
Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Solar Syncopations

Ann Haskins · Thursday, August 13th, 2026

Eclectic dance festival in Santa Monica; choreography with a female viewpoint in DowntownLA Arts District; interdisciplinary installation in Santa Monica; family friendly puppets in Eagle Rock; more SoCal dance this week, a peek at next week, plus some dance news of note, including a warning not to open any grant e-mail from an infected California Arts' staff account.

Live Performance This Week (ending August 20)

Her turns

Having built its reputation on its immersive retelling of the Louisa May Alcott novel that provides the company's name, **Little Women Ballet Company** continues expanding its creative endeavors with *Her Turn: Women Making Moves in Ballet*. Led by Emma Andres whose choreography has shaped the company, this program showcases new dance from women, several familiar from their dancing with LWBC. Participating dancemakers include Danica Adams, Alyah Baker, Makenna Bolton, Claire Bocker, Jenna Fleming, Jackie Kopcsack, Ludmila Malakhov, Makena Rush, Deana Stanton, Kassandra Vogel, and Andres. At LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Downtown LA Arts District; Sat.-Sun., Aug. 15-16, 7:30 pm, \$40-\$50, \$30 students w/code. [Her Turn](#).



Little Women Ballet. Photo by Edie Tyebkhan Photography

23 and counting

An eclectic assemblage of dance styles and genres drawn from all over SoCal is the signature charm of the *17th Annual MixMatch Dance Festival*. Hosted by **Hart Pulse Dance Company**, the three shows offering different combinations totaling 23 different companies and choreographers. At Miles Memorial Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica; Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30 pm, Sat., Aug. 15, 2 & 7:30 pm, \$27+\$2 fee. [MixMatch Dance Festival](#).



Beth Megill & Company. Photo by Lisa Flory

Deja views

In the interdisciplinary performance installation *Empty Fields Yield Familiar Faces*, **Jayde Spiegel** draws on dance, text, and sound to consider the vast, vague landscape and creatures of the west. At Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Aug. 14-15, 8 pm, \$25, \$20 seniors/students. [Jayde Spiegel](#).



Jayde Spiegel. Photo courtesy of the artist

On track

Its puppet-driven version of *the Nutcracker* is a SoCal holiday staple, and its other family-friendly repertoire continues to charm each new generation, but now, **Bob Baker Marionette Theater** has premiered its first new work in 40 years. The train-themed production, *Choo Choo Revue* boasts 100 new, handcrafted puppets and some new 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

Sign of summer

Watch or join in as the Friday night summer series **Dance DTLA** wraps up with *Bollywood* this week. Instruction precedes open dancing. All free. At the Music Center, Jerry Moss Plaza, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Fri., Aug. 14, 7-11 pm, free. [Dance DTLA](#).



Dance DTLA. Photo courtesy of the artists

Another sign of summer

Part public performance, part participatory dance party, and free! The outdoor **Tuesday Night**

Dance series hosts its final two Tuesdays with both devoted to *Latin Rhythms*. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Argyros Plaza, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Tues., Aug. 18 & 25, 6:30 pm. free. [Tuesday Night Dance](#).

A Peek at Next Week (August 21-27)

Pacific Ballet Dance Theatre – *A Ballet Russe Gala Centennial honoring emeritus Andre (Bill) Tremaine's 100th Birthday* 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

Leanna Keith & Yeeman “ManMan” Mu — *Demure Asian Rage* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Aug. 21-22, 8 pm. \$25, \$20 students/seniors. [Highways](#).

Tercera Raiz, Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet, Souly Dance Arts at the Ford, 2850 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Fri., Aug. 21, 8 pm, \$75-\$102. [The Ford | Home](#).

SoCal Dance Notes

California for the Arts issued a computer warning: **Beware and do not open any e-mail titled “Grant RFP-Grant Program” appearing to come from Jennica Bisbee (jennica@caforthearts.org) at CA for the Arts (California for the Arts).** The staff member’s email account was compromised. Do **not** open it, click any links, or download any attachments. **Delete** the email immediately.

Open to all SoCal High School students, the **Music Center Spotlight Competition** is accepting video applications in multiple performing arts, including two dance categories (“classical,” i.e. ballet, and “dance,” i.e. everything else). Several rounds pare things down to two finalists in each dance category, who then perform on stage at the Music Center along with finalists in the other musical, vocal, and acting categories. Just to participate affords an opportunity for feedback from experts. Full details and application at [Music Center Spotlight](#).

The film *It’s Tappening* follows the work and travels of SoCal-based tapper **Sarah Reich**. The release is set for Aug. 16. [Sarah Reich](#).

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