

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

The Sanity In the Insanity

Ann Haskins · Thursday, December 2nd, 2021

A poet and a choreographer collaborate downtown, hip hop in San Fernando, a folkloric Christmas in Cerritos, a reopening in Venice, contemporary dance in Orange, a jukebox musical with a Go-Go's dance party in Pasadena, *Nutcrackers* return live, more SoCal dance online this week, and a peek at what's coming next.

Live This Week

Day-long dance

While younger, the forceful dancers who comprise **Versa-Style Dance Company Next Generation** more than hold their own. They perform as part of this free, day-long community event. Performance at The Mob HQ, 1126 San Fernando Rd., San Fernando; Sun. Dec. 5, 1:30 pm, free. Details on Covid protocols and the surrounding events including workshops and a community celebration with food and music at [Versa-Style Dance Company](#).



Versa-Style Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

Watching the watchers

Inspired by the poetry of Claudia Rankine and in collaboration with the poet, choreographer Will Rawls and a quartet of performers explore Rankine's consideration of racial history and surveillance in *What Remains*. REDCAT at Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 9-11, 8:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. Info, tickets & Covid protocols at [REDCAT](#).



Claudia Rankine & Will Ralls' *What Remains*. Photo by Ian Douglas

Electric eclectic

This inventive space has reopened two of its recurring series. *First Spark* is the new name of the *High Voltage* series that coincides with the "walkabout" on nearby Abott Kinney Blvd. on the first Friday of most months. Now held in the venue's parking lot, the space hosts *Open Temple* after the show. Also back on the first Monday of the month, *Max 10* presents ten performers, each

taking the stage for ten minutes. Both series offer an ever-changing, eclectic array of artists that often includes dancers and choreographers. At Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; *First Spark* – Fri., Dec. 3, 8 pm, \$10. [The Open Temple](#). Also *Max 10* – Mon., Dec. 6, 7:30 pm, \$10. [Eventbrite](#). Info, tickets, & Covid protocols at [Electric Lodge](#).



Max 10. Photo courtesy of the artists.

México merry

Evoking the spirit of Christmas in Mexico, **DanzArts Sabor México Dance Company** joins Sol de México de José Hernández and Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles in *Merry-Achi Christmas* at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Sat., Dec. 4, 7 pm, Sun., Dec. 5, 2 pm, \$35-\$86. [Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts](#).



DanzArts Sabor México Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists

College dance No. 1

Choreographers Alicia Guy and Jennifer Backhaus direct the **Chapman College Fall Dance Concert** at Musco Center for the Arts, Chapman College, 415 N. Glassell, Orange; Fri.-Sat., Dec 3-4, 7:30 pm, \$20, \$15 students. [Chapman College](#).



CalArts Fall Dance Concert. Photo courtesy of the artists

College dance No. 2

Under the banner *Winter Dance IRL*, **CalArts** presents choreography from Stephanie Zaletel, Rosanna Tavarez, Zoe Scofield, and Yusha-Marie Sorzano at REDCAT at Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Fri.-Sat., Dec. 3-4, 8:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. Info, tickets & Covid protocols at [REDCAT](#).



Head Over Heels. Photo by Jeff Lorch.

It is Go-Gos going

Music of the 1980's LA band The Go-Gos fuels *Head Over Heels*, a jukebox musical loosely based on *The Arcadia* by Sir Philip Sidney. The venue reopens with its first live performance filled with dancing on more than just the stage. The theater has been reconfigured to afford the audience a choice of onstage or theater seating as well as a general admission ticket to an open floor area inviting an audience-fueled dance party as part of the performance. Live at Pasadena Playhouse, 39 S. El Molino, Pasadena. Tues.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 7 pm, Sat. & Sun., 2 pm, thru Sun., Dec. 12,

\$30-\$106. Info, tickets, and Covid protocols at [Pasadena Playhouse](#).

Post-modern rituals

The first-ever retrospective of the work of choreographer and video artist **Blondell Cummings: Dance as Moving Pictures** includes videos, interviews, and photographs continue at Art+Practice, 3401 W. 43rd Pl., Leimert Park; Wed.-Sat., noon-6 pm, to Feb. 19, 2022, free. Research guide at [Getty Research Institute](#), exhibition at [Art+Practice](#).



Photo by Blondell Cummings.

Museum moves

Performance and dance are the metier of several artists in both of this museum's big fall exhibits, *Witch Hunt* and *No Humans Involved* at UCLA Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Tues.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm to Jan. 22, 2022, free no reservation required. Details and Covid protocols at [Hammer Museum](#).

This Week's Nutcrackers

(See "[The 'Nuts' Are Back](#)" for full list of 2021 Nutcrackers)

- **Los Angeles Ballet** at the Alex Theater, Glendale; [Los Angeles Ballet](#)
- **Westside Ballet** at the Broad Stage, Santa Monica; [Tix.com](#)
- **American Contemporary Ballet** at ACB Studios, Hollywood; [American Contemporary Ballet](#)
- **To Your Heart's Delight** at La Mirada Theatre, La Mirada; [DTYHD](#)

A Peek at Next Week

The Beach Belles & Ballerina in a Snow Globe at Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica; Fri.-Sun., Dec. 10-12, 3 to 7:30 pm, then daily, Fri., Dec. 17-24, 3 to 7:30 pm, free. [Santa Monica Place](#).



Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles. Photo by Luis Luque

Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles in *Noche Buena* at The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Dec. 11, 3 pm, free w/reservation at [The Soraya](#). Also at [The Musco](#), Chapman College, 415 Glassell, Orange; Sun., Dec. 12, 7 pm, \$33-\$78.

New Dance Films: Live & Online

A baker's dozen

Six SoCal choreographers and seven international dancemakers are showcased in this three day **Los Angeles Dance Festival/ International Los Angeles Dance Festival/ International**. LADF director Deborah Brockus recruited choreographers from Poland, Brazil, Turkey, Finland, Taiwan and South Korea who contributed video works for this festival. Local choreographers providing

dance video include Rosanna Gamson (Rosanna Gamson/World Wide), Seda Abay (Kybele Dance Theater), Sam McReynolds (GREYaRea), Nanette Brodie (Nanette Brodie Dance Theater), Charlotte K Smith (Charlotte Katherine & Co), and Brockus (BrockusRED). The films stream On Vimeo, Fri.-Sun., Dec. 3-5, links at [Luckman Arts](#) and [LA Dance Fest](#).



Versa-Style Dance Company. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Out of the box

Anyone not fortunate to enjoy a live performance of **Versa-Style Dance Company's** exuberant *Box of Hope*, have a chance for the next best thing as the troupe offers a one night only stream on YouTube, Thurs., Dec. 9, 7:30 pm, @versatylela, [Versa-Style Dance Company](#).



"Films.Dance Round 2." Photo courtesy of the artists

Back for more

In January 2021, LA choreographer **Jacob Jonas and his Jacob Jonas/The Company** began a weekly roll out of 15 short dance films with artists from around the world under the banner *Films.Dance*. The project earned boasting rights with many of the films later winning film festival awards. Now comes *Films.Dance Round Two*, again with dance, dancers, and filmmakers from around the world. The original films, a preview, and e-mail sign up for free weekly film delivery at [Films.Dance](#).

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