

International Connection

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Legends As We Know Them

New Fisher Museum Exhibit Showcases the Photography of Yousuf Karsh

by Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director

The Fisher Museum of Art is one of USC's hidden gems, existing right under our noses, nestled just west of the Mudd Hall of Philosophy.

The museum was founded in 1939 by Elizabeth Holmes Fisher and was the first museum established in Los Angeles devoted exclusively to the exhibition and collection of fine art. It houses a permanent collection of some 1900 objects including 19th century American landscapes; 16th and 17th century Northern European paintings; 18th century British Portraiture and 19th century French Barbizon paintings, as well as 20th century works on paper, paintings and sculpture.

Currently, the Museum is displaying a ground-breaking collection of portrait photography, from a legendary imagist. The exhibition, *Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes*, celebrates the centenary of the birth of one of the greatest portraitists in the history of photography. It may be said that, through his portraits, Karsh helped to create our collective visual memory of Winston Churchill, Marian Anderson, Albert Schweitzer, Ernest Hemingway, Albert Einstein, and many others.

Yousuf Karsh learned photographic portraiture in the late 1920s the way 19th-century practitioners had: as an apprentice. His concern for the sitter's character and worth along with his exquisite manners brought him modest

success first in the studio in Ottawa, Canada, which he operated from 1932 to 1992.

Having become the favorite photographer of Canadian politicians, in December 1941 he was asked to photograph Winston Churchill after one of the Prime Minister's most famous speeches. That defiant and scowling portrait (right) became an instant icon of Britain's stand against fascism. From that time on, Karsh became internationally renowned and a long list of statesmen, artists, musicians, writers, actors, and celebrities sat before his camera.

Throughout his long career, Karsh put aside a selection of prints of his favorite subjects that are now in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. These prints, drawn from that collection, along with some additions made by former curator of photography David Travis, are being shown in the Fisher Museum together for the first time ever.

This selection and the accompanying catalogue includes a discussion of the photographer's admiration of individuals of high achievement and his notion of what constituted a genuine hero, which was affected by his optimistic outlook on society, even in the darkest days of World War II. While styles in

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The famous portrait of Winston Churchill, by Yousuf Karsh, now on display at the Fisher Museum at USC
Copyright: Estate of Yousuf Karsh

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Host Families Needed For International Students Thanksgiving Match-up 2010

by Jenna Markowick, International Program Assistant



OIS is happy to announce its annual Thanksgiving Match-Up Program taking place on November 25, 2010. Thanksgiving Match-Up provides USC international students and scholars the opportunity to celebrate this joyous holiday by matching students with host families in the Los Angeles community for a traditional feast.

Last year's program was the most successful to date, matching 132 international students and scholars with 40 host families. This program is a wonderful and fun way for international students and their host families to learn more about each other's culture and develop new friendships.

OIS has only a few more openings for international students, the deadline is October 29. Applications from host families are greatly encouraged. After the application deadline, we will begin the matching process between students and scholars and host families based on shared interests and preferences indicated on the application form.

Applications are available on the OIS website under News and Updates. **Host family applications are due Friday, November 6.** All applicants are encouraged to apply early so we can accommodate match-up preferences. Please email Jenna Markowick at oistgday@usc.edu with any questions. Happy Fall!

International Connection

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Working in the US - The Basics for F-1 Students

by Sarah Bang, International Student Advisor

F-1 international students are able to participate in on- and off-campus employment during their academic program. They also have the option to work in their field of study after completing their degree. Employment is considered to be a benefit of F-1 status and students must properly maintain their status in order to be eligible. The following is an introduction to the types of employment authorization that are available to F-1 students.



USC students looking for jobs at the USC Career Fair

On-Campus Employment

On-campus employment for F-1 students is limited to 20 hours a week during fall and spring semesters and 40 hours a week during summer semesters and university breaks. Freshman students coming directly from overseas are required to wait until their second semester at USC to begin on-campus employment. Transfer undergraduate students and new graduate students may begin on-campus employment beginning in their first semester at USC.

International students should keep in mind they are not eligible for work-study positions on campus, as these positions are funded only for U.S. citizens and permanent residents by the U.S. government.

