

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Producer Mike Fleiss' Projects: Then and Now

Our Friends · Thursday, April 18th, 2024

From writer to rocker, Mike Fleiss is a true Renaissance man who's done a bit of everything. While he spent his boyhood days devouring as much television as possible, he **started his career** with a reporter's notebook in hand. That's right, the Hollywood producer initially had a ball as a sports writer, starting in college at *The Daily Californian*, the student newspaper at the University of California, Berkeley.

"My life goal for the longest time, my dream, dream of unattainable dreams, the impossible dream, was to write for Portland's *The Oregonian* and cover the Trailblazers [basketball team]," he reveals. "That was my goal. That's all I ever wanted, and I never got there. I worked [in California] for papers in Sacramento and Oakland and Santa Rosa, but I never got to *The Oregonian*."

When Fleiss sensed the writing on the wall of a newspaper industry in decline, he left the sector for the more promising glow of television production. The move turned out to be a life-changing one.

Mike Fleiss' many hours spent in front of the TV taking in episodes of *Family*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, and Aaron Spelling's empire of legendary shows would soon pay off.

After scoring a job on *Totally Hidden Video*, the ambitious content creator met Stephen Chao, then the president of Fox Television. Immediately impressed with Fleiss' seemingly infinite arsenal of show ideas, Chao gave him the green light to make his own show, *Before They Were Stars*. The program spotlighted commercial clips featuring celebrities before they were bona fide headliners.

**Fleiss went on to produce** a variety of popular reality-based projects. He showed a willingness to experiment, pushing the boundaries of the genre with shows like *High School Reunion* and *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?*

And he has had a fascinating film career too, starting with his production of 2003's *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, a remake of the 1974 classic. He successfully remade *The Poseidon Adventure* in 2006 with *Poseidon*, and went on to make the 3D thriller *Shark Night* in 2011.

The adventurous producer then took a deep dive into documentaries with 2011's *God Bless Ozzy Osbourne* and 2014's *The Other One: The Long, Strange Trip of Bob Weir*.

In keeping with his love for rock 'n' roll, Fleiss, who famously jammed with Eddie Van Halen and became buddies with The Grateful Dead's Bob Weir, is heading out on the road with his pal Pat Mayer to perform in a Grateful Dead-Neil Young tribute band called Grateful Young.

“That’s going to be fun,” says [Mike Fleiss](#), who not only has a lifelong appreciation for the Grateful Dead’s music, but also has a room in his home dedicated to memorabilia from the iconic jam band.

Fleiss explains that he and Mayer will be splitting lead and rhythm guitar duties.

“We’re just going to play Grateful Dead and Young covers,” Fleiss shares. “I played in bands with [Mayer] since the ’80s. We’re going to go on a little tour in the spring from Santa Barbara [California] up to Portland.”

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## The Money Did It

Ann Haskins · Thursday, April 18th, 2024

She was the most desirable courtesan in Paris, died at age 23, and became immortal.

In the mid-19th century, Marie Duplessis was considered the most beautiful, most fashionable, and most sought after courtesan of the French demi-monde. Her lovers and patrons included the composer/pianist Franz Liszt and the writer Alexandre Dumas, the younger, who took Duplessis’ signature accessory, a camellia flower, for the title to his *La Dame aux Camélias* (*Lady of the Camillas*), recounting their 11-month romance. The success of that 1848 *roman à clef* was followed by Dumas’ 1852 hit play. One night, Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi was in the audience. A year later, Verdi’s opera *La Traviata* (*The Fallen Woman*) premiered in Italy.

In *La Traviata*, Marie Duplessis became a heart-rending Violetta Valéry, a blend of intoxicating gaiety, deep passion, self-sacrifice, and redemption. Verdi opened an international audience to her story in what has become one of the most beloved and popular operas of all times. It has also become vulnerable to that dreaded term “warhorse.”



LA Opera's "La Traviata." Photo by Cory Weaver

Fear not! *La Traviata* again proves its vitality as the **LA Opera** brings a revived Violetta, her lover Alfred, all their complications, and all of those gorgeous arias and music in a new production directed by Shawna Lucey and choreographed by John Heginbotham.

After its San Francisco Opera premiere in November 2022, Michael Milenski sang its praises in Opera Today: "Wondrous things do still happen at San Francisco Opera. Like the *La Traviata* last night." James Ambroff-Tahan in the San Francisco Examiner found the production successfully underscored "the intersectionality of money and sex in Duplessis' life and Violetta's story is what makes "La Traviata" so compelling."

Reviews singled out the choreography in the celebrated third act, a vibrant, hedonistic party, as aiding in underscoring the director's emphasis of the power disparity at the party where the courtesans are displaying their wares, in essence themselves, for potential 'protectors' among the rich, aristocrat men in the sexual and financial marketplace underpinning that party. Particularly eye-catching are the dancers, whose costume divides down the middle. Turning one way, the costume is a vibrant pink bodice and skirt and turning the other, that half is a black tuxedo and top hat.



LA Opera. Photo by Cory Weaver

Just before the opening at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion stage, the choreographer John Heginbotham took time from rehearsals to answer questions from Cultural Daily writer Ann Haskins.

**CD:** How did you become involved in the original production in San Francisco? What attracted you to the project?

**Heginbotham:** I became involved when the brilliant director of *La Traviata*, Shawna Lucey, invited me to join the team. Shawna and I met while working on Peter Sellars' and John Adams' production of *Girls of the Golden West* for San Francisco Opera. Shawna was an Assistant Director and I was the choreographer for that beautiful opera. We became friends and recognized we had artistic synchronicity. I'm truly and forever grateful to Shawna for inviting me to be a part of her extraordinary *La Traviata*. Beyond our aesthetic connection, I was attracted to Shawna's strong, elegant concept for this production; the protagonist, Violetta, faced with immense challenges, approaches her fate with reason, power, and a degree of agency not always experienced in this opera.

