
Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Some Days It's Just a Struggle

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, May 31st, 2023

A Canadian company offers another look in Costa Mesa, channeling Garbo in Santa Monica, sirens lure in Pasadena, South Asian dance in Venice, science danced in Atwater Village, fringe fest time in Hollywood, more SoCal dance this busy week (June 2 to 8), and a peek at next week.

Live This Week

And then she coughed

Choreographer Val Caniparoli is celebrating 50 years with the San Francisco Ballet as choreographer, principal character dancer, teacher and ballet master. **Los Angeles Ballet** offers the SoCal debut of one of the choreographer's most popular full-length ballets, *Lady of the Camellias*. Whether captured in the classic Garbo film *Camille* or in Baz Lurhmann's *Moulin Rouge*, the tragic French romance also has been the subject of several ballets. This version from Caniparoli, set to music by Chopin, has been performed by companies ranging from the Finnish Ballet to Ballet Florida, and now, is here. UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Court, Westwood; Fri., June 2, 7:30 pm, Sat., June 3, 2 pm, \$40-\$137. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).



Los Angeles Ballet in “Lady of the Camellias.” Photo by Reed Hutchinson

They just can’t stay away

Based in Vancouver, British Columbia, **Ballet BC** returns for a second performance in a month, this time with a different program, a trio of contemporary ballets that were created for Nederlands Dans Theater, the former home of Ballet BC’s artistic director Medhi Walerski. The program includes *Bedroom Folk* (2015) from Sharon Eyal and Gair Behar, *The Statement* (2016) from Crystal Pite, and *Garden* (2016) from Walerski. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., June 3, 7:30 pm, \$29-\$99. [SCFTA](#).



Ballet BC. Photo by Marcus Eriksson

Siren song

Choreographer Josie Welsh and her **Ballet RED** dancers return with a new edition of their edgy brand of contemporary ballet in *Frequency Vol. 2*. Catch a preview video on [YouTube](#). Athletic Garage, 121 Waverly Dr., Pasadena; Fri.-Sat., June 2-3, 7:30 pm, Sun., June 4, 5:30 pm, \$65. [Ballet RED](#).



BalletRED. Photo courtesy of the artists

15 years of awe-some

For 15 years, in the series *Awe and Wonder*, choreographer Donna Sternberg teams four scientists from different fields with four choreographers from different dance genres. Each pair is charged with creating a dance work where science informs the choreography without becoming a literal parsing or enactment of the science. This year the scientists are Moogega Cooper, Ashwin R. Vasavada, Gerard Fasel and Kris Pardo. The choreographers are drawn from jazz (Laura Ann Smyth), hip hop (Darrel “Friidom” Dunn), flamenco (Albertossy Espinoza), and contemporary (Sternberg). Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Atwater Village; Sat., June 3, 8 pm, Sun., June 4, 3 pm, \$20-\$25. [Donna Sternberg & Dancers](#).



Donna Sternberg & Dancers. Photo courtesy of the artists

Pagan to now

Last September, **MUXX PROJECT** (performers EYIBRA and Andrea Soto) enjoyed sold out shows. This return offers two different shows, both new to LA. Friday is *Veles/Tini*, described as a ‘performance and multimedia piece for two performers, digital avatars and visual projections.’ The subject is queer identity in Ukraine and Lithuania from pagan times to the present. On Saturday, *Motherlines* is a six-hour durational performance with 3D visuals by Oswaldo Erréve. A video preview is at [MUXX PROJECT](#). LA Dance Project Studios, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; *Veles/Tini* on Fri., June 2, 8 pm, Also *Motherlines* on Sat., June 3, 2 to 8 pm, \$35, \$25 under 35 and seniors. [LA Dance Project tickets](#).



Golden State Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

Bringing a Peck

The San Diego-based **Golden State Ballet** ventures north with a contemporary ballet program dubbed *From New York With Love*. The evening includes *In Creases* by Justin Peck, and works from choreographers Norbert De La Cruz III and Gabrielle Lamb. Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Tues., June 6, 8 pm, \$25 to \$45. [Golden State Ballet tickets](#).

Bringing them together

Choreographer Bernard Brown curated this gathering of six regional dance performances considering identity and community. The new works are from **Du’Ron Fisher (Defacto X)**, **Edgar Aguirre**, **Mawiyah Dowd**, **Marcella Lewis**, **Tashara Gavin-Moorehead**, and **Tsiambwom “T” Akuchu**. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., June 2-3, 8:30 pm, suggested donation \$20. [Highways Performance Space](#).

Claiming their spotlight

Talented and polished, SoCal high school aged dancers are among the finalists performing at this year’s **Spotlight Grand Finale**. Ballet finalists are Campbelle Malicse and Chase Rogers. The dance finalists are Aubrey Abella and Calli Perryman. Two finalists in classical and non-classical voice, classical and jazz music, and acting also will perform. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Thurs., June 8, 7 pm, free with reservation at [Music Center](#).