Curricular Practical Training

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is work authorization that allows F-1 students to participate in paid off-campus academic internships during their degree program. The internship must be considered an integral part of a student's degree program and an employment offer is required to begin the application process. CPT is authorized on a semester basis and students must apply separately for each semester.

To be eligible for CPT, students must have been in F-1 status for at least 2 semesters and must have properly maintained their status each semester. Students must also be registered for an internship course during the semester they wish to receive CPT. The only exception to these rules applies to those students who are in degree programs that require an internship or practicum hours to fulfill degree requirements.

CPT authorization comes in the form of an updated I-20 that includes the CPT employer information. Processing time for CPT at OIS is 4 business days.

Optional Practical Training

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a benefit given to students who are completing a bachelor's or graduate degree in the U.S. Students are granted one 12-month OPT per higher degree level which is available for all majors. Employment during OPT must be within the student's field of study and appropriate to the degree level. There is an application fee paid to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and a job offer is not required to apply.

The application is adjudicated by USCIS and the current processing time is about 3 months. OPT Work authorization comes in the form of an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card and the student must have the EAD card in order to begin working.

All students interested in applying for OPT must review and complete the OPT online workshop:

<http://sait.usc.edu/ois/opt/workshop/index.asp>

More details on work authorization options are available on the OIS website: www.usc.edu/ois. Please note that working without proper authorization is a serious violation of F-1 student status. Students should always consult with an OIS advisor regarding any doubts related to employment.

Looking for Guidance on a US Job Search?

Check out the USC Career Planning & Placement Center's (CPPC) site (www.careers.usc.edu) for helpful job search strategies, resources and upcoming events.

International Connection

Anne Kaufman Changes Roles

by Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director



New OIS Business Manager Anne Kaufman

The Office of International Services would like to announce Anne Kaufman in her new role as Business Manager. Prior to her new post, Anne served as Visa Specialist for Faculty-Staff Visa Services and International Student Advisor since first joining OIS in 2008.

Anne Kaufman is a 2008 graduate of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C. She holds an MA in German and European Studies, with a concentration in Comparative Issues in International Education and Public Diplomacy.

While pursuing her master's degree at Georgetown, Anne interned concurrently at the Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs in the Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. Anne's work at DOS focused on providing support for the public and cultural diplomacy efforts of embassies and consulates abroad to engage in constructive dialogue on topics, such as transatlantic cooperation and cross-cultural education.

Anne was born and raised in Los Angeles, where she attended Loyola Marymount University, earning a BA in psychology with distinction. Her passion for traveling was sparked during a semester abroad in Bonn, Germany and she has since traveled to 28 different countries. After graduating college, she spent two years as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Graz, Austria, then worked for the German-American Chamber of Congress in Leipzig, Germany as a recipient of the Congress-Bundestag Exchange for Young Professionals Scholarship.

After expanding her knowledge of U.S. immigration issues in her previous roles at OIS, Anne continues a shared sense of mission at OIS in serving our international students, faculty and staff through more fundamental improvements involving the department's business practices. "As a former international student myself, I have a good sense of what students are experiencing as they adjust to the U.S. and USC, and I enjoy being part of a team that is committed to providing meaningful experiences for them."

Please join us in welcoming Anne to her new position at OIS.

Fall Feasting with the International Diners' Club

by Marcia Rubin, International Program Assistant

Join the Diners' Club this Autumn for two delicious dining events. Space is limited and all details are subject to change.

To learn more or signup for events put on by the USC International Diners' Club, email oisdc@usc.edu, visit us in STU 300 or join the Facebook group "LA Today and Diners Club 2010-2011."