**CD:** Does dance in this production play a different role than it traditionally does in *La Traviata*?

**Heginbotham:** Yes — "*Di Madride noi siamo mattadori*" can sometimes appear as a divertissement in the opera, but in Shawna's vision, this dance is an opportunity to tell the real tale of the scene: we're at a party in which women are interacting with men for money. The dancers tell the truth of this transactional story. The choreographic purpose is to expose the party-goers' actions through entertainment. It has glamour and levity, but there is some weight and darkness at the core.

**CD:** Reviews of the San Francisco production talk about the dual male/female costumes on the dancers. How did the male/female costumes affect your choreography for that section of the opera.



**Heginbotham:** The beautiful concept was realized through the collaboration of Shawna and the excellent costume and set designer Robert Innes Hopkins. The costumes allow us to subvert the scene. The dance takes place at a party in which men pay for intimacy with women. The blurring — or exposing — of these power roles is expressed during the party’s floor show. This sets us up for an important moment later in which Violetta’s love, Alfredo, baldly tears off the party’s facade and reveals the intentions of the party attendees.



LA Opera. Photo by Cory Weaver

**CD:** Some of the reviews of the San Francisco production also refer to a “tutu and whipping dog number.” What is that?

**Heginbotham:** This is a wonderful moment in which two lovers, Flora and the Marquis D’Obigny, express their specific agreement. This may be a transactional relationship, but there is also benevolence here. They seem to be kind with each other throughout their fetishistic understanding.

**CD:** Your biography includes a range of projects from your own company to television to puppets and your freelance work. Do you approach choreography for an opera differently than your other projects?

**Heginbotham:** Thank you for this great question. I knew I wanted to choreograph at age 11 when I made a solo at my Anchorage, Alaska dance school recital, set to *Le Jazz Hot* from the film *Victor/Victoria*. Ever since, I’ve wanted to somehow be involved in a lot of dance designing situations- ballet, modern concert dance, theater, opera, film and tv. Lately I’ve been exploring virtual and augmented realities. The uniform approach in every situation is to try to make the best dance possible for its specific context. For opera, theater, and screen work, it is my job to try to make choreography which will support and lift the existing story in the script or libretto, and to collaborate with the director on their vision of what is intended to happen.



John Heginbotham. Photo by Janelle Jones

**CD:** Did your work for *La Traviata* also involve movement for the chorus and soloists?

**Heginbotham:** Thankfully yes – and in collaboration with Shawna – I really enjoyed working with both the SFO chorus and the LA Opera chorus – they are fabulous!

**CD:** How many dancers are involved. Where are the dancers from?

**Heginbotham:** We have five corps dancers Isabella Caso, Katherine Cowgirl, Courtney Goffney, Maxwell Simoes, and Nicholas Sipes, plus two swings Alec Lloyd and Liv Mal. They are all fantastic!

**Los Angeles Opera — *La Traviata* Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., April 14 & 21, Thurs., April 18, Wed., April 24, Sat., April 27, \$39-\$399. [LA Opera](#).**

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## Legacy Tour

Ann Haskins · Thursday, April 18th, 2024

Contemporary ballets in West Adams, San Pedro, and Thousand Oaks; a story ballet in Irvine; a 40th anniversary tour's only California stop is Westwood, different-abled dance in Beverly Hills, Japanese dance in Torrance, whacked dance in Santa Monica; modern dance in Culver City, more So Cal dance this week, and a peek at next week.

### *Live This Week*

#### Bringing past present

With an impressive 40 year history of contemporary dance rooted in and celebrating the Civil Rights movement, the power of ancestral wisdom, and the place of women in dance and the world, **Urban Bush Women** makes its only California stop on its current U.S. tour. With a program titled *Legacy + Lineage + Liberation*, artistic directors Chanon Judson and Mame Diarra Spies continue the legacy of founder/choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Ct., Westwood; Fri., April 19, 8 pm, \$39-\$59. [CAP UCLA](#).





Urban Bush Women. Photo by Hayim Heron

## Synergies

With a cadre of impressive ballet dancers, choreographer/dancer Chasen Greenwood's **REALM Company** continues to expand its claim to space in the growing ranks of LA-based chamber ballet companies. In *Synergetic Pt. 1*, Greenwood is joined by some impressive friends including Jock Soto, the former New York City Ballet principal dancer who has emerged as a choreographer and composer Taylor Briggs who provides an original soundtrack for the new work. Guest performer L?ya Graham from DADA Conservatory is also on the program. The dancing is followed by a champagne reception with the artists. The Rhymes Performing Arts Center, 1850 S. Manhattan Pl., West Adams; Sat., April 20, 6 pm, \$50-\$160. [Tickets](#).



The Realm Company. Photo courtesy of the artists



## Dancing in daylight

The contemporary ballet company **Kenneth Walker Dance Project** follows up a site specific performance at Glendale's Brand Library with a showing of new works and repertoire favorites in this afternoon concert. Alvas Showroom, 1417 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., San Pedro; Sun., April 21, 3 pm, \$18. [Alvas Showroom](#).



Kenneth Walker Dance Project. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Toes on tour

Similar to a minor league baseball team that feeds into a major league team, the **ABT Studio Company** gives promising dancers the performance and touring experience required to move into the ranks of American Ballet Theatre. The studio company also gives audiences outside the big cities a sample of the classical and contemporary ballet the senior company is known for. Bank of America Performing Arts Center, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Sun., April 21, 7:00 pm, \$35-\$65. [B of A PAC](#).



ABT Studio Company. Photo by Erin Baiano

## It's all dance

Recognized as a major example of how disability-integrated dance is just dance, **AXIS Dance Company** offers a program with two premieres. The Bay area-based company led by artistic director Nadia Adame brings the world premiere of *Harmony of Souls* by Dazaun Soleyn, the national premiere of *Piel de Luna* by Nadia Adame, and *Desiderata* by Asun Noales. Wallis Annenberg Theater, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., April 19-20, 7:30 pm, \$49-\$79. [The Wallis](#).



