

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## The Ever Changing Now

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

Downtown dance on a raft; Mother Goose goes ballet in Costa Mesa; a Philippine snake celebration in Sierra Madre; a ballet festival in Laguna Beach, contemporary dance in West LA, El Sereno, Frogtown, Palm Springs, and downtown; *Swan Lake* choreographer segues to Sondheim; plus a peek at next week.

### Live This Week

#### What are we?

The penultimate weekend of the *Dance at the Odyssey* brings the compelling **Spenser Theberge** teamed with Maxwell Transue who provides live sound composition for *Intimates*, a real-time exploration of identity and self. Odyssey Theatre, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., WLA; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 7-8, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 9, 7 pm, \$25. [Odyssey Theatre Ensemble](#).



Spenser Theberge. Photo by Jacob Jonas

#### X marks the spot

Marking its 20th anniversary, the *Laguna Dance Festival* presents another curated lineup of dancers and companies. The mainstage festival opens with two nights of the vibrant contemporary company **Ballet X** from Philadelphia (Thurs. & Fri.). **Stars of the Dance** (Sat. eve. & Sun. mat.) includes dancers from Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet and JA Collective in classical and contemporary choreography including a world premiere by festival founder/artistic director Jodie Gates in collaboration with the Laguna Beach Music Festival. Full details and ancillary events at the website. Laguna Playhouse, 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach; Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 6-8, 7:30 pm, Sun., Feb. 9, 2 pm, \$75, \$25 student. [Laguna Dance Festival](#).



Ballet X. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Set adrift

In the West Coast premiere of *Weathering*, choreographer **Faye Driscoll** sets her dancers adrift on a raft, surrounded by the audience, to explore how large events impact individual bodies. The New York Times review found “the performers seem like the last holdouts of a civilization clinging to survival.” The media release cautions there is nudity and loud sounds. REDCAT, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 6-8, 8:30 pm, \$27, \$22 student. [REDCAT](#).



Faye Driscoll. Photo by Maria Baranova

## Alice Coltrane meets Mother Goose

A retelling of *Ma mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose) pairs with a tribute to jazz great Alice Coltrane in this visit from **Alonzo King LINES Ballet**. The dancers embody the movement and they traverse King's choreography which makes the getting to a position as fascinating as the destination. As of this writing, the show is nearly sold out. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Fri., Feb. 7, 7:30 pm, \$44.07-\$134.47 [SCFTA](#).



Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Photo by R J Muna

## The whole truth

Presented by **Heidi Duckler Dance**, the ongoing salon series *Truth or Consequences* opens 2025 with dancer/choreographer Jasmine Albuquerque curating *Close to the Ground*. The evening

includes dancers Maija Knapp and B Gosse, along with poet Nandi Zulu. The Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Ave., Suite 1100B, LA Arts District; Sat., Feb. 15, 6 pm, \$40 presale, \$50 at door. [Heidi Duckler](#).



Maija Knapp. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Dance to party

This dance performance and dance party from **Co-Show9** has a line up that includes Andersmith, Cayla Mae Simpson, David Rue & Tatiana Marie, Jen Lacy w/ Cacia LaCount, Jesse Smith, Jordan Saenz, Maya Tacon & Emma Lawes, Montay Romero, plus music by Calico. Pink Box Studio, 966 E. Pico Blvd., downtown Fashion District, Fri., Feb. 7, 8 & 10 pm, \$20-\$52. [Tickets](#).