[Continued opposite]



The LA Taste of the World Festival (L) and an Indian feast (R)

Fisher Museum Photography

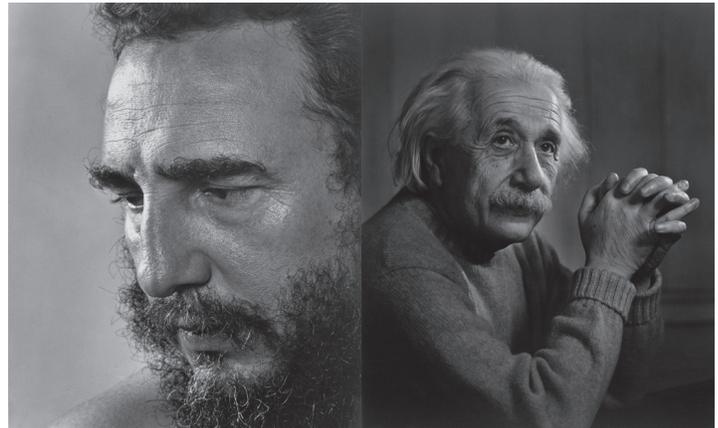
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portraiture changed after the war, Karsh's images, with their engaging lighting and indelible character study, consistently display one of the most recognizable, signature styles in portrait photography. This exhibition is organized by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions and runs through November 23, 2010.

If you have not yet visited the Fisher Museum, you are really missing out. The museum space is large enough to couple permanent collection exhibits with the touring exhibits, but small enough that you can take a half hour break from your busy day and come out refreshed and enlightened.

In the past, touring exhibits have included 'Contemporary Art from Israel,' 'Recent Work from Switzerland,' 'Three Artists from Brazil,' and 'A Roving Eye on Cyprus.' These exhibits, like the Karsh exhibit, are always fascinating and frequently international. The exhibitions from the permanent collection are, in my opinion, as exciting as the permanent collection exhibits at the Norton Simon Museum or the Huntington Art Collections but on a smaller scale and in an intimate setting – right here on our campus.

Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes exhibit description courtesy of Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions.



Yousuf Karsh's photographs of Fidel Castro (L) and Albert Einstein (R).
Copyright: Estate of Yousuf Karsh.

INFO

The Karsh exhibit runs through November 23, 2010.
Admission is free.

Hours: Tuesday through Friday 12-5pm & Saturday 12-4pm.

Location: 823 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90089 (on the USC campus)

Telephone: 213-740-4561. Website: www.fisher.usc.edu

International Diners' Club (Continued from page 4)

November:

L.A. Taste of the World Festival

"By literally constructing five continents over a 22-acre movie studio in downtown LA, we celebrate the food, wine, music, and dance from Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and the Americas," states Ray Jelley, President of AyQueChevere Productions. "Our event enables any guest from any background to see, hear, and taste the beauty and traditions characterized by the world's differing foods and cultures."

Friday, November 5th, 5-9pm, \$15-\$20.

December:

Discover the Delicacies of India

You don't have to go to Delhi for an authentic samosa or flavorful lassi. Artesia, commonly known as "Little India," is a community just minutes away from USC. As you stroll along Pioneer Blvd., you can browse the boutiques filled with traditional, colorful Indian frocks, take in the aroma of incense and delicious Indian dishes while you listen to music from Bollywood films. The International Diners' Club invites you to experience exotic India this winter.

Saturday, December 4th, 11am-3pm, \$10-\$15.

International Connection

International Program Assistants Plan Programs for You

Introducing OIS' International Program Assistants (IPAs) - the students behind the scenes who plan and facilitate programs like the Diners' Club, L.A. Today, Thanksgiving Match-up and State of the World seminars. This year, we have two new IPAs, who would like to introduce themselves and let you know what they will be up to - get to know them!

Marcia Rubin



Programs: Diners' Club, State Of World, LA Today

I grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico but have lived and worked all over the world. After graduating high-school, I wasn't interested in attending university so I decided to explore the world instead.

I spent seven years traveling to different countries, finding work and living there. Memorable experiences include India, where I spent a year outside Delhi working in a hotel restaurant as a baker and manager; Southern England, where I spent three years doing various types of work; and Italy, where I spent three months working in the kitchen of a farm near Florence. I also spent a year in Southern Ireland and several months in Eastern Europe, in countries like Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary.

The list goes on. I could talk travel all day. However, I returned to New Mexico in 2003 to settle down and earn my B.A. in Marketing from UNM and upon graduating found work as an advertising representative. After a couple of years I wanted to try something different and applied for the Strategic Public Relations Program at USC Annenberg. Now I'm in the second year of my masters program and I hope to work in my field internationally.

