

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Tolerable Heat

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, September 10th, 2025

Tony-Award nominee and friends dance into downtown; ballet in the Hollywood Hills and Irvine; contemporary confabs at USC, downtown, Santa Monica, Cheviot Hills, El Sereno, and Costa Mesa; light explorations in the Downtown Arts District; a dancing musical moves to Costa Mesa, more dance this week, and a peek at next week.

Live This Week

Share the Joy

Nominated five times for her Tony Award worthy Broadway choreography (most recently for *Gypsy*), she also has her own eponymous company **Camille A. Brown & Dancers**. Brown opens the 2025-2026 Music Center Dance Series with *I Am*, the final piece in a trilogy. After the February premiere, New York Times reviewer Siobhan Burke described *I Am* as “sweeping the audience into its flow for a joyous 65 minutes.” Music Center, Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown; Fri.-Sat., Sept. 12-13, 7:30 pm, Sun., Sept. 14, 2 pm, \$33-\$98. [Music Center](#).



Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Photo by Becca Oviatt

Ballet both ways

For those who opine that SoCal is devoid of professional ballet, limited to exporting its best ballet talent to New York companies, the 2025 **SoCal Ballet Festival** begs to differ. Once again, the festival is a chance to sample the region's professional ballet organizations and free-lance dancers as adept with classical repertoire as with contemporary movement. The classical component of the program includes excerpts from *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, plus *Act I* of *Le Corsaire* along with its demanding *Pas de Trois*. The contemporary contributions include a tango from José Costas, a pas de trois from Anaheim Ballet, a duet inspired by the film *La La Land* from Hollywood Ballet, a new work by Chasen Greenwood and his Realm Company, and dance from Ballet Project OC. SoCal ballet companies may be chamber-sized, but their growth in recent years is aided by the centralized presentation and shared audience exposure this festival provides. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Sat., Sept. 13, 2 & 7 pm, \$46-\$91. [SoCal Ballet Festival](#).



SoCal Ballet Festival. Photo by Steve Shea

Bowl dancing

Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev set Shakespeare's star-crossed teens to music in very different ways, and the LA Phil brings both with help from New York's **Dance Theatre of Harlem**. The evening has Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet Ballet Suite* bookending *Symphony No. 1* from prolific African American composer Adolphus Hailstork. The LA Phil is on its own with Tchaikovsky, but the exquisite DTH dancers take the stage for the Hailstork and the Prokofiev suite with artistic director Robert Garland choreographing both. Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood; Thurs., Sept. 11, 8 pm, \$13-\$157. [Hollywood Bowl](#).



Dance Theatre of Harlem. Photo by Rachel Neville

Triple whammy

For 20 years **Visions and Voices** has presented performances at USC, and this is also the ten year anniversary of the USC Kaufman School of Dance. Visions and Voices acknowledges both milestones with a triple bill of LA-based dance companies with ties to USC. **JA Collective**, Jordan Johnson and Aidan Carberry, are alums of the 2019 inaugural class at USC Kaufman Dance who have drawn national attention for how they “take the finite combination of four limbs each and weave it into thousands of beautiful, complicated connections.” The event is organized by [Ana María Alvarez](#), artistic director of **CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater**. The third participant is LA’s preeminent street dance company **Versa-Style Dance Company**, a frequent USC visitor. Each company alone is worth a visit. All three together is quite an anniversary gift. USC Bovard Auditorium, 3551 Trousdale Parkway, University Park; Thurs., Sept. 18, 7 pm, free w/reservation at [USC Decades of Dance](#).



CONTRA-TIEMPO. Photo courtesy of the artists

Into the light

The June premiere of *A/VOID* was forced to change the original venue when a downtown curfew followed provocative immigration arrest tactics that triggered protests and chaos. Fortunately, the premiere went forward and now, choreographer **Comfort Fedoke** and creative movement director **Zoe Rappaport** return with their dancers and light installation for another view of what reviewer Rachel Turner called “an immersive, healing experience featuring unique sounds, raw emotions from dancers and audience alike, and fluid dancing.” Chromasonic Field, 677 Imperial St., Downtown Arts District; Thurs., Sept. 11, 7 & 8:30 pm, Fri., Sept. 12, 8 pm also after party, \$45-\$65. [Chromasonic Field](#).



Zoe Rappaport. Photo by Elena Kulikova

Shapings

A group of crows is a murder, but the far more seductive sounding *Murmerations* is a gathering of starlings and also can describe a collection of low, continuous sounds. It is also the title of the latest from creator, composer, performer and choreographer **Sharon Chohi Kim** who shares choreography credit with **Stephanie Zalatel**. The dancemakers promise a “meditation on shape-shifting and collective intelligence” with help from performers Sara Sinclair Gomez, Molly Pease, and Kathryn Shuman. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., Downtown; Fri., Sept. 12, 8 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [REDCAT](#).