Axis Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Taking a whack at it

The energized dance genre known as Whacking/Waacking has its roots in 1970s gay LA, but **Tori Cristi** and **Whacking Los Angeles** are bringing the pulsating, arm intensive dance form to the stage in *Liminality: A Whacking Immersive Show*. Highways, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., April 19-20, 8:30 pm, \$15 [Highways Performance](#).



Tori Cristi. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Traveling dance

The nomadic dancers of **Benita Bike's DanceArt** present a program of solos, duets and trios. The event includes a chance for the audience to chat about the dances with the artists. Culver City Senior Center, 4095 Overland Ave., Culver City; Sat., April 20, 1:30 pm, free. [DanceArt](#).





Benita Bike's DanceArt. Photo by Dean Wallraff.

## Arts, crafts and dance

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Japanese Cultural Festival **Bunka-Sai**, offers two days of free events including Japanese dance and music, plus demonstrations and hands-on opportunities for Japanese flower arranging, tea ceremony. Calligraphy and martial arts. The event is a major fundraiser for a student cultural exchange program. Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance; Sat. & Sun., April 20 & 21, 11 am to 5 pm, free. For info, email [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com).



Soledad Barrios. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Do they find him?

In *Searching for Goya*, **Soledad Barrio** and **Noche Flamenca** draw inspiration from the paintings of Spanish artist Francisco Goya. The dancers, musicians and singers promise to blend live flamenco dance with video projections that include Goya's art. Irvine Barclay Theater, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., April 18, 8 pm, \$30-\$125. [Irvine Barclay Theater](#).



Suchi Branfman's "DATA or 7 ways to dance a dance through prison walls. Photo courtesy of the artist.

## Walled in

During the pandemic, choreographer Suchi Branfman and her collaborators were unable to

continue in-person sessions with incarcerated participants in **Dancing Through Prison Walls**. The inventive program shifted to written expressions on yellow pads rather than physical dance. The result fueled *DATA or 7 ways to dance a dance through prison walls*. Scripps College Dance Tent, Jacqua Quadrangle, 1030 N. Columbia Ave., Claremont; Thurs., April 25, 5 pm, free w/reservation at [Eventbrite](#).



Vanessa Hernández Cruz. Photo by Paula Kelly

## Out of the gallery

The artists and performers who usually inhabit the Hollywood gallery **LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions)** are temporarily nomadic as the gallery undergoes renovation. Ten can be found in the Arts District this week with *Abundance*, a program of new work and re-stagings. Contributing performance, sound and literary artists include Frias, Jessica Carolina González, Vanessa Hernández Cruz, Alima Lee, Caleb Luna, Melba Martínez, Cody Perkins, Ghis Rodriguez, Yesika Salgado, and Dorian Wood. LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Wed.-Fri., April 24-26, 7 pm, free with reservation at [Eventbrite](#).





LA Opera. Photo by Cory Weaver

### The flowers did it

A new production of *La Traviata* at the **Los Angeles Opera** boasts gender duality costumes for choreography by **John Heginbotham**. At its San Francisco Opera premiere, director Shawna Lucey and her team received critical raves for a fresh approach that retained everything that makes this among the most beloved operas while subtly spotlighting the backdrop of a gay but entirely money-dominated world in which love almost transcends the transactional. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Thurs., April 18, 7:30 pm, Sat., April 21, 2:30 pm, Wed., April 24 & Sat., April 27, 7:30 pm, \$39-\$399. [LA Opera](#).

### *A Peek at Next Week (4/26-05-02)*

**DrumatiX** at Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St., Glendale; Sat., April 27, 5 pm, free. [Brand Library](#).

**Alonzo King LINES Ballet** — *Deep River* at the Granada Theatre, 1214 State St., Santa Barbara: Fri., April 26, 8 pm, \$41-\$106. [UCSB](#).



Vocalist Lisa Fischer and the LINES dancers. Photo by Jamie Lyons

**LA Dance Project** — *Spring Dances* at LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Program A- Thurs., May 2, Fri., May 8, & Sat., May 11, 8 pm, Sat., May 4, 4 pm, Sun., May 12, 1 pm. Program B-Fri.-Sat., May 3-4, 8 pm, Sun., May 5, 1 pm, Sat., May 11, 4 pm, Sun., May 12, 5 pm, \$45, \$30 students & seniors. [Tickets](#).

**Hollywood Ballet** – *Poetry in Motion* at the BroadStage, 1310 11<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica; Sat., April 27, 7 pm; \$69-\$89 (performance only), \$350 post-performance gala). [Hollywood Ballet](#).

**Versa Style Dance Company** — *2024 Festival qualifying 1vs1 Popping Dance Battle* at Mihran K. Studios, 135 N. Victory Blvd., Burbank; Fri., April 26, 8:30 pm, battle or watch \$15, workshop at 6:30 pm \$20, both \$30. [Versa Style Dance Company](#).

**EMPOWERMENT: MAXINE & BELLA** at Lankershim Arts Center, 5108 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood Arts District; Fri. & Sat., April 26 & 27, 8 pm, Sun., April 28, 6 pm, \$1. [Brown Paper Tickets](#).



Bella Lewitzky. Photo courtesy of the documentary film “Bella”

**Hip Hop Dance From France** — *Sous le poids des plumes” (Beneath the weight of feathers)* at Theatre Raymond Kabbaz, 10361 W. Pico Blvd., West LA; Wed., May 1, 8 pm, \$35. [Theatre Raymond Kabbaz](#).

**Inland Pacific Ballet** — *Cinderella* at Lewis Family Playhouse, 12505 Cultural Center Dr., Rancho Cucamonga; Sat. & Sun., April 27 & 28, 11:30 pm & 4 pm, \$55-\$79, \$28-\$33 children 12 & under. [City of Rancho Cucamonga](#).