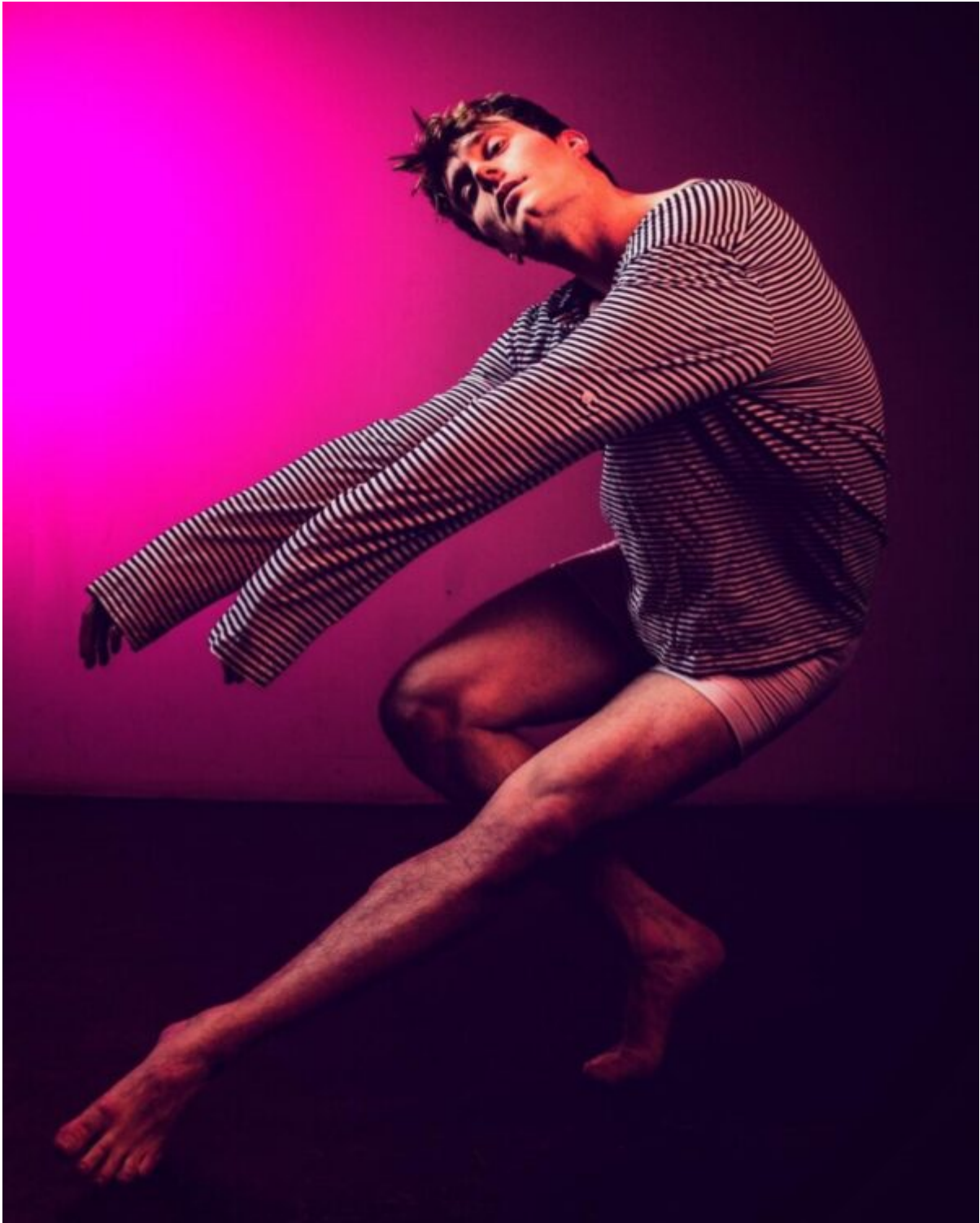


Cayla Mae Simpson. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Locavore dance

A pre-show cocktail hour and a post-performance Q&A are part of **An Evening of Dance** showcasing new work by LA-based dancemakers. Announced participants include Isabella Halek, Megan Goldstein, Nathan Madden, and Renee Donovan. Stomping Ground LA, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 7-8, 6 pm, \$20. [Eventbrite](#).





Nathan Madden. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Eight with ten

Eight choreographers offer a ten minute glimpse at their newest work as **MashUp Contemporary Dance Company** hosts its first *Choreography Open Mic Night* of 2025. The series continues to showcase choreographers and give audiences an first look of new dance. Frogtown Studio, 2926 Gilroy St., Elysian Valley; Sat., Feb. 8, 7 pm, \$15. [MashUp](#).



MashUp Contemporary Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

## The year of the snake

The dancers of **Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts** welcome the Year of the Snake with *Pagdiriwang – A Celebration of Philippine Culture*. The family-friendly show is the company's first of two performances this season at this new venue for dance. Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; Sat., Feb. 8, 11 am, \$12. [Sierra Madre Playhouse](#).



Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Desert doings

Part performance showcase, part fundraiser, **Palm Springs Dance Project** brings performers to the stage for an afternoon of demonstration and dance. In Movement, 38905 Monterey Ave., Rancho Mirage; Sat., Feb. 8, 4 pm, \$20, \$10 children. [In Movement](#).



Palm Springs Dance Project. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Sondheim and Bourne, 'nuf said

Headlined by Bernadette Peters, Lea Solonga and the cream of British musical theater stars, *Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends* makes its U.S. debut here before heading to Broadway. Shortly after Sondheim's death, director/choreographer **Matthew Bourne** and producer Cameron MacKintosh gathered a stellar cast of close friends and associates of the late composer/lyricist as one-night only tribute. But once was not enough, and with almost all of the original cast intact, the show returned in 2024 for a wildly successful extended run. Bourne's long relationship with Center Theater Group may have helped nab the show, again with its cast of Sondheim stars, for this U.S. opening ahead of a Broadway run. Music Center, Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., Feb. 8, – Sun., March 9, official opening Thurs., Feb. 13, then Tues.-Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 2 & 8 pm, Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm, \$25 – \$195.50. [Center Theatre Group](#).





Bernadette Peters, Lea Salonga and cast of “Old Friends.” Photo by Danny Kaan

### ***A Peek at Next Week***

**Batsheva Dance Company** — *Momo* at Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 14-15, 7:30 pm, Sun., Feb. 16, 2 pm, \$49-\$163. [Music Center](#).

**Twyla Tharp** — *Diamond Jubilee* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm & Sun., Feb. 16, 1 pm, \$44.07 – \$134.47. [SCFTA](#). Also at Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Feb. 22, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 23, 3 pm, \$47-\$128. [The Soraya](#).

**Heidi Duckler Dance** — *Truth or Consequences: Close to the Ground* at The Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Ave., Suite 1100B, LA Arts District; Sat., Feb. 15, 6 pm, \$40 presale, \$50 at door. [Heidi Duckler](#).

**Shamel Pitts | TRIBE** — *BLACK HOLE- Trilogy and Triathlon* at UCLA Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater, Kaufman Hall, 120 Westwood Plaza, Westwood; Sat., Feb. 15, 8 pm, \$38.08. [Shamel Pitts' BLACK HOLE – Trilogy And Triathlon | CAP UCLA](#).



Laurie Sefton Creates. Photo by Skye Schmidt Varga

**Laurie Sefton Creates** at LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., LA Arts District; Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 20-22, 8 pm, \$35 presale, \$40 at door. [Tickets](#).

**Cirque Kalabanté** — *Afrique en Cirque* at Cal State University LA, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 5151 State University Dr., East LA; Sun., Feb. 16, 6 pm, \$25-\$65. [Luckman Fine Arts Complex](#).

**Clay Collective** — *Dance at the Odyssey* at Odyssey Theatre, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., WLA; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 14-15, 8 pm, Sun., Feb. 16, 2 pm, \$25. [Odyssey Theatre](#).

This entry was posted on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at 7:46 pm and is filed under [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Performing](#)

You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.