Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Turkey Trot

Ann Haskins · Friday, November 27th, 2026

Thanksgiving draws attention away from performances, yet new choreography from big names unveiled in Downtown LA, folkloric dance tours Mexico in Long Beach, and Black Friday vies with a downtown tree lighting dance and the start of *Nutcracker* season, more SoCal dance this week and News of Note.

Live Performance This Week (ending December 3)

No visa required

Drawing on dance and music from Mexico's many diverse regions, **Pacífico Dance Company** offers *Mujeres de Mexico: Stories in Motion*, a tour of regional dances from across Mexico. For more than 30 years, the company has preserved and reimagined traditional Mexican dance; it definitely knows the folklorico territory. At Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Fri., Dec. 4, 8 pm, $15 (includes fees). Pacifico Dance Company.



Pacifico Dance Company. Photo by Gennia Cui.

Best of all possible worlds

The star power presence of Patty Lupone and Scott Bakula may fuel public attention to **LA Opera**'s production of *Candide*, but the dozen dancers who articulate Leonard Bernstein's opera are in the hands of choreographer and associate director **Eric Sean Fogel**. At the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA: Wed., Dec 2, Sun., Dec. 5, & Thurs., Dec. 10, 7:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 29, Sat., Dec. 5, & Sun. Dec. 13, 2 pm, $25.50-$308. LA Opera-Candide.



LA Opera's "Candide." Photo by Ken Howard.

They teach and create

Complexions Contemporary Ballet founder/artistic director Dwight Rhoden, Versa Style Street Dance Company co-founders/artistic directors Jackie "Miss Funk" Lopez and Leigh "Breeze Lee" Foad, Broadways' Al Blackstone, and Sydney Dance Company artistic director Rafael Bonachela, are all current artists-in-residence at **USC Kaufman School of Dance** They join faculty members Bret Easterling, Shannon J. Grayson and Sara Silkin providing choreography for dancers from the school in *Restaging Masterworks.* At USC Bing Theatre, 3400 Watt Way, University Park; Thurs., Dec. 3, 7:30 pm, Fri., Dec. 4, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 5, 2 pm, free w/reservation at Kaufman Dance.



USC Kaufman Dance. Photo by Hannah Doerr.

Dancing around the Christmas tree

Among the performers at this year's *Grand Performances Tree Lighting Ceremony*, look for the **Debbie Allen Dance Academy**. The free, family friendly event includes a holiday market and DJ sets to start the holiday season. At Grand Performances, 350 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Thurs., Dec. 3, 5:30 pm, free. Grand Performances.

A Peek at Next Week (December 4-10)

Mariachi Los Camperos'and dancers — *Fiesta Navidad* at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Wed., Dec. 9, 8 pm, $39-$119. Fiesta Navidad.

JA Collective — *Why My Dad Left the Light On* at 2245, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Downtown LA Arts District; Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 10-11, 8 pm, $35. JA Collective.

CalArts Winter Dance at REDCAT, 631 W. 2nd St., Downtown LA; Fri.-Sat.,Dec. 4-5, 8 pm, (Sat. show also streamed), $20+$2 fee. CalArts Winter Dance.

Heidi Duckler Dance — *Cry Wolf* at Beaches Tropicana, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood; Fri., Dec. 4, 8 pm, $20-$50. Heidi Duckler Dance.

Fierra Ex Machina with Zola Jesus — *Rite of the Oracle* at the United Theater on Broadway, 929 S. Broadway, Downtown LA; Sat., Dec. 5, 7 pm, $36.99-$81.39. Fierra Ex Machina.

Max 10 at the Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Dec. 7, 7:30 pm, $10. Max 10.

And this week's Nutcrackers!

American Contemporary Ballet — *Nutcracker Suite* at the Bank of America Plaza, 333 S. Hope St., Suite C-150, downtown; Sat.-Sun, Nov. 28-29, Dec., 5-6, 12-13, & 19-20, 2 & 5 pm, Thurs.-Fri., Dec. 3-4, 10-11, & 17-18, 8 pm, Wed., Dec. 23, 8 pm, Thurs., Dec. 24, 1 pm, 85-125. American Contemporary Ballet.

Westside Ballet With Tyler Peck, Roman Mejia, and the Santa Monica College Symphony at the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Fri., Nov. 27, 7 pm, Sat.-Sun., Nov. 28-29, 1 & 5 pm, $66.50-$196.50 (includes fees). Also Thurs-Fri., Dec. 3-4, 7 pm, Sat.-Sun., Dec. 5-6, 1 & 5 pm (no orchestra), $66.50 (includes fees). Westside Ballet.

Anaheim Ballet at The Grove of Anaheim, 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim; Fri, Nov. 28, 7 pm, Sat., Nov. 29, 2 & 7 pm, $38.35-$83.10. Anaheim Ballet.

Protégé Performing Arts at Scherr Family Forum, Bank of America Performing Arts Center, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Sat., Nov. 28,1 & 6 pm, Sun., Nov. 29, 2 pm, $54.50. Protege Performing Arts.

Bob Baker's Marionette Theatre at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre; opens Sat., Nov. 28,10:30 am, 1:30 & 4:30 pm, then Tues.-Sun., multiple shows each day (check the website for times), thru Sat., Jan. 20, 2027, $25. Bob Baker's Marionette Theatre.

Dance News of Note

Cancelled! The **Forever Tango** performance scheduled for Sun., Dec. 6 at Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Cal State University Long Beach has been cancelled. Forever Tango.

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