“Mummerations.” Photo by Elon Schoenholz

Body images

Six choreographer/dancers—**Renée Donovan, Bella Halek, Lydia McDonald, Steph Mizrahi, Elsie Neilson, and Ariel Scott**—explore a range of relationships with one’s body in *Dear Body, Love Me*. For a preview, the show’s Instagram page [@dearbody.loveme](#) has more details and rehearsal footage. Stomping Ground, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Fri.-Sat., Sept. 12-13, 7 pm, \$28.52 (w/fees) [Eventbrite](#).



Backhausdance. Photo by Kira Bartoli

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

For this year's Costa Mesa ARTVenture Community Arts Day, OC contemporary company **Backhausdance** presents *Dance for Kindness*. Choreographer/artistic director Jennifer Backhaus and her dancers promise to involve the audience exploring themes of kindness, human connection, anti-bullying, empathy and respect. Outdoor Stage, Lions Park Event Lawn, 1846 Park Ave., Costa Mesa; Sat., Sept. 13, 2:15 pm, free. [Backhausdance](#).

Autumn festivities

This venue's latest family-friendly event presents **Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Company** in *Hangawi* (Autumn Festival) in Korea. Pre-concert activities include art making and other activities. Comfortable shoes, hats and sunscreen are advised. The Ford Theatre, 2850 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood; Sun., Sept. 14, 10 am (pre-concert activities), 11:30 am (performance), \$13. [The Ford](#).



Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Academy. Photo courtesy of the artists

In the mind

A public performance event concludes a week of workshops exploring Afro-diasporic and street dance under the banner *=The Remembrance: Decolonizing Minds, Bodies and Spirits*. **Aminah Jackson, Shantel Ureña,** and **G'bari Gilliam** oversee the final event produced by Kaya Taino Morales. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Sat., Sept. 13, 7 pm, \$24. [The Remembrance](#).

Dancing the culture

The annual *Heartbeat of Mexico* celebration of Mexican and Mexican-American culture features a mix of dance and mariachi groups on two stages. Announced dance includes folkloric groups **Relámpago del Cielo**, and **Técnica Arte y Folklórico**, along with danza Atzeca group **Xipe Totec**. Musco Center for the Arts, Chapman University, 415 N. Glassell, Orange; Sun., Sept. 14, noon, free w/reservation at [Heartbeat of Mexico](#).



Benise and dancer. Photo courtesy of the artists

Diverse Dancing

Known for his prowess on the guitar, **Benise** is also known as a consummate showman, with dancers playing a central role as he plays music ranging from Spanish flamenco to salsa, samba to the waltz. A frequent SoCal visitor, this tour's banner is *25 Years of Passion* at three SoCal venues. Fox Performing Arts Center, 3801 Mission Ave., Riverside; Sat., Sept. 13, 7:30 pm, \$57-\$123. [Tickets](#). Also at Lobero Theatre, Santa Barbara; Fri., Oct. 10, 7:30 pm, \$46.50-\$102.50. [Lobero](#). Also at Fred Kavli Theatre, Bank of America Performing Arts Center, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Sat., Oct. 11, 7:30 pm, \$33-\$113. [Ticketmaster](#).

Taking form

The public performance component of **Invertigo Dance Company's Dancing Through Parkinsons** program brings its dancers to the stage in *A Form to Return*. Glorja Kaufman Performing Arts Center, 3200 Motor Ave., Cheviot Hills; Sat., Sept. 13, 7 pm, Sun., Sept. 14, 2 pm. \$25 [Tickets](#).



& Juliet. Photo by Matthew Murphy

New chance for “What if?”

Exploring what would have happened if, after finding Romeo dead, she had decided not to die with him, the Tony-nominated **& Juliet** opens in Costa Mesa for several more weeks. Preview clips at the venue website capture the rock concert feel of Jennifer Weber’s choreography, but not the wry humor threaded through the Max Martin songbook. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Sept. 9-21, Tues.-Fri., 7:30 pm, Sat., 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm, \$54-\$184. [SCFTA](#).

A Peek at Next Week (Sept. 19-25)

TWIG Group — *Dust Dance* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Fri.-Sat., Sept. 19-20, 8 pm, \$25. [Highways](#).

Flower of the Season — *Sky* at Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri.-Sat., Sept. 19-20, 8 pm, Sun., Sept. 21, 3 pm, \$20. [Eventbrite](#).

Limón Dance Company at Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., Sept. 25, 8 pm, \$34-\$140. [The Barclay](#).



Limón Dance Company. Photo by Drew Leon

HMG The Company — *Continuum* at The Alex Theater, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Fri., Sept. 19, 7 pm, \$29-\$79. [The Alex Theater](#).

San Pedro Festival of the Arts at Peck Park (upper lawn next to the Community Center), 560 N. Western Ave., San Pedro; Sat., Sept. 20, 1-4:15 pm, free. [San Pedro Festival of the Arts](#).

Nora Chipaumire — *Dambudzo* at REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd. St., Downtown; Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 25-27, 8 pm, \$27, \$22 students. [REDCAT](#).

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