**Leela Dance Collective** — Pop Up Performances for Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month at Bruin Plaza, UCLA Campus, 308 Westwood Plaza, Westwood; Thurs. & Fri., May 2 & 3, noon, free. Also along Ocean Front Walk between Venice Blvd. and Rose Ave., Venice, Beach; Sat., May 4, 10 & 11 am, free. Also at the 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica;



Sat., May 4, 3 & 4 pm, free. Sun., May 5, noon, 2 & 5 pm, Culver Steps, 9300 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Also ticketed performance at Agoura Hills Performing Arts & Education Ctr., 28545 W. Driver Ave., Agoura Hills; Sat., May 11, 4:30 & 7:30 pm, \$25 [The PAECs](#); livestream \$10 [Imagine India](#).



Leela Dance Collective. Photo by Margo Moritz

**Festival Ballet Theatre** — *Coppélia* at the Irvine Barclay Theater, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Sat. April 27, 7 pm, Sun. April 28, 2 pm, \$35-\$60. [Irvine Barclay Theater](#).

**Jerron Herman & Molly Joyce** *Left and Right* at the UCLA Nimoy Theater, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Fri., May 3, 8 pm, sold out but wait-list sign up at [CAP UCLA](#).

**Cellista** — *Élégie* at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Sat., April 27, 8:30 pm, \$15-\$20. [EVENTS | Highways](#).

**High Voltage** at Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., May 3, 8 pm, \$10. [Electric Lodge](#).

**Rhythms + Visions/Expanded + Live** at Meldman Family Cinematic Arts Park, USC, 900 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St., University Park, Sat., April 27, 7 pm, free w/reservations. [Visions and Voices USC](#).

### NOTED

Two performances of *Swan Lake* scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 19-20 by the touring company **World Ballet Company** have been rescheduled to September at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs.-Fri., Sept. 19-20, 7 pm, \$60-\$105. [Irvine Barclay Theater](#).

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## Glide Through Winnings: The Seamless Mobile Gaming Experience at Lucky Green Casino, The Dawn of Mobile Mastery with Lucky Green Casino

Our Friends · Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

Imagine gaming not as an anchor, but as wings. At the heart of this digital ascension lies the [mobile phone pokies](#), a realm where Lucky Green Casino has carved its niche.

This Australian online casino, a beacon in the 2024 gambling landscape, transcends the traditional confines of gaming. Its mobile platform is not just a feature; it's a gateway to realms of chance and fortune, where every touch is a flutter of luck, every swipe a dance with destiny. Lucky Green Casino's commitment to excellence shines brightest in its mobile gaming experience, promising not just games but journeys unbound by earthly constraints.



### Seamless Gaming on the Go

Lucky Green Casino's mobile platform is a testament to the casino's forward-thinking ethos. It recognizes the quintessential gamer's desire for freedom, blending high-quality graphics with seamless gameplay. This platform ensures that the vast universe of online pokies, from classic to cutting-edge, is just a tap away. The experience is streamlined; whether you're lounging at home or on the move, Lucky Green's mobile casino is your pocket-sized portal to a world of gaming.

### A Celestial Journey Awaits

The mobile experience at Lucky Green Casino is akin to having a casino in your pocket, but with a celestial twist. It's not just about playing; it's about embarking on a journey through the cosmos of chance, illuminated by the glow of your smartphone screen. Every game is a star in the vast galaxy of gaming, each spin a chance to land among the constellations of winners.

# Navigating the Universe of Lucky Green Casino

## A Guided Launch into Gaming: How to Sign Up

Embarking on your Lucky Green adventure is as easy as 1-2-3. Start by visiting the casino's official website on your mobile or desktop device. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the registration form with your details. Verify your account through the link sent to your email, and you're ready to blast off into the gaming universe!

## The Bonanza of Bonuses and Promotions ?

Lucky Green Casino's constellation of bonuses is designed to enrich your journey. Welcome bonuses, free spins, and loyalty rewards light up the path, each offering its unique boost. Concrete numbers of bonuses shine bright; from match bonuses that double your deposit to free spins that launch your adventure at no extra cost, every promotion at Lucky Green is a galaxy of opportunity.

## The Architects of Gaming: Software Providers

Behind every mesmerizing game at Lucky Green lie the masterminds – providers like NetEnt, Booongo, and Microgaming. These titans craft experiences that are not just games but gateways to new worlds. Each provider adds its unique signature, ensuring a universe of games that's diverse and richly detailed.

## A Cosmos of Casino Games

From the adrenaline rush of "Primal Hunt" to the mythic allure of "Book of Vikings," Lucky Green's game library is a testament to variety and quality. Each title is a star in the vast casino galaxy, offering unique themes, engaging gameplay, and the chance to win big.

## Fortress of Fairness: Safety and Fair Play

Lucky Green Casino is a sanctuary of safety, fortified by licenses and encryption. It's a realm where you can gamble with peace of mind, knowing that fairness and security orbit around you like protective satellites.

## Galactic Banking Options

The casino's banking universe is expansive, supporting swift deposits and withdrawals through methods like credit cards, e-wallets, and even cryptocurrencies. Each transaction is a seamless passage through the cosmos of gaming finance.

## Exploring the Official Website

Lucky Green's website is your star map to gaming, designed with intuitive navigation and a user-friendly interface. It's where your adventure begins, marked by clear categories, detailed game descriptions, and a vibrant aesthetic that mirrors the excitement of the games themselves.

## The Mobile Universe Expanded

The opportunity to play from mobile is not just an option at Lucky Green; it's a doorway to gaming freedom. The casino's platform ensures that the vastness of its gaming universe is always within



your reach, adaptable to any device.

## Stars of Support: Customer Service

Should you encounter a nebula of doubt or a black hole of confusion, Lucky Green's customer support team is your constellation of guidance. Available via live chat and email, they are the guardians of your seamless gaming experience.

## The Knowledge Nebula: FAQ

Q: Can I play on my mobile device without downloading an app?

A: Absolutely! Lucky Green Casino is designed for instant play, meaning you can access its universe of games directly through your browser, no app required.

