular Afro-Brazilian dance company **Viver Brasil.** Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sat., Sept. 28, 11 am, $12, Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Viver Brasil. Photo by Gia Trovela

## Will there be blood?

Twilight Saga meets Faust, with a twist, in **Blood/Love: A Vampire Popera.** The immersive rock musical opens this week at the aptly named Crimson, a Hollywood pop up gothic nightclub. Running through November 2, the vampire-meets-rock-star event injects a devilish romance into the spooky season. The Crimson, 6356 Hollywood Blvd., First Floor, Hollywood; Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 26 – Oct. 19, 7 & 9:30 pm, then Wed.-Sat, Oct. 23 – Nov. 2, 7 & 9:30 pm, $59-$119. Blood/Love.

Blood/Love. Photo by Graham Washatka

## It’s all dance

For this year’s opening event, **Laguna Dance Festival** teams two very different choreographers who take an audience *Behind the Dance*. Festival director and contemporary ballet choreographer Jodie Gates is joined by Jacques Heim, creative director of Diavolo and choreographer for Cirque du Soleil’s *Kà*. The two artists delve into how choreographers make distinctively different dance. The Forum Theater, 650 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach; Thurs., Sept. 26, 6:30 pm, $50. Laguna Dance Festival.

Jacques Heim with Diavolo Architecture in Motion. Photo by George Simian

## A time to sow

Timed for just after the autumn equinox and facilitated by Nguyen Nguyen and Joyce Lu, *Every Body Equinox* is a **Pieter**-sponsored event combining guided movement in a community garden with an opportunity to plant seeds for the fall in Pieter's plot in the garden. El Sereno Community Garden, 5466 Huntington Dr. North, El Sereno; Sun., Sept. 29, 4-6 pm, free w/reservation at PIETER.

## Inland benefits

A performance and sit down dinner are part of **Inland Pacific Ballet**'s Fall Dance Fest 2024. The annual fundraiser supports upcoming IPB productions and previews the season to come. Scheduled works include Laurence Blake's *Stars and Stripes*, selections from next spring's *Shrek the Musical*, and a new work from Arturo Fernandez, ballet master for Alonzo King LINES Ballet in San Francisco. Inland Pacific Ballet Academy, 9061 Central Ave., Montclair; Sat., Sept. 28, 6 pm, $125. Inland Pacific Ballet.

Inland Pacific Ballet. Photo by Hannah Cox

## All electric

Timed to coincide with *First Friday* events on nearby Abott Kinney Boulevard, **High Voltage** offers an eclectic, ever-changing line-up of performers, often including dance and movement performers. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., Oct. 3, 8 pm, $10. Electric Lodge.

National Bunraku Theater. Photo courtesy of the artists

## They got no strings

Apparently word got out that the exquisite puppets and masterful puppeteers of Japan's **National Bunraku Theater** were visiting. The show was sold out three weeks ago. Check with the theater regarding any waiting list. JACCC Aratani Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro Street, Little Tokyo; Sat., Sept. 28, 7:30 pm, $35-55 (sold out as of press time). JACCC>.

### *A Peek at Next Week (October 4-10)*

**Benita Bike's DanceArt** at LA Mission College, AMP Theater, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar; Wed., Oct. 9, 7 pm, free. DanceArt.

**LA Dance Project —** *Romeo & Juliet Suite* at the Wallis, 9390 N Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 10-12, $49-$109. The Wallis.

LA Dance Project. Photo by Josh Rose

**Lineage Dance —** *Healing Blue* at Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Glendale; Sun., Oct. 6, 5 pm, $25. Lineage Dance.

**Max 10** at Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Oct. 7, 7:30 pm, $10. Electric Lodge.

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