L.A. has so much to offer and I can't wait to share it with you. I love the live music and art scene here and the amazing variety of things to do and see. I am an avid snowboarder and I love the outdoors. I also like to cook and read. I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all!
Email: marciarub@usc.edu

Jenna Markowick



Programs: Thanksgiving Matchup, LA Today

'The world is my home' is the quote I live by. I'm a second year Strategic Public Relations student at the Annenberg School. I've had an extremely exciting 25 years that have led me to be an International Program Assistants at OIS.

Originally from Northern New Jersey, I have been living in Southern California for the past 3 years. I received my BA in psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. A few months after graduation I took a road trip across the US and when I reached California, there was no turning back. After I completed my first internship in Public Relations I pursued my dream to attend USC.

My travels include a semester aboard in Barcelona, where I traveled all over Europe. I spent the summer of 2009 backpacking Thailand where I received my TESOL and advanced open water PADI diving certification. I also spent 2 weeks volunteering at an animal rescue center in the jungle. This past summer I interned at Publicis Consultants in Shanghai, China through USC Annenberg. Traveling fulfills my greatest passion to experience the world first hand and learn about new cultures.

You will most likely find me hiking, reading, discovering new music, exploring Southern California or working on my photography skills. I am so excited to be working at OIS and cannot wait to meet more international students. Come say hello anytime! Marcia and I have already starting planning what is going to be a great year!
Email: jmarkowi@usc.edu

London Eye: A Decade of Change in a Capital City

Marcia Rubin, International Program Assistant, uses her perspective as a returning outsider to chronicle the major shifts in London life, as she sees it, over the past ten years

As time marches on and we adapt to technological advances, natural phenomena and political climates, our cities change and develop with us. If we inhabit a city for a considerable length of time it can be difficult to notice the differences. The changes appear to be part of the organic evolution of society but if you live somewhere for a time and then return the changes are marked. At least this was my experience with London this summer.

London was the first major metropolitan city I lived in. I left the U.S. in September of 1996, also known as the year of the Macarena (it was inescapable, even the oom-pah bands at Oktoberfest in Munich were playing it.) I traveled for a couple of months in Europe and settled in London that winter, left in 1998, and returned for another year in 2000.

A lot has changed since then, including some of the more obvious differences, such as the current and well-known issues of 'terrorism,' 'gay marriage,' and 'Starbucks.'

During the 1990s and even up until the early part of the 2000s, terrorism was not taken as seriously as it is today. The 7/7 attacks in London in 2005 took few-

er victims than the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. but they had a similar impact on the U.K. No one, not even a tourist, will go near a solitary backpack or bag now left on public transport and you don't see trash receptacles on the underground either. Terrorism has left its mark on London and will forever change the population's behavior when traveling.

The 7/7 attacks were not the only landmark in 2005. Civil partnerships between same-sex couples also became legal that year. Acceptance of alternative lifestyles in a culture makes a huge difference in the way people treat each other and it was evident this summer that being gay in the U.K. is far more socially acknowledged and respected as a life choice.

Drag queens are featured in popular car commercials and the Liberal Democratic Party openly supports gay marriage. Ten years ago you would not have had this situation. London has gone from simply being tolerant to being actively supportive.

On a lighter note, Starbucks is all over London! I was used to seeing a McDonalds in every city center, just the center though, not every street corner. Star-

bucks has taken international presence to the next level and has just skipped the novelty and become an institution. Now you can grab an iced latte and hit the Gap when shopping on Oxford Street.

So, if Americans are feeling homesick while abroad, they don't have to worry, I expect to see more American food and shopping in the future. By the way, Burger King and T.G.I. Fridays are about to open in Helsinki – the trend continues throughout Europe, not just in London.

There are other striking differences in the social fabric of London as well. The Green Movement has not left London out and you can find recycling bins all over the city now, grocery stores have re-usable bags to sell and people are bicycling all over town.

While the environment as a social issue has been gaining awareness for years, it is now world wide and in full swing. I think the only people who rode bicycles in London ten years ago were couriers and the only people who brought their own carrier bags to the grocery store were...well no one. It's nice to see that London continues to evolve.

