

SF/ARTS

MONTHLY

ChoreoFest at Yerba Buena Gardens

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival celebrates contemporary choreography June 9-11. Pictured: Jessica Collado of Post:Ballet.

For details, see Dance Highlights on Page 8.

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Three Dancemakers Explore Change and Other Themes

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Janis Joplin Musical Ushers in Summer of Love's 50th

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Rich and Varied Film Fare at Trio of Fests This Month

Dancemakers Explore Change

BY JEAN SCHIFFMAN



Andy Mogg

Epiphany Dance Theatre presents "Last Blue Couch in the Sky" June 2-4. Pictured, Hien Huynh and Nuria Bowart.

Longtime local dancemaker Kim Epifano calls the first part of her new world premiere a “wandering gathering.” Audiences follow a live music-, dance-, storytelling- and visual art-enhanced path through parts of SOMA, arriving at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts’ Forum for a wraparound performance that Epifano envisions as a “live, pulsing thing.”

Choreographer and dance-theater pioneer Joe Goode, whose company is now 30 years old, was thinking about “things that disappear”—for example, places that are destroyed in war—and wondered if he himself is in some sense disappearing as he ages. His new piece explores that theme in his signature text-based style.

Former San Francisco Ballet principal dancer James Sofranko sees himself as a curator as well as an artist—he programmed his company’s second season (which includes both an American and a world premiere) to offer audiences a mix of styles and his dancers the opportunity to be enriched by the variety.

Last Blue Couch in the Sky

For Kim Epifano, whose Epiphany Dance Theatre is celebrating its 20th anniversary, it’s essential to connect with the communities where she lives and works, to explore themes of social justice and to make dance accessible to all. (She has produced SF Trolley Dances, free, on Muni streetcars since 2004.) For “Last Blue Couch in the Sky,” commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, she reached out to several SOMA organizations for input, inspiration and assistance, among them Hospitality House for the homeless and Bessie Carmichael Elementary School.

The title derives from artist Brian Goggin’s recently dismantled, 1997 installation “Defenestration,” which featured a blue couch on the

fire escape of the Orlando, an SRO hotel in the Tenderloin. “The city is going through huge changes,” Epifano observes, “and that sculpture felt like a metaphor for that change.” The blue couch reappears in this premiere.

To create the historically based (and admission-free) walking portion of the piece, Epifano solicited local playwright Joan Holden to collaborate on the script. Audiences gather at a mini-plaza to be guided through neighborhoods that these days are largely Filipino and Nepalese, with stops along the way to observe artwork by local residents, listen to a singer on the fire escape of the Orlando and other attractions. Local actor Bob Ernst, with dancers, leads the crowd on a storytelling promenade from the merry-go-round at the Children’s Creativity Museum to YBCA’s Forum, for the ticketed part of the show.

There, the dancers surround the viewers, who are sitting on stools. “I want the audience to have the live action feeling of a street corner,” says Epifano.

June 2 → 4
Tutubi Plaza, Russ St. between Minna and Natoma/Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St., San Francisco

ybca.org/whats-on/kim-epifano/
(415) 978-2787

Nobody Lives Here Now

When you’re a dancer, explains Joe Goode, and your identity is so deeply connected to your body, and the accumulated injuries of 40 years of dancing catch up with you, you wonder, who am I now? It was that question-to-self that inspired this new piece for his company, Joe Goode Performance Works. CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Passion, Flair, Romance

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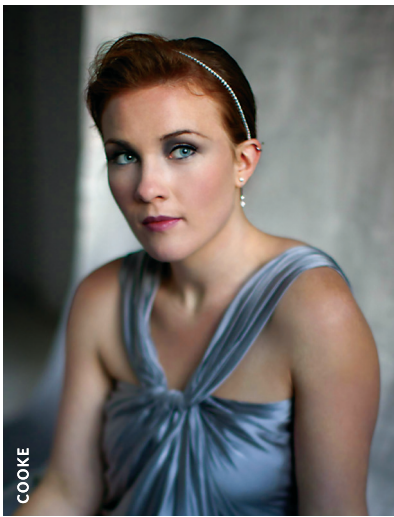
JUN 23-25

Music for a Modern Age

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The June 25 concert benefits the Orchestra’s pension fund.



JUN 28-JUL 1

MTT Conducts Berlioz’s Romeo & Juliet

Berlioz’s interpretation of the world’s greatest romance brings the star-crossed lovers into the very fabric of the orchestra, with the warring families represented by the Grammy Award-winning **SF Symphony Chorus**. Internationally acclaimed opera singers **Sasha Cooke**, **Nicholas Phan**, and **Luca Pisanoni** complete the cast to bring Shakespeare’s tragedy to life like you’ve never experienced it before, all led by **Michael Tilson Thomas**.

This concert is performed without intermission.

These concerts, a part of The Barbro and Bernard Osher Masterworks Series, are made possible by a generous gift from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

SUMMER

WITH THE SYMPHONY



JULY 8

A Night at the Moulin Rouge with the SF Symphony Featuring Storm Large



JULY 13-14

Jaws: Feature Film with the SF Symphony



JULY 15-16

Pixar in Concert with live Orchestra



JULY 16

Jalisco Philharmonic Orchestra

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