

PREMIERE OC

Your guide to the performing and visual arts in Orange County

Fall/Winter 2014

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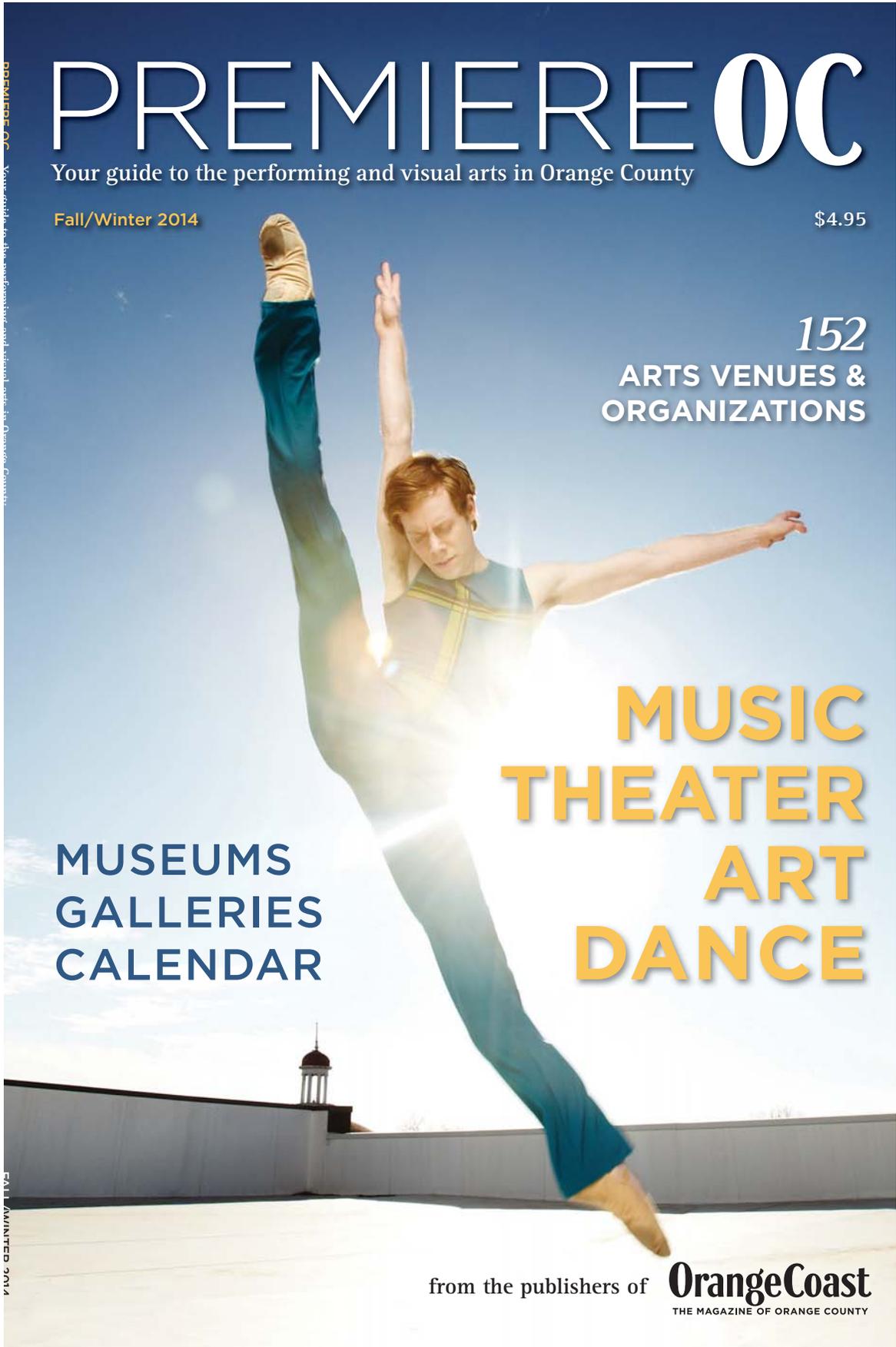
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from the publishers of **OrangeCoast**
THE MAGAZINE OF ORANGE COUNTY

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To mark the 10th anniversary of the Laguna Dance Festival this year, the organization celebrated with a June performance at Seven Degrees and has a lineup planned for the next few months that offers something for everyone.

This year's festival spans two weeks with a few days of performances. The lineup includes Ballet Memphis, BODYTRAFFIC, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and guest artists such as American Ballet Theatre's Misty Copeland and San Francisco Ballet's Lorena Feijoo. There also are

"If you haven't come, come and experience it. Go to the website, check out the type of dance you want to see, and buy a ticket. Feed your soul."

—Joy Dittberner

master classes, which began in March, taught by talents such as Saleemah E. Knight, Gonzalo Garcia, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and a gala and artist reception after the Sept. 14 performance. Board President Joy Dittberner laughs when she says, "We have the best galas because we have professional dancers."



BODYTRAFFIC

Although Dittberner has worked with the festival for only three years, she was an audience member from the beginning and has plenty of memories to share. "I remember when I went to the first one and they were dancing at the high school. I'm thinking, 'How good could this be?'" she says. "And I was so blown away by it. I thought, 'These are the best dancers in the world right here dancing on a high school stage.' Friends wanted to sit on the side to leave during intermission, then they said, 'It was like going to the Kennedy Center!'"

Festival Notes

There's a lot of dance to see. Here's a guide to watching it all:

Sept. 4: The festival joins with First Thursdays Art Walk to present the work of female choreographers at local galleries.

Sept. 6: Performer/choreographer Saleemah E. Knight leads a master class—you can participate or observe.

Sept. 11 and 12: Ballet Memphis and BODYTRAFFIC perform, respectively.

Sept. 13: Another master class, this one with New York City Ballet's Gonzalo Garcia.

Sept. 13 and 14: The festival's gala performances, with a full roster of companies and guest dancers. The world premiere of the full work of "Ekphrasis," a collaboration between the festival, Laguna Art Museum, and Laguna Beach Live!, takes place during the Sept. 13 show.

Sept. 14: One final master class by Complexions Contemporary Ballet.



Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Dance



Gotta

Dance

Laguna Dance Festival celebrates its first 10 years

by Rose Flores Medlock