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London, but not as you knew it: from left to right, the Gay Pride Parade 2009, the terrorist attacks on July 7th, 2005, and one of Banksy's art pieces.

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Civil Roots: LA's Ties to the Black Power Movement

by Ben Riley-Smith, History BA, Cambridge University



City scars: (L) the pristine 'Freedom Won't Wait' (1992) mural in South Central, by Noni Olabisi, depicting the civil rights struggle, and (R) soldiers stationed on the streets in the wake of the Watts Riots in the summer of 1965.

The civil rights movement is one of the most inspiring and moving narratives in US history. When I first read about the movement, as a 14 year old huddled round a history book in the autumnal gloom of an English boarding school, I felt an immediate resonance with the events, despite the tens of years and thousands of miles that separated me from what happened. Having gone on to study History at Cambridge University, writing a thesis on the civil rights movement under the tutelage of the Mellor Professor of American History Anthony Badger, it became apparent that the complexity of the movement eschews the one-dimensional portrayal it often receives. No clearer is this apparent than with Black Power.

Popular memory of the civil rights movement is dominated by one man: Reverend Martin Luther King. It is King's 'I have a dream' speech, with its portrayal of racial harmony, that children recite at school. It is the vivid imagery of white policemen (and their snarling Rotweilers) clashing with peaceful black protestors on one of King's marches in the Deep South that make up the era's iconic photographs. And, above all else, it is King's doctrine of nonviolence – of turning the other cheek in the face of

white aggression – that history records as the driving force behind the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. Yet there was another movement, largely forgotten by posterity, which many argue was just as vital in challenging institutionalized racism within the US. Its name was Black Power, and its history is inextricably linked with California and, more specifically, LA.

The date is August 16th, 1965. Watts, a predominantly black neighborhood in Southern Los Angeles, lies ruined after 6 days of uncontrollable rioting. 34 people are dead, hundreds more injured, and close to 3,500 in jail. Triggered by the dubious arrest of three black locals by a white LAPD officer, looting and violence spiraled into an all-out attack from the community on the racist 'establishment'.

What was so shocking about the riots and many others like them that happened throughout America's urban centers in the steamy summers of '65 and '66 was not their cause but the reaction. Racism's roots ran in deep in American society, there was nothing new there. Indeed, with public segregation having been outlawed in 1964 and major voting reforms passed through Congress in early 1965, African Americans had increasing confidence

in their ability to effect changes in the status quo.

Yet these Bills, these pieces of legislation that the White House had enacted in the aftermath of King's peaceful marches, only went so far. They outlawed racism's most obvious manifestations – white-only water fountains, segregated buses, disenfranchisement – but left untackled the less tangible forms of discrimination; unequal wages, dilapidated housing, police brutality. It was the persistence of these subtler forms of racism that created the anger that boiled over in Watts, the same anger that would fuel what became known as Black Power after 1965.

What was Black Power? It started as just a phrase, a call for empowerment, that began to be chanted at rallies in the mid-1960s. But soon the phrase came to embody a new set of ideas for achieving equality that differed radically from the non-violent protests practiced by Martin Luther King. Where King had deplored retaliation in the face of violence, Black Power advocates deliberately (and very visibly) carried weapons in self-defense. When for King the White House was an essential ally, for emerging civil rights leaders such as Stokely Carmichael, the

President was a liar and a bigot. And where King used biblical and intellectual references to win the favor of white liberals, Black Power rejected the idea of ‘begging for freedom from your oppressor.’ Nobody’s going to give us freedom, the argument went; we’ve got to take it for ourselves.

There was never a single formal, institutionalized ‘Black Power,’ no ‘Black Power Party’ which you could vote for. Rather there existed a hugely varied collection of organisations, demagogues, campaigners and everyday African-Americans whose vision for racial progress came together under the rising banner of Black Power. On the one hand you had political parties like the Black Panther Party, founded by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton in October 44 years ago, north of LA in Oakland. Their political program demanded free health care and immediate prison release for all African-Americans.

