

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Sabotaging the Strictures

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, April 10th, 2024

*A Chorus Line* for 2024 in the Arts District; a British literary rebel captured in Costa Mesa; Goya-infused flamenco in Irvine and intimate flamenco in Westwood; romantic ballet in Hancock Park; gala season arrives, more So Cal dance this week, and a peek at next week.

### Live This Week

#### When dancers talk

Described as a “counter-tribute,” **Andrew Pearson** and a clutch of dancers employed a similar process that led to the musical *A Chorus Line*, drawing on dancers’ real life experiences. This time the process for *Our Dancer’s Project* also involved critical and mindful consideration of bodies in the performing arts, an ongoing hot topic for dance and dancers. The writers/dancers include Cristina Flores, Darby Epperson, Celine Kiner, Tiffany Sweat, Daurin Tavares, Rachel Whiting, and Sadie Yarrington. Pearson also has writing credit and directs. LA Dance Project, 2235 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Fri.-Sat., April 12-13, 7 pm, \$35-\$45, \$25 students & seniors. [Our Dancer’s Project](#).



Bodies in Play. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Not quite alone

In the U.S., Virginia Woolf is most widely associated with the title of the 1966 Liz Taylor/Richard Burton film based on Edward Albee's play. In England, Virginia Woolf the writer, is widely known for her visionary approach that shattered accepted Victorian era ideas about and constraints on writing, and particularly sabotaged strictures, sexual and otherwise, on women in Victorian times. In quite a coup, **American Ballet Theatre** brings the North American premiere of Wayne McGregor's highly praised *Woolf Works* to SoCal for five performance. Created for Britain's Royal Ballet, the choreographer abstracts and weaves together three of Woolf's works, the time and gender shifting *Orlando*, *Mrs. Dalloway* confronting a war-shocked soldier, and a consideration of Woolf's suicide in *Waves*. After the London premiere, Britain's Guardian newspaper described the work as "a complex meditation on time, memory and death in ways as fragmentary and haunting as Woolf's own writing." Not a mention of Liz or Richard. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Thurs.-Fri., April 11-12, 7:30 pm, Sat., April 13, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., April 14, 1 pm, \$49-\$149. [SCFTA](#).



Wayne McGregor's "Woolf Works". Photo courtesy of the Royal Opera House

## Taking to the *tablao*

Enjoy the improvisational interplay of live musicians and flamenco dancers as **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana** brings *Tablao Flamenco* to this intimate venue. UCLA, The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Thur., April 11, 8 pm, \$32. [CAP UCLA](#).



Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Do they find him?

In *Searching for Goya*, **Soledad Barrio** and **Noche Flamenca** draw inspiration from the paintings of Spanish artist Francisco Goya. The dancers, musicians and singers promise to blend live flamenco dance with video projections that include Goya's art. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., April 18, 8 pm, \$30-\$125. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).



Soledad Barrios. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Vengeful ballet ghosts

Former Los Angeles Ballet principal dancers Petra Conti and Eris Nezha have been busy. Not only have they been building a new company as artistic directors of Hollywood Ballet, they also have been guesting with **Grand Kyiv Ballet**, currently on tour with its production of *Giselle*. The romantic ballet with its wronged maiden and vengeful ghosts stops off for one LA performance. The Wilshire Ebell, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Sun., April 14, 7 pm, \$45-\$89. [Eventbrite](#).



Grand Kyiv Ballet “Giselle.” Photo by Rudy Amisano.

## The flowers did it

A new production of *La Traviata* at the **Los Angeles Opera** boasts gender duality costumes for choreography by **John Heginbotham**. At its San Francisco Opera premiere, director Shawna Lucey and her team received critical raves for a fresh approach that retained everything that makes this among the most beloved operas while subtly spotlighting the backdrop of a gay but entirely money-dominated world in which love almost transcends the transactional. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., April 14 & 21, Thurs., April 18, Wed., April 24, Sat., April 27, \$39-\$399. [LA Opera](#).





Los Angeles Opera in “La Traviata.” Photo courtesy of LA Opera.

## Gala #1

Dancers from **Los Angeles Ballet** perform as part of this year’s LAB gala, hosted by Donna Mills. Beverly Wilshire Hotel, 9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs., April 18, 6 pm, \$1,000 & up. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).



Los Angeles Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Gala #2

Known for its accomplished youth dance program, **The Wooden Floor**’s overarching purpose is often overlooked with dance as just one of the ways to help kids stay in school. On April 18, the

admirable program celebrates its annual *12<sup>th</sup> Step Beyond Annual Breakfast* feting the class of 2024, 100% of whom are preparing to graduate high school and are moving on to higher education. Hilton Hotel/Orange County, 3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa; Thurs., April 18, 7:30 am. \$100. [The Wooden Floor](#).

### ***A Peek at Next Week (4/19 to 4/25)***

**Urban Bush Women** — *Legacy + Lineage + Liberation* at UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Ct., Westwood; Fri., April 19, 8 pm, \$39-\$59. [CAP UCLA](#).

**REALM Company** — *Synergetic Pt. 1* at the Rhimes Performing Arts Center, 1850 S. Manhattan Pl., West Adams; Sat., April 20, 6 pm, \$50-\$160. [Tickets](#).



The Realm Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

**World Ballet Company** — *Swan Lake* at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs.-Fri., April 19-20, 7 pm, \$60-\$105. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).

**Tori Cristi/Whacking Los Angeles** — *Liminality* at Highways, 1651 18<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., April 19-20, 8:30 pm, \$15. [Highways Performance](#).

**AXIS Dance Company** at Wallis Annenberg Theater, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., April 19-20, 7:30 pm, \$49-\$79. [Wallis Annenberg Theater](#).



AXIS Dance Company. Photo by David DeSilva

**ABT Studio Company** at Bank of America Performing Arts Center, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Sun., April 21, 7:00 pm, \$35-\$65. [BAPAC](#).

**Benita Bike's DanceArt** at Culver City Senior Center, 4095 Overland Ave., Culver City; Sat., April 20, 1:30 pm, free. [DanceArt](#).





Benita Bike's DanceArt. Photo by Dean Wallraff.

**Japanese dance** — *49<sup>th</sup> Annual Bunka-Sai* at Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance; Sat. & Sun., April 20 & 21, 11 am to 5 pm, free. Info at [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com).

**LACE** — *ABUNDANCE* at LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Wed.-Fri., April 24-26, 7 pm, free with reservation at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

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