

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Spatial Organizing

Ann Haskins · Thursday, January 29th, 2026

Contemporary ballet in Beverly Hills and Malibu; new contemporary dance in West LA; majorettes celebrated in University Park; concert street dance tours San Diego, Palm Desert, and Beverly Hills; dance infiltrates opera, a maze, comedy, and percussion in Long Beach, Sierra Madre, Hollywood and Cerritos; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at what's coming next week.

Live This Week (thru February 5)

Handling available space

One of two additions to the ongoing *Dance at the Odyssey* festival is **RGWW (Rosanna Gamson / World Wide)**. Among LA's most thought-filled and dynamic choreographers, Gamson brings the world premiere of *Clever Ideas for Smaller Rooms*. In addition to Gamson, contributors include **Marissa Brown, Hanna Tzong-Han Wu, and Gretchen Ackerman**, plus a duet by **Chelsea Roquero and Ryan Ruiz**. Odyssey Theatre, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30-31, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 1, 2 pm, \$28. [RGWW](#)



RGWW (Rosanna Gamson/World Wide). Photo courtesy of the artists

Ready return

After previewing partial versions of *Spectacle of Ritual* at two prior editions of this festival, choreographer **Marcella Lewis** is ready, as *Dance at the Odyssey* presents the world premiere. Odyssey Theatre 3, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30- 31, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 1, 6 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Marcella Lewis-Dance at the Odyssey](#).



Marcella Lewis. Photo by Sylvia Drav

A ballet anniversary

To mark two decades, **Los Angeles Ballet** brings a triple bill of contemporary ballets under the banner *Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future: 20 Years of Los Angeles Ballet*. Noting how George Balanchine's ballets have been a hallmark of many LAB seasons, the program includes *Rubies* (from the full length ballet *Jewels*) that was part of the company's inaugural season. Reflecting the company's present direction, current artistic director Melissa Barak (only the company's second leader) unveils her latest work, as yet untitled. Completing the triptych, choreographer Hans Van Manen's setting of Benjamin Britten's *Frank Bridge Variations*, reprised from LAB's 2023-2024 season. The Wallis Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Sun., Jan. 29-31, 7:30 pm, \$64.90-\$119.90. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).



Los Angeles Ballet. Photo by Reed Hutchinson

There will be batons

Making its LA premiere, *Major* is Brooklyn-based dance, theater, and interdisciplinary artist **Ogemdi Ude**'s exploration and celebration of majorette dance. USC Bovard Auditorium, 3551 Trousdale Pkwy., University Park; Wed., Feb. 4, 7 pm, free with reservation at [Ogemdi Ude](#).



Ogemdi Ude. Photo by Maria Baranova

Invincibility

On a trip to Algeria in search of his roots, French choreographer Hervé Koubi found a world of street dancers and gymnasts that transformed his ten year old contemporary company into a powerful theatrical weapon, elevating street dance to a compelling concert event. At the four SoCal stops on its current U.S. tour, **Compagnie Hervé Koubi** offers *Sol Invictus*, with dancers vying with a multi-purposed swirl of sun-gold fabric to tell a primordial story of hope in winter darkness. San Diego Balboa Theatre, Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30 pm, \$45-\$112. [Herve Koubi-San Diego](#). Also at McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert; Sun., Feb. 1, 3 pm, \$47-\$107. [McCallum Theatre Palm Desert](#). Also at The Wallis, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 19-20, 7:30 pm, Sat., Feb. 21, 2 pm, [The Wallis](#).



Compagnie Hervé Koubi. Photo by Steve Pisano

Lots of new

Continuing their residency at this venue, OC-based **Backhausdance** takes the stage with four works, three of them world premieres. The new works are *Multitudes* from artistic director Jennifer Backhaus and associate artistic director Amanda Kay White, *Four Winds* from Zak Ryan Schlegel, and *Never Enders* from Megan Doheny and Ilya Nikurov. Rounding out the program, Tommie-Waheed Evans' *Everywhere, But Here* (2022). Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula; Sat., Jan. 31, 8 pm, \$25, \$20 seniors & military, \$15 students. [Backhausdance](#).



Backhausdance. Photo by Adrien Padilla

A-maze

This family friendly offering provides a chance to see the ever-astonishing dancers, gymnasts, and acrobats of **Diavolo / Architecture in Motion** up close and personal. Artistic director Jacques Heim and his ensemble bring *Trust*. Starting with a simple platform, a traveling ottoman, and an acrobatic wheel, the performers explore the movement possibilities and value of cooperation, then move on to more challenging benches, ladders, a door, and a maze. Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sat., Jan. 31, 11 am, \$25. [Diavolo](#).



Diavolo. Photo by George Simian

Young energy

The main professional company won't be in town until March, but the younger dancers of **Ailey II** dance with the same finesse and energy while gaining the polish that comes with performing experience. Repertoire selections this visit include *Down the Rabbit Hole* choreographed by Houston Thomas, and the company's gospel-infused signature, *Revelations*. Pepperdine University, Smothers Theater, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Sun., Feb. 1, 7 pm, \$30-\$58. [Ailey II](#).