Q: What kind of bonuses can I expect as a new player?

A: New stars in the Lucky Green galaxy are welcomed with generous bonuses, including match bonuses on your first deposit and free spins on selected pokies.

Q: How do I know the games are fair?

A: Lucky Green Casino uses RNG technology to ensure every spin and game outcome is completely random and fair. Plus, it's licensed and regulated by reputable authorities.

Q: Is it easy to make deposits and withdrawals?

A: Yes, Lucky Green Casino supports a variety of banking methods, making deposits and withdrawals swift and hassle-free.

Q: Can I try games for free?

A: Certainly! Most games at Lucky Green offer a demo mode, allowing you to explore the cosmos of gaming without wagering real money.

## Conclusion: Your Gateway to the Stars

Lucky Green Casino isn't just a platform; it's a launchpad to the stars. With its seamless mobile gaming experience, diverse universe of games, stellar bonuses, and unwavering commitment to safety and fair play, it invites you to not just play but explore. Embrace the freedom, chase the thrill, and remember – in the vast casino cosmos, every spin is a step toward destiny.

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# Learn How Modern Glass Extensions Transform Living Spaces

Our Friends · Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

Over the years contemporary glass extensions have surged in popularity. They have emerged as a coveted feature in modern architectural designs. These stylish and refined structures seamlessly merge outdoor areas fostering a living environment that celebrates natural light and aesthetic appeal.

## What Are Glass Extensions?

Essentially glass extensions represent an approach to expanding spaces. These elements incorporate expansive glazed panels that substitute sections of existing walls. This incorporation of glass allows sunlight to permeate the indoors establishing an open ambience while forging a visual link to the external surroundings.

Glass extensions are a modern twist on traditional home expansions. They involve replacing a portion of an existing wall with floor-to-ceiling glass panels. This inventive design strategy empowers homeowners to optimize exposure resulting in a visually striking and unified living area.

Unlike the drafty conservatories of the past, contemporary glass extensions are engineered with cutting-edge technology to uphold comfortable temperatures throughout every season. Double or triple-glazed glass, combined with energy-efficient framing systems, ensures these additions remain cosy in winter. They stay cool in summer, eliminating the need for excessive heating or cooling.



## The Appeal of Modern Glass Extensions

For homeowners looking to expand their living space without a full-scale renovation, glass extensions offer a practical solution. By extending the footprint of the existing structure, these additions create spaces that can function as living rooms, dining areas, home offices or playrooms for families with kids. In addition to their advantages glass extensions also provide;

**Visual Elegance and Simplicity:** Glass extensions exude a minimalist and modern aesthetic that complements architectural designs. The sleek lines and transparent surfaces foster a feeling of openness and elegance making them popular among design aficionados.

**Seamless Indoor Outdoor Integration:** By removing barriers, glass extensions seamlessly blend outdoor living spaces. This fusion of nature with modern living cultivates a peaceful and welcoming ambience, ideal for entertaining or basking in the beauty of your surroundings.

**Enhanced Natural Light:** One of the benefits of glass extensions is the natural light they bring into your home. Not only does this improve the overall ambience but it also adds to the feeling of spaciousness and warmth, creating a more inviting and open living area.

## Types of Modern Glass Extensions

1. **Conservatories:** These classic glass structures are meant to provide a retreat or greenhouse-like area often connected to the house. Conservatories offer a peaceful getaway while allowing plenty of light inside. They typically have an angled roof. They can be made from various materials, like aluminium, wood or uPVC.
2. **Orangeries:** An orangery combines aspects of both conservatories and traditional extensions. It comes with a roof usually featuring a glass lantern or cupola that blends outdoor spaces. This design offers a lasting impression than a typical conservatory, while still letting in natural light.
3. **Glass Box Extensions:** These [extensions](#) have a box-shaped design as indicated by their name. They are perfect for creating a minimalist living area that seamlessly connects with the outdoors. With glass panels providing panoramic views they establish a strong link with the surrounding environment.
4. **Sunrooms:** Similar to conservatories sunrooms aim to catch light and warmth. Sunrooms, which are commonly integrated into the structure of a home often have windows or glass walls. They can be used as living spaces, dining areas or home offices creating an airy environment that seamlessly blends with the rest of the house.





## Benefits Of Modern Glass Extensions

Glass extensions offer a range of benefits including:

**Structural Integrity and Safety:** Modern glass extensions are designed to meet the highest safety standards, ensuring structural integrity and durability. High quality materials and construction techniques are employed to withstand various weather conditions and provide a secure living environment. Tempered or laminated glass, along with robust framing systems ensure that these structures are both beautiful and resilient.

**Thermal Efficiency and Comfort:** Advances in glass technology have significantly improved the thermal efficiency of glass extensions. Insulated glass units and energy efficient framing systems help maintain comfortable temperatures throughout the year, reducing energy costs and minimising environmental impact. Modern glass extensions incorporate low emissivity coatings, argon gas fillings, and multiple glazing layers to enhance insulation and prevent heat transfer.

**Privacy and Sound Insulation:** While glass extensions promote openness and natural light, they can also provide adequate privacy and sound insulation when designed correctly. Strategically placed panels, tinted glass, and acoustic glazing can ensure a peaceful and private living space, shielding you from unwanted noise and prying eyes.

**Increased Home Value:** A planned and expertly crafted glass extension has the potential to significantly boost the value of your property. These contemporary additions not only expand the living space, they also offer a unique selling feature. This appeals to prospective buyers in search of modern and visually appealing residences.

## Choosing the Right Professional for Your Project

Choosing the right architect or builder is vital for a glass extension project. Seek professionals like [Finepoint Glass](#) who specialize in cutting-edge glass structures and have a track record of delivering top-notch outcomes.

When picking a professional, assess their portfolio, attention to detail and ability to grasp your vision and needs. Effective communication and cooperation during the design and construction phases will ensure that your glass extension aligns with your expectations. It will also seamlessly integrate with your existing home.