Then there were individuals who embodied the movement culturally such as Emory Douglas, whose vivid raw images perfectly captured the anger driving the movement or the writer and poet Amiri Baraka. Black Power’s manifestations were truly varied – from the rise of the ‘natural’ Afro hairdo to calls for a Pan-African revolution – and yet there was a single thread of proac-



Left, a Black Power rally in the 1960s, and right, smoke from some of the fires caused during the Watts Riots in 1965.

tive black independence that bound them together.

History judges Black Power’s rise in the late 1960s and fall in the late 1970s to be unequal at best to the influence of King’s call to change through passive resistance. Its violent racial rhetoric fractured the civil rights movement and fundamentally lost the support of a key ally: the President. Lyndon B Johnson felt betrayed by the rhetoric and tactics of the Black Power movement, and his eventual departure from office in 1969 ushered in a whole new era, which was not necessarily more progressive.

Yet you need only look at the Black Panther murals that still stand today in parts of LA, untouched by graf-

fiti, to understand the significance of the movement in the lives of many African-Americans. It brought pride. “Black is Beautiful” its advocates pronounced, and they meant it. Martin Luther King’s leadership may have broken the tight grip of segregation, but Black Power also gave African Americans the empowerment and confidence to bring about fundamental changes in US society that remain visible to this day.

To find out more visit the California African-American Museum (600 State Dr, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90037), or read historian Peniel E. Joseph’s latest book ‘DARK DAYS, BRIGHT NIGHTS: From Black Power to Barack Obama.’

London Eye (Continued from page 7)

The last huge change I saw this year was the lack of smokers and the banning of smoking indoors. It was really odd to go into a pub and not be greeted with the smell of smoke. I spent some evenings at different pubs watching World Cup matches and was very pleased not to have to wash my hair and clothes afterward. Young people don’t smoke either!

In the office where I interned this summer our assistant was turning eighteen. She didn’t smoke, she said none of her friends smoked and people really just don’t smoke anymore.

This was one of the biggest surprises to me because in Europe smoking seems to be one of the habits that is the last to go. I suppose I shouldn’t be

all that surprised, after all London has always been at the forefront of modern culture.

A lot has changed but fortunately some things haven’t, like the lovely parks and fun outdoor markets and great ethnic food. I think that London definitely has adapted gracefully to developments in the past ten years while still retaining its charm and personality.

International Connection

The Beat Goes On: A Guide to LA's Top Music Venues

by Oliver Riley-Smith, Publications Editor

If you're looking for musical entertainment, we're spoiled for choice in LA. Certain factors give this city the conditions for a perfect musical storm. First, being the entertainment capital of America, Los Angeles is a magnet for upcoming musicians who come to form bands, as well as the first stop for seasoned superstars to hawk their wares. Secondly, we have an amazing range of venues, with state-of-the-art clubs standing next to tiny, historic hidden gems, catering to stadium rock, backroom jazz, and all things in-between. Finally, we have a rich musical history, which draws in all kinds of artists to stand in the footsteps of their predecessors. Here is your guide to the best spots to kick back and soak in the noise.

Large Venues:

The Shrine Auditorium



Standing right at USC's doorstep, this historic venue has the largest proscenium style stage in America and over 6,300 seats. Mostly known for hosting awards shows (including the Oscars in years past), the Shrine also provides big name entertainment shows and rave nights.

Coming up: Oct 30 & 31 – Hard Haunted Mansion Halloween club nights with Underworld, Calvin Harris, Boys Noize, Crookers, Rusko, and Jack Beats.

Nokia Theatre LA Live



Opening in 2007, with the intention of becoming LA's premier big concert venue, Nokia Theatre has 7,100 seats, none of them any further than 220 feet from the stage. Situated at the heart of the LA LIVE complex, the central location and easy access (thanks to the free weekend shuttles from USC) makes this a great night for any Trojan.

Coming up: Oct 30 – Lady Antebellum; Nov 4 – Godsmack; Dec 3 – Andre Rieu.

Best for Bands:

The Wiltern



Located in Koreatown at the bottom of the gorgeous art deco Pellissier Building, this venue is a prime spot for touring bands. When the Wiltern first opened it had the largest pipe organ in the West, and still has one of the most stunning ceilings, depicting a sunburst constructed of skyscrapers. The numbers range from 1,850 to 2,300 (when the floor seats are out).

