Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Yes Virginia, Real Men Do Wear Pointe Shoes

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, January 26th, 2022

Australians tackle Stravinsky in Irvine and Santa Monica, a contemporary German goes solo in West LA, the original drag ballet company leaps into Long Beach, tappers hit the hills of Hollywood and Malibu, plus a peek at a busy next week and Covid updates.

Live Dance

(Note: as of press time, these events are live, but as Omicron does its thing, theaters are pivoting, postponing, and cancelling in response. Check with the venue for the latest)

Encore/preview

In June, this venue hosts the official *Dance at the Odyssey* festival. This weekend, the venue offers a preview performance, Covid-postponed from earlier in January. Berlin-based **Shade Théret** made a strong impression in the 2019 edition of the dance fest. She brings her latest, *Throwaway Line* to the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Sat., Jan. 29, 8 pm, $15-$20. Info, tickets, & Covid protocols at Odyssey Theatre.

Shade Théret. Photo courtesy of the Odyssey Theater.

Never a drag

Over the past few years, the growing number of male ballet dancers training and performing in pointe shoes has drawn increased attention. This week, **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, the original breakthrough ensemble of men in pointe shoes arrives to show why they have flourished for close to 50 years. While the men on pointe today often are tackling classical ballets seriously, the Trocks, as they are affectionately known, broke down barriers as drag performers skewing popular classical ballets. Brilliantly comic, the dancers donned tutus, pointe shoes, and sly stage names like (please say aloud for full effect) Mikhail Mypansarov, Nina Enimenimynimova, Helen Highwaters, Colette Adae and Tatiana Youbetyabootskya that put the audience on notice that fun will be had. The choreographed prat falls and other hysterical mishaps work in large part because the Trocks are fabulously well-trained ballet dancers who also are fabulously funny. At Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Cal State University, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach, Sat., Jan. 29, 8pm, Sun., Jan. 30, 2pm, $55. Info, tickets & Covid protocols at Carpenter Performing Arts Center & Tix.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. Photo by Sascha Vaughan

Everything sacred

Ever since its 1913 ballet premiere provoked a riot, Igor Stravinsky's *Sacra du Printemps* has been grist for ballet and contemporary choreographers. Australia's **Circa Contemporary Circus** claims its *Sacra* is the first time the masterwork has gone "cirque." Under the artistic direction of Yaron Lifschitz, the ten dancer/acrobats incorporate new music from Phillipe Bachman to augment the Stravinsky score. At the Irvine Barclay, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Wed.-Thurs., Feb. 2-3, 8pm, $30-$130. Irvine Barclay, OvationTix. Also at The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-

Sat., Feb. 4-5, 7:30pm, $45-$65. The Broad Stage.

Circa Contemporary Circus. Photo by David Kelly

Still kicking

Triple threat **Maybin Hewes** dancer (tap), singer, and comedienne takes the stage in *This Joint Is Jumpin'*. The 91 year old announced this will be her final "big" show. At Theatre West, 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Hollywood; Sat., Jan 29, 7pm, Sun., Jan. 30, 2pm, $35. (323) 851-7977.

Maybin Hughes. Photo courtesy of the artist

When the feet meet the beat

A tap dancer with quicksilver feet (Aaron Williams) and a juggling beatbox virtuoso (Bronkar Lee)

join forces in **Collision of Rhythm** at Pepperdine University, Smothers Theatre, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Sun., Jan. 30, 3pm, $20-$40. Info, tickets & Covid protocols at Pepperdine University.

Collision of Rhythm. Photo courtesy of the artists

Not entirely drummed out

All is not lost for fans of the touring Taiko ensemble **Yamato—the Drummers of Japan.** Last week's scheduled performance in Northridge was cancelled (along with all January shows at that venue). Still the tour continues, with another SoCal show that is going ahead as scheduled at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Fri., Feb. 4, 8pm, $50-$70. Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

Yamato-the Drummers of Japan. Photo courtesy of the artists.

A Peek at Next Week

(Note: Details, tickets, & Covid protocols at websites)

- **A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham** in *An Untitled Love* at at Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Cal State University 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach, Sat., Feb. 5, 8pm, $45. Tix.

A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham. Photo courtesy of the artists

- **Max 10** at the Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Feb. 7, 7:30pm, $10. Electric Lodge.
- **High Voltage** at the Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., Feb. 4, 8pm, $10. Eventbrite.

- **Doug Varone & Dancers** at USC, Glorya Kaufman International Dance Center, 849 W. 34th St., downtown; Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 10-11, 7:30pm, Sat., Feb. 12, 2:30 & 7:30 pm, free w/reservations. Eventbrite.

Doug Varone & Dancers. Photo courtesy of the artists

- **Lineage Dance** in *Curiosity Tales* at Lineage, 920 E. Mountain St., Glendale; Sat., Feb. 6 & 13, March 6 & 13, 4 p.m., $40, $20 students & seniors. Lineage Dance.
- **Loyola Marymount Dance Program** in *Impulse—A Student Directed Dance Concert* at Loyola Marymount Drollinger Family Stage in Lawton Plaza, Loyola University Dr., Westchester; Sat.-Sun., Feb. 5-6, 3pm, free with reservation. Eventbrite.
- **Esencia Flamenco Dance Company** at Warner Grand Theatre, 478 W. 6th St., San Pedro; Sun., Feb. 6, 2pm, $25-$50. Warner Grand.

Covid Updates

Award winner Covid-cancelled

Award-winning dancer/choreographer Faye Driscoll and her latest *Thank You for Coming: Space*, scheduled for REDCAT, Fri.-Sun., Feb.4-6, has been postponed. New dates to be announced. REDCAT.

US premiere Covid-cancelled

The U.S. premiere of **Aakash Odedra Company** with Hu Shenyuan in *Samsara*, scheduled for The Broad Stage on Thurs. & Sun., Feb. 10 & 13, was cancelled due to increased travel restrictions. Info at The Broad Stage.

Dance Camera West. Photo courtesy of the artists.

A festival postponed, but still coming in March

As the Covid public health emergency shuttered theaters for live performance over the past two years, the world of dance film, video and streamed performances has flourished. Long before Covid, filmed dance was the specialty of LA-based **Dance Camera West,** recognized as one of the premiere dance film showcases. DCW's 20th anniversary edition was to earlier this month with more than 75 films lined up for a dozen programs at two venues. Out of caution and safety concerns with the current surge in Covid cases, DCW postponed the festival to late March. Stay tuned or find details on the new schedule at Dance Camera West.

This entry was posted on Wednesday, January 26th, 2022 at 6:28 am and is filed under Music, Dance, Performing
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