Moreover, it is crucial to collaborate with experts who are well-versed in building regulations, energy efficiency norms and construction materials. They should be capable of guiding you through the planning process and securing approvals to ensure that your project complies with regulations and standards.

## Conclusion

With the increasing demand for eco-architecture, glass extensions are set to have a significant impact on the future of home design. These extensions offer homeowners a solution that brings in natural light, improves energy efficiency and seamlessly connects indoor and outdoor spaces. They aim to elevate the look and feel of their homes.

Whether you are envisioning a conservatory, a glass box extension or a bright sunroom the options are limitless. By collaborating with experienced professionals, you can craft a living space that caters to your needs while showcasing your unique style and admiration for innovative architecture. Embracing cutting-edge design trends and technologies further enhances this process.

As you dive into your glass extension project it is crucial to prioritise top-notch materials, expert craftsmanship and a thorough understanding of what makes your space special. Through planning and meticulous execution, your glass extension will become a focal point. It transforms your home into a harmonious blend of indoor comfort and outdoor charm—where natural light and aesthetic elegance come together to offer an unparalleled living experience.

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## ***Fat Ham* Queers Shakespeare's Hamlet**

Steve Gottfried · Thursday, April 11th, 2024

What if Hamlet was a plus-size, queer Black man? That is the question posed by playwright James Ijames in his Pulitzer Prize winning play *Fat Ham* which opened on Broadway in April 2023 and is playing now through May 5th at the charming and intimate Geffen Playhouse. *Fat Ham* offers a boldly imaginative reframing of Shakespeare's play about the Melancholy Dane who is visited by his father's ghost to avenge his murder at the hands of Hamlet's uncle who has remarried his brother's wife. *Fat Ham* takes this juicy stew of family dysfunction and turns it inside out, using it



as a vehicle to explore sexual orientation and gender against the backdrop of deeply ingrained homophobia from the Southern Black vantage point.



Larry expresses his true feelings for Juicy in a private moment.

Heading up the cast is Marcel Spears as “Juicy” – the character inspired by Hamlet who finds himself grappling with the ghost of a father who wants him to avenge his death by killing his uncle – while grappling with the scars left by a father who never fully accepted him and continues to taunt him from beyond the grave for being “soft.” Spears pulls off the role with impressive finesse, balancing the humor and the pathos of this piece with dexterity. The cast as a whole are uniformly superb which makes this wildly unconventional play fire on all cylinders.

Billy Eugene Jones pulls double duty as the ghost of Juicy’s father referred to as “Pap” as well as Pap’s fratricidal brother “Rev” (short for Reverend), Juicy’s not-so- honorable uncle who married Juicy’s mother and off’d his father. As Pap’s ghostly apparition, Jones alternates seamlessly between over-the-top ghoulish fun and a father steeped in anti-gay tropes he’s incapable of overcoming. Nikki Crawford serves over-the-top “Black trash” camp as Juicy’s mother Tedra. Other standout performances include Benja Kay Thomas as Rabby who can steal a scene with a glance and Adrianna Mitchell as gender non-conforming Opal (Rabby’s daughter) whose deadpan delivery provides a hilarious counterpoint to her mother.

But perhaps the most interesting dynamic is between Juicy and his straight-passing childhood pal Larry who shows up looking dapper in his military uniform, but longs to break free of the straitjacket of the heteronormative culture Juicy has been bucking. Juicy and Larry seem at opposite ends of the spectrum, visually and otherwise, which is what makes Larry’s private protestations of love and lust for Juicy so jarring and poignant. And yet, the writer keeps the will-he-or-won’t-he tension taut until the very end, unveiling a surprise that feels cathartic and liberating.





Nikki Crawford and Marcel Spears star as mother and son in *Fat Ham* at the Geffen.

With the full cast intact, straight from Broadway, *Fat Ham* is the theatrical equivalent of a lunar eclipse. It doesn't happen all that often so when it does, you'd best make a mad dash to the box office and get yourself a ticket. The program includes a brief interview with the playwright who explains how the seeds for this play were planted when he was cast as Hamlet as a college freshman. Ijames was coming to terms with being gay at the time and one of Hamlet's oft-quoted soliloquies seemed to speak directly to his own struggles. "I felt like no one in my family would ever accept me. But then in act three, Hamlet says he can't *not* be who he is." In this way, the play took on a whole new significance and justified his decision to make Hamlet queer, never suspecting that in so doing, he'd be joining the ranks of fellow distinguished Pulitzer recipients including Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams.

***Fat Ham*—March 27, 2024 – May 3, 2024. Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (310) 208-2028. [Tickets](#).**

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## How AI Development Influences Online Casinos

Our Friends · Thursday, April 11th, 2024

In recent years, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology has revolutionized various industries, and online casinos are no exception. AI development has significantly impacted the digital gambling industry by enhancing predictive analytics and delivering personalized gaming experiences to players.

## Predictive Analytics in Online Casinos

AI-powered predictive analytics has become a game-changer for online casinos, enabling operators to analyze vast amounts of data and anticipate player behavior more accurately than ever before. By leveraging machine learning algorithms, [leading online casinos in 2024](#) can gather insights into gambler preferences, trends, and patterns and optimize their offerings and marketing strategies for users effectively.

### Player Behavior Analysis

AI algorithms analyze player behavior in real time, tracking factors such as playing habits, preferred games, betting patterns, and spending tendencies. This data helps casinos understand their customers better and tailor their services to meet their needs effectively.

### Fraud Detection and Prevention

Artificial intelligence algorithms detect suspicious or fraudulent activities by analyzing transaction data, user behavior patterns, and other relevant factors. By identifying potential risks proactively, web-based gambling establishments may enhance security measures and protect both players and the platform from fraudulent behavior.

### Individualized Recommendations

AI-driven recommendation engines suggest games, promotions, and offers tailored to each player's preferences and playing history. By delivering personalized recommendations, gaming sites can enhance gambler engagement, retention, and overall satisfaction.

