

WEEKEND PICKS

MUSIC & DANCE

It's free —
and festive

It's festive, it's family-friendly ... and it's free! It's the 57th annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration. Nearly two dozen local performing arts groups — including the Citrus Singers, the Colburn Children's Choir, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and the Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company — will take part in this three-hour multicultural event in downtown L.A. Cheryl Burke of "Dancing With the Stars" and "Scandal's" Brian White are hosts. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., L.A. Free. 3 p.m. Saturday. www.holidaycelebration.org



REESE ZOELLNER Armstrong International Cultural Foundation

MUSIC & DANCE

Christmas
traditions

The Grammy-winning Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano and dance company Folklor Pasión Mexicana share the stage for "Fiesta Navidad." The Christmas spectacular includes seasonal favorites as well "La Posada," the traditional reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. \$29 and up. 8 p.m. Friday. www.scfta.org



BETSY KERSHNER

THEATER

Madcap twist
on the season

Oy vey! It's "The MeshugaNutcracker!" This madcap musical comedy, returning for yet another season, pokes gentle fun at Hanukkah traditions and Jewish culture. Gindi Auditorium, American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland Drive, Bel Air. \$63, \$72. 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday; ends Jan. 1.

www.themeshuganutcracker.com

MOVIE

A gift to
your kids

Pack the kids into the station wagon — OK, minivan — and take them to see a matinee of "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians," the so-bad-it's-still-bad 1964 sci-fi/holiday mashup featuring future Golden Globe winner Pla Zadora. New Beverly Cinema, 7165 Beverly Blvd., L.A. \$6. 2 p.m. Saturday. www.thenewbev.com

DANCE

'Nutcracker'
guest stars

Former American Ballet Theatre principals Irina Dvorozenko and Maxim Beloserkovsky join Festival Ballet Theatre as special guest dancers for the final leg of the company's annual production of the holiday favorite "The Nutcracker." Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine. \$42-\$55. 1 and 6 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Saturday. www.thebarclay.org