Rangoli Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

South Asian dance in LA

Led by choreographer Malathi Iyengar, **Rangoli Dance Company** brings *An Evening of Bharatanatyam Indian*. Performers include Shivani Aysola, Vyshnavi Aysola, Ritika Iyer, Nina Krishnan, and Nishitha Viswanathan. The program also includes students performing the South Asian classical dance form. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Sat., June 3, 5 pm, \$25-\$50. [Eventbrite](#).

Hollywood Fringe Festival #1

With bases in San Diego and Boston, the tap and creative percussion troupe **DrumatiX** promises a high-energy, family friendly show. Broadwater Main Stage, 1076 Lillian Way, Hollywood; Sun., June 4, 8 pm, Sat., June 17, 4:30 pm, Sun., June 18, 12:30 pm, Wed., June 21, 9 pm, Sat., June 24, 2 pm, \$18, \$12 seniors & kids under 12 years. [Hollywood Fringe Festival](#).

Hollywood Fringe Festival #2

Dance and physical theater bring Japanese anime comes to life in **THE GUARDIANS OF WONDER**. Performers are Rena Kaneta, Emika Kamieda, Shio Yamazaki, Stella Takasegawa and Mizuki Kimura. Kaneta also is credited with the sword fight choreography. McCadden Theater, 1157 N. McCadden Pl., Hollywood; Sat., June 3, 8 pm, Sun., June 4, 7:30 pm, Fri., June 9, 6 pm, and Sat., June 10, 9:30 pm, free. [The Guardians of Wonder tickets](#).

Hollywood Fringe Festival #3

Drawing on dance, capoeira and physical theater, **Palmares** recounts a 1675 power struggle between Brazil's largest community of fugitive or freed slaves with Portuguese enslavement efforts in Brazil. The Broadwater Main Stage, 1076 Lillian Way, Hollywood; Sat., June 3 & 10, 8 pm, Fri., June 16, 6:30, Sat., June 17, 12:30 pm, Sun., June 25, 1 pm, \$20. [Palmares tickets](#).



Max 10. Photo courtesy of the artists

Ten for ten

The mostly monthly program **Max 10** gives ten performers ten minutes each onstage. Hosted by venue director Joel Shapiro and curated by the staff, the line up of performances often includes dance. A post-show reception gives a chance to chat with the artists. Electric Lodge, Scott Kelman Theater, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., June 5, 7:30 pm, \$10. [Electric Lodge](#).

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. This edition includes Shivadeva, Veronica Sofia Burt & Shaye Swanson, Owen Hamlin, and Electric Improv. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., June 2, 8 pm, \$10. [Electric Lodge](#).

Dance and dinner

What began as an afterschool program for at-risk youth that included a dance component evolved into **The Wooden Floor**, a respected dancer training program with an annual concert that draws top notch professional choreographers and designers to showcase the young dancers. This year's event, the 40th annual, is entitled *Limitless* with choreography from **Keely Garfield**, **John Heginbotham**, and artistic director **Jennifer Bassage Bonfil**. Opening night includes a complimentary reception with desserts and a sparkling cider toast. Friday offers a black tie-optional pre-show dinner (additional charge). Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine;

Thurs.-Fri., June 1-2, 8 pm, Sat., June 3, 2:30 & 8 pm, \$20-\$50. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).

A Peek at Next Week

Los Angeles Ballet in *Memoryhouse* at the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Thurs.-Sat., June 15-17, 7:30 pm, \$50-\$75. [BroadStage](#).

Oguri at Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri.-Sat., June 16-17, 8 pm, Sun., June 18, 3 pm, free. [Eventbrite](#).

American Contemporary Ballet at American Contemporary Ballet studios, Two California Plaza, 350 S. Grand Ave., Suite 2850, downtown; Thurs.-Sat., June 15-17 & 22-24, 8 pm, Sun., June 18 & 25, 2 pm, \$40-\$110. [American Contemporary Ballet](#).



Adjé Cissoko of Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Photo by R.J. Muna

Alonso King/LINES Ballet at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., June 9-10, 7:30 pm, \$39-\$125. [The Wallis](#).

Flamencodanza at Hudson Theatres, 6539 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood; Fri., June 9 & 16, and Sat., June 10, 6 pm, Sat., June 17, 8:30 pm, \$18. [Hollywood Fringe Festival](#).

Claudia de La Cruz Flamenco Institute at St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church, 2718 Saint George St., Los Feliz; Sat., June 10, 4:30 pm, \$60 advance purchase only. [Our Lady of Rocío](#).

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