## Personalized Gaming Experiences

AI technology enables gambling platforms to offer personalized gaming experiences that cater to the individual preferences and interests of each player. Through advanced algorithms and data analysis, they can customize various aspects of the gaming environment to provide a more immersive and enjoyable experience for players.

### Dynamic Game Content

AI-powered systems adjust game content, including graphics, themes, sound effects, and gameplay mechanics, based on individual gambler preferences. This customization creates a more engaging and immersive experience that resonates with each player's unique tastes.

### Adaptive Difficulty Levels

Artificial intelligence algorithms dynamically adjust the difficulty levels of games based on the gambler's skill level, playing history, and performance. By providing an optimal level of challenge, websites can keep players engaged and motivated to continue gambling.

### Real-Time Interaction

AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants provide real-time assistance and support to players, answering questions, providing game tips, and offering personalized recommendations. This level of interaction enhances the overall gaming experience and fosters a sense of community among

gamblers.



## The Future of AI in Online Casinos

As artificial intelligence technology continues to evolve, the future of online casinos looks increasingly promising. Advancements in machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision are expected to further enhance predictive analytics and personalized gaming experiences in the years to come.

AI-powered systems will enable gambling sites to deepen player engagement, offering more immersive, interactive, and personalized gaming experiences. They can also help identify and support players at risk of developing gambling-related problems by analyzing their behavior patterns and providing personalized interventions and support resources.

In conclusion, AI development is reshaping the online casino industry by enabling predictive analytics and delivering personalized gaming experiences to players. As the technology continues to evolve, we can expect further advancements that will enhance gambler engagement, improve responsible gambling measures, and drive innovation in game development.

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# Beyond the Casino Floor: Roulette's Influence on Popular Culture and Art

Our Friends · Wednesday, April 10th, 2024

While roulette might be synonymous with a casino classic, it has had a profound impact on popular culture in various guises, much like the internet has.

Most will be aware of its prominence in films and video games as a way of adding an extra layer of excitement or a dimension to the plot, but it has also been used in various other ways. Indeed, aspects of the game can be found in many other areas of our daily lives, with some being more obvious than others.

It's a game that has enjoyed plenty of success in its primary form, with many continually **looking for** the best sites in which they can enjoy a round or two. They look for sites that offer as many variants of the game as possible while also seeking the best bonuses that can be used in addition to a secure gameplay session.

However, while its popularity is clear for all to see on the casino floor and in the digital world, roulette is something that is clearly enjoyed by others in popular culture. Of course, the game is perhaps incredibly versatile as its gameplay can signify various things, thus making it a popular metaphor, or simile, or be used as an analogy when describing something else.

## Roulette's Use in Music

The world of music hasn't been shy of using gambling references and those pertaining to casinos in the past, nor does it seem there are any concerns about using it in the modern music scene. **Beyonce's new "Texas Hold'em" hit** clearly shows that songs about things associated with gambling still work in today's environment. In regard to roulette, there have been many songs that have used the game as its theme or as a source of inspiration. Although not quite as well known as "Waking Up in Vegas", Katy Perry also released a song called "Roulette".

## Fashion and Roulette Combined

Another industry that has not been afraid of trying to incorporate popular culture within its own market is the fashion sector. There have been many fashion designers and houses that have tried to give their designs a gambling-themed and inspired twist.

Roulette can often be an option that some go for, as there are many elements of the game that are famous that designers hope might become a popular talking point for the garments that they design. They may use the classic colors that can be found around the wheel, such as red and black, for the pockets or even use the numbers that are featured on a wheel. Some may even use the zero (or zeros, depending on the variant) and the green that is associated with these pockets to try and create interesting and unique designs that can stand out.

## Roulette in Film and TV is Clear

As mentioned in the prelude at the beginning, roulette's impact in popular culture is perhaps best seen in **film and TV** entertainment. Many films have used the casino game to generate excitement, anticipation, suspense, and tension due to its simple mechanics. The James Bond franchise has

been a classic example of using casino games in general, with roulette being one of the many games being used to add extra layers to the plot. It was even **used in *Casablanca***, which is one of the films every movie-lover should aim to watch.

In addition, several TV shows have been inspired by roulette. Wheel of Fortune is perhaps one of the most famous to have existed, with the game show featuring a roulette-style wheel that needs to be spun before it lands on a certain segment, much in the same way the marble ball would land and stop in a pocket on the wheel once it has been stopped.

### **Roulette in Literature, Gaming and Art**

Much like it has in visual entertainment on our screens, roulette has been influential across literature and gaming. **Many books** have been written – non-fiction and fiction – that have used the casino game as part of its plot or as its main focus. Simultaneously, many video games have used roulette as a mini-game or as part of its main gameplay story to enhance the excitement and enjoyment that players can obtain.

Regarding art, roulette can often help create visual works that can portray certain feelings and emotions. The game is known to be one of chance, requiring plenty of luck and risk-taking. Artists have been able to use these aspects of the casino game to heighten their artworks and evoke related emotions from those who view them.

### **Roulette’s place in pop culture can’t be understated**

Roulette has clearly had a significant impact on popular culture, despite having humble beginnings as a casino game. There have been many instances in which it has been able to translate into other industries and be used for various meanings, all of which relate to its main principle as a game of chance.

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## **Sabotaging the Strictures**

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, April 10th, 2024

*A Chorus Line* for 2024 in the Arts District; a British literary rebel captured in Costa Mesa; Goya-infused flamenco in Irvine and intimate flamenco in Westwood; romantic ballet in Hancock Park; gala season arrives, more So Cal dance this week, and a peek at next week.