Ailey II. Photo by Nir Arieli

Keeping the rhythm

Yes, it is technically a percussion show, but in showing the myriad potentialities of percussion—from metal structures and wooden implements to plastic bags and brooms—the performers of **Stomp** move and drum in a highly choreographed event. From its roots in the UK, the show can claim 50 countries and audiences exceeding 26 million. Along the way, **Stomp** picked up Britain's Olivier Award for Best Choreography. The current edition, *Let's Make Some Noise* arrives at the only SoCal stop on its North American tour. Cerritos Center for the Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Wed.-Thurs., Feb. 4-5, 7:30 pm, \$48-\$132. **Stomp**.



Stomp. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Stress positions

Choreographer **Jasmine Albuquerque** provides the dance moves for *Crash Out Queens*, the official launch of the **Long Beach Opera** season showcasing soprano **Tiffany Townsend**. Opera is ripe with women pushed to extremes, and Alburquerque's movement amplifies Townsend's vocal exploration of arias capturing critical moments of reckoning. Altar Society, 230 Pine Ave., Long Beach; Sat., Jan. 31, 7:30 pm, Sun., Feb. 1, 4 pm, \$95-\$150. [Long Beach Opera](#).

A swan joke?

Previewing her new show, *The Legend of Crystal Shell*, comedian **Kristen Schaal** reveals a dark secret in the story as she performs *Swan Lake*. Dynasty Typewriter, 2511 Wilshire Blvd., Koreatown; Wed., Feb. 4, 7:30 pm, \$33.99. [Kristen Schaal](#).



Tanzanite African Acrobats. Photo courtesy of the artists

East African movers

Family-friendly and designed to dazzle, **Tanzanite African Acrobats** are known for human pyramids, gymnastic feats, plus vibrant East African traditional culture, costumes, and music. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Sat., Jan. 31, 1 & 5 pm, \$25-\$52. [Pepperdine](#).



Max 10. Photo courtesy of the artists

It's a ten

Ten performers, frequently including dancers, each with ten minutes to win over the audience. It's the mostly monthly, first Monday series **MAX10**. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Feb. 2, 8 pm, \$15. [MAX10](#).



Shen Yun. Photo courtesy of the artists

Cautionary return

Presenting itself as "China before communism," the touring company **Shen Yun** built its reputation on the athleticism, flexibility, and group precision of its dancers, but dodged questions about its connections with China's banned Falun Gong. More recently, the organization has faced accusations of dancer abuse and a lawsuit alleging child labor violations. In that context, the company tours local venues from now through early February. At Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1 pm, \$94.40-\$196.95. Also at Long Beach Terrace Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach; Fri., Feb. 6, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 7-8, 1 pm, \$89-\$218. [Shen Yun](#).

A Peek at Next Week (February 6-12)

BrockusRED — *JAZZ Club* Brockus Project Studios, Black Box Theater, 618 B Moulton Ave., Lincoln Heights; Sat., Feb. 7, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 8, 6 pm, \$25 (2 for \$40), note date you are buying for at Zelle: 562-412-7429, Venmo: @brockusProjectStudios, Paypal, cash at the door, [Brockus Project Studios](#).

Dancing Through Prison Walls — *Dance at the Odyssey* at Odyssey Theatre 2, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 6-7, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 8, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).

Marianna Varviani & Selcouth Dance Theatre and Efrén Olson-Sánchez & Chie Saito —

Dance at the Odyssey at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 6-7, Sun., Feb. 8, 2 pm, \$28. [Dance at the Odyssey](#).

Martha Graham Dance Company — *Graham at 100* at Musco Center for the Arts, Chapman University, 415 Glassell, Orange; Wed., Feb. 11, 7:30 pm, \$58-\$98. [Musco Center](#).



Martha Graham Dance Company. Photo by Brigid Pierce

Will Rawls — *Unmade* at Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Sat., Feb. 7 & 28, noon to 4 pm, free. [Hammer Museum](#).

World Ballet — *Cinderella* at Granada Theatre, 1214 State St, Santa Barbara; Thurs., Feb. 12, 7 pm, \$54-\$129 (w/fees). [World Ballet — Santa Barbara](#).

Lineage Dancers with Chris Pierce in Concert at Lineage Performing Arts Center, 920 E. Mountain St., Pasadena; Sat., Feb. 7, 7 pm, \$33.42, \$23.02 students/seniors. [Lineage Dancers](#).

Les Ballets Africains at Smothers Theatre, Pepperdine University, 24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu; Sun., Feb. 8, 5 pm, \$30.50-\$58. [Les Ballets Africains](#).

State Street Ballet — *Evenings* at Gail Towbes Center for Dance, 2285 Las Positas Rd., Santa Barbara; Fri-Sat., Feb. 6-7, 7:30, \$35 in advance, \$40 at door (if space allows). [State Street Ballet](#).

MashUp Contemporary Dance Open Mic at Frogtown Creative Space, 2926 Gilroy St., Elysian Valley; Sat., Feb. 7, 7:30 pm, \$15. [Mash Up — Open Mic](#).

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