



DANCE PICK OF THE WEEK

L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

For dance fans who lust for those high-priced center front row and Founder's Circle seats at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the free annual Holiday Celebration sponsored by L.A. County is a once-a-year opportunity to live the dream. Now in its 36th year, the traditional production is associated with a spectrum of locally based choirs and music groups, but dance has generally received limited representation, usually an excerpt from *The Nutcracker* ballet. This year's lineup boasts six excellent dance groups, reflecting the range and diversity of local dance — and only one *Nutcracker* among them. While the program runs from 3 to 9 p.m., Jazz Tap Ensemble, directed by Lynn Dally, leads off the dance at 4 p.m. with its astonishing tap artists and a live jazz band. Lula Washington Youth Dance Ensemble is up at 4:30 p.m. with a sampling of her modern dance repertoire. Gemma Sandoval's Danza Floricanto/USA performs Mexican folkloric dance at 5:15 p.m., and at 6 p.m. the Joffrey Ballet offers a taste of *The Nutcracker*, which occupies the Pavilion the rest of the week. A Hasidic Russian folk dance suite from Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble is scheduled at 6:20 p.m. and Dance Celeste presents classical Cambodian dance at 6:40 p.m. Be warned — start times are only estimates. In other good news, not only is the performance without charge, the parking is also free. At the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., dwtwn.; Sun., Dec. 24, 3 p.m. (213) 974-1396. See Good Times for complete schedule.



Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble

—Ann Haskins

We also recommend: *Joffrey Ballet of Chicago* at the Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Fri.-Sat., Tues.-Wed.; *Los Angeles Classical Ballet* at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Fri.-Sun.