***Live This Week***

## When dancers talk

Described as a “counter-tribute,” **Andrew Pearson** and a clutch of dancers employed a similar process that led to the musical *A Chorus Line*, drawing on dancers’ real life experiences. This time the process for *Our Dancer’s Project* also involved critical and mindful consideration of bodies in the performing arts, an ongoing hot topic for dance and dancers. The writers/dancers include Cristina Flores, Darby Epperson, Celine Kiner, Tiffany Sweat, Daurin Tavares, Rachel Whiting, and Sadie Yarrington. Pearson also has writing credit and directs. LA Dance Project, 2235 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Fri.-Sat., April 12-13, 7 pm, \$35-\$45, \$25 students & seniors. [Our Dancer’s Project](#).



Bodies in Play. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Not quite alone

In the U.S., Virginia Woolf is most widely associated with the title of the 1966 Liz Taylor/Richard Burton film based on Edward Albee’s play. In England, Virginia Woolf the writer, is widely known for her visionary approach that shattered accepted Victorian era ideas about and constraints on writing, and particularly sabotaged strictures, sexual and otherwise, on women in Victorian times. In quite a coup, **American Ballet Theatre** brings the North American premiere of Wayne McGregor’s highly praised *Woolf Works* to SoCal for five performance. Created for Britain’s Royal Ballet, the choreographer abstracts and weaves together three of Woolf’s works, the time and gender shifting *Orlando*, *Mrs. Dalloway* confronting a war-shocked soldier, and a consideration of Woolf’s suicide in *Waves*. After the London premiere, Britain’s Guardian newspaper described the work as “a complex meditation on time, memory and death in ways as fragmentary and haunting as Woolf’s own writing.” Not a mention of Liz or Richard. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Thurs.-Fri., April 11-12, 7:30 pm, Sat., April 13, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., April 14, 1 pm, \$49-\$149. [SCFTA](#).





Wayne McGregor's "Woolf Works". Photo courtesy of the Royal Opera House

### Taking to the *tablao*

Enjoy the improvisational interplay of live musicians and flamenco dancers as **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana** brings *Tablao Flamenco* to this intimate venue. UCLA, The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Westwood; Thur., April 11, 8 pm, \$32. [CAP UCLA](#).



Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Do they find him?

In *Searching for Goya*, **Soledad Barrio** and **Noche Flamenca** draw inspiration from the paintings of Spanish artist Francisco Goya. The dancers, musicians and singers promise to blend live flamenco dance with video projections that include Goya's art. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs., April 18, 8 pm, \$30-\$125. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).



Soledad Barrios. Photo courtesy of the artist

## Vengeful ballet ghosts

Former Los Angeles Ballet principal dancers Petra Conti and Eris Nezha have been busy. Not only have they been building a new company as artistic directors of Hollywood Ballet, they also have been guesting with **Grand Kyiv Ballet**, currently on tour with its production of *Giselle*. The romantic ballet with its wronged maiden and vengeful ghosts stops off for one LA performance. The Wilshire Ebell, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Sun., April 14, 7 pm, \$45-\$89. [Eventbrite](#).



Grand Kyiv Ballet “Giselle.” Photo by Rudy Amisano.

## The flowers did it

A new production of *La Traviata* at the **Los Angeles Opera** boasts gender duality costumes for choreography by **John Heginbotham**. At its San Francisco Opera premiere, director Shawna Lucey and her team received critical raves for a fresh approach that retained everything that makes this among the most beloved operas while subtly spotlighting the backdrop of a gay but entirely money-dominated world in which love almost transcends the transactional. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., April 14 & 21, Thurs., April 18, Wed., April 24, Sat., April 27, \$39-\$399. [LA Opera](#).



Los Angeles Opera in “La Traviata.” Photo courtesy of LA Opera.



## Gala #1

Dancers from **Los Angeles Ballet** perform as part of this year's LAB gala, hosted by Donna Mills. Beverly Wilshire Hotel, 9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs., April 18, 6 pm, \$1,000 & up. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).



Los Angeles Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Gala #2

Known for its accomplished youth dance program, **The Wooden Floor**'s overarching purpose is often overlooked with dance as just one of the ways to help kids stay in school. On April 18, the admirable program celebrates its annual *12<sup>th</sup> Step Beyond Annual Breakfast* feting the class of 2024, 100% of whom are preparing to graduate high school and are moving on to higher education. Hilton Hotel/Orange County, 3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa; Thurs., April 18, 7:30 am. \$100. [The Wooden Floor](#).

## *A Peek at Next Week (4/19 to 4/25)*

**Urban Bush Women** — *Legacy + Lineage + Liberation* at UCLA Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Ct., Westwood; Fri., April 19, 8 pm, \$39-\$59. [CAP UCLA](#).

**REALM Company** — *Synergetic Pt. 1* at the Rhimes Performing Arts Center, 1850 S. Manhattan Pl., West Adams; Sat., April 20, 6 pm, \$50-\$160. [Tickets](#).



The Realm Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

**World Ballet Company** — *Swan Lake* at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs.-Fri., April 19-20, 7 pm, \$60-\$105. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).

**Tori Cristi/Whacking Los Angeles** — *Liminality* at Highways, 1651 18<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., April 19-20, 8:30 pm, \$15. [Highways Performance](#).

**AXIS Dance Company** at Wallis Annenberg Theater, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., April 19-20, 7:30 pm, \$49-\$79. [Wallis Annenberg Theater](#).



AXIS Dance Company. Photo by David DeSilva

**ABT Studio Company** at Bank of America Performing Arts Center, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Sun., April 21, 7:00 pm, \$35-\$65. [BAPAC](#).

**Benita Bike's DanceArt** at Culver City Senior Center, 4095 Overland Ave., Culver City; Sat., April 20, 1:30 pm, free. [DanceArt](#).





Benita Bike's DanceArt. Photo by Dean Wallraff.

**Japanese dance** — *49<sup>th</sup> Annual Bunka-Sai* at Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance; Sat. & Sun., April 20 & 21, 11 am to 5 pm, free. Info at [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com).

**LACE** — *ABUNDANCE* at LA Dance Project, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Wed.-Fri., April 24-26, 7 pm, free with reservation at [Eventbrite](#).

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