Coming up: Oct 23/24 – Sufjan Stevens; Nov 3 – Paul Weller; Nov 6/7/8 – Florence + The Machine.

The Troubadour



One of the city's classic rock venues, home to some historic landmarks in its 53 years: Elton John made his US debut here, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Metallica and Franz Ferdinand all made their LA debuts, and the Eagles met in the bar in 1970. Last year, NBC gave 'The Troub' their 'Best Venue in LA' award, and the intimate music hall has kept all its integrity.

Coming up: Nov 9 – Delorean, Lemonade; Nov 13/14 – Best Coast, Dunes; Dec 9 – Bedouin Soundclash.

The El Rey



Another Art Deco beauty, this time in the Miracle Mile district, the El Rey was built in 1936 but only converted to a music venue in 1994, with standing room only. The design of the room means that the sound is actually crisper and clearer at the back and above the stage, so don't feel the need to rush to the front if you want the best aural experience.

Coming up: Oct 25 – UNKLE; Nov 3/4 – Gary Numan; Nov 6 – The Heavy.

Spaceland



When your first show, in 1993, includes Beck and a then-unknown Foo Fighters, you know you're onto a good thing. This small Silver Lake legend is known for breaking and discovering hot new acts, and is the center of the hipster scene, often hosting special local guests. Their free Monday night showcase features a different local resident band each month and is often a roadblock.

Coming up: Oct 23 – Russian Circles, Call Me Lightening; Nov 3 – Voxhaul Broadcast.

Others: Coronet at The Largo (great small venue for eclectic acoustic acts), Whiskey-a-Go-Go (Sunset Strip anchor)

Clubs:

Vanguard



With its massive balcony-lined ballroom, this club hosts big dance nights with hot DJs. The biggest nightclub in LA (a capacity of over 2,500 blows the other clubs out of the water) has a killer back garden and a stunning Funktion One sound system.

Coming up: Oct 22 – DJ Icey, Jen Lasher, Oct 29 – Miike Snow (DJ Set)

Avalon



Residing in an old theater where Judy Garland once sang, the Avalon is now LA's most cutting-edge nightclub. The 1,100 venue includes the trendy Bardot lounge, and is THE premier international DJ spot in town, hosting superstars at its regular 'Avaland' night.

Coming up: Oct 29 – Claude von Stroke; Oct 30 – Dirty South

Echoplex / The Echo



Echo Park's flagship double venue – small, hip-as-hell live stage on top, rocking, fun and friendly club on the bottom. Echoplex (the club) is well known for its large variety of dance nights, with the infamous 'Bootie LA' night taking the biscuit, playing a selection of often hilarious mash-ups while the hilarious 'Random Acts of Irreverent Dance' perform on stage.

Coming up: Oct 20 – Dub Club; Nov 6 – Bootie LA

Unique/Special:

Hollywood Bowl



Put simply, the most stunning outdoor music venue in the city. A natural amphitheatre nestled in the Hollywood Hills, with a broad and fascinating schedule ranging from live movie scores to stand on your seat raves, the Bowl is an essential LA experience. Recent highlights have included a Philharmonic-backed viewing of Planet Earth, a Grease sing-a-long, and the appearance of bands such as Chemical Brothers, Phoenix, and LCD Soundsystem. Unfortunately, the bowl closed for the season on October 15th, and will open again Spring 2011.

Walt Disney Concert Hall



Fast becoming LA's best new landmark, the Disney Concert Hall is a building to marvel at. A breathtaking spring of leaping metallic curves and edges on the outside, Frank Gehry's musical masterpiece comes alive inside, where everything from the seating arrangement (surprisingly vertical) to the roof is designed to deliver the perfect auditory experience, without any artificial amplification. The Disney is also home to the LA Philharmonic, and their colorful music director, Gustavo Dudamel.

Coming up: Oct 16/17 – Dudamel conducts Messiaen, Oct 20 – Ravi Shankar Celebration

Others: Amoeba Music (free shows at LA's biggest record store), Hotel Café, House of Blues, Catalina Jazz Club

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Traveling? Don't forget your I-20

Esther Lee and Aaron Lee Shin in their I-20 t-shirts

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