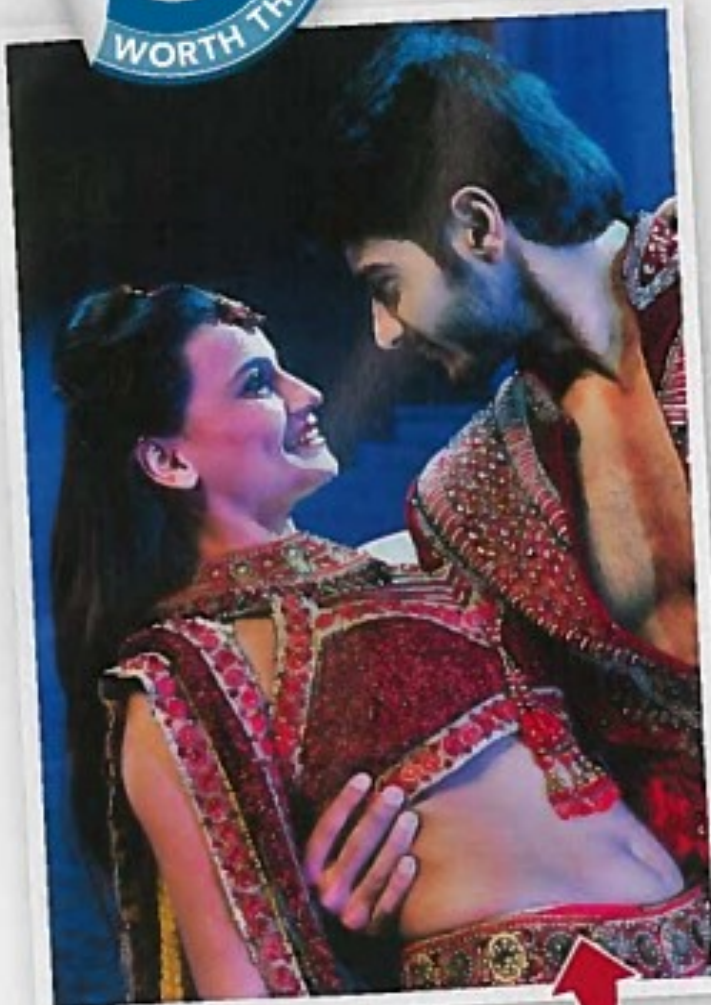


Current Events

[Your guide to what's happening in SoCal]



BY ANNETTE WINTER



1 **Taj Express: The Bollywood Musical Revue**

APRIL 21–22 Exhilarating music, electrifying choreography, and dazzling costumes: The best of Bollywood bursts onto the stage in this feel-good fusion of song, dance, and film showcasing the rituals, rhythms, and festivals of contemporary Indian culture. Created by sisters Vaibhavi and Shruti Merchant, two of India's top choreographers, the program presents Bollywood stars and finalists from India's most popular dance shows. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa. (714) 556-2787; scfa.org.

STUFF HAPPENS: Like most things in life, event details can change. Before piling into your car, be sure to check an event's website or give them a call to get the latest info. And don't forget to designate a driver if you plan to drink at an event that serves alcohol.

2 **La Quinta Arts Festival**

MARCH 2–5 Pair 200-plus painters, sculptors, photographers, and other artists with great food, drink, and live music, and you have the makings of a perfect spring day in the desert. Check out upcoming local talent in the Splash Lounge, courtesy of the festival's scholarship program. Paid, valet, and handicapped parking is on-site or free on nearby streets. Buy single (\$17) or multiday (\$22) tickets; children 12 and younger free. Civic Center Campus, La Quinta. (760) 895-9858; lqaf.com.

3 **Theodore Payne Foundation Native Plant Garden Tour**

APRIL 1–2 The California drought has been good for one thing: native plants. Get inspired on a self-guided tour of 32 L.A.-area sustainable private and public gardens. Saturday's tours include San Fernando and San Gabriel valley gardens; Sunday's focus is on the L.A. basin and the Westside. Owners, designers, and docents will be on hand to answer questions. Various locations in L.A. County. (818) 768-1802; nativeplantgardentour.org (tickets at theodorepayne.org).

4 **"Second Time Around: The Hubcap As Art"**

APRIL 8–MAY 28 See how a group of artists transformed the humble hubcap into a thing of beauty. The exhibit is the brainchild of Ken Marquis, artist and founder of LandfillArt, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit focused on repurposing metal waste. Marquis invited artists from all over the world to apply their talents to this typically unappreciated item; their finished works range from fine art to fun. California Center for the Arts, Escondido. (800) 988-4253; artcenter.org/events.

5 **Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival**

APRIL 22–23 Enjoy the not-so-Wild West with trick ropers, gun spinners, and live Western music at the former home of William S. "Two Gun" Hart, cowboy star of silent movies. Test your skill at knife throwing, ride a mechanical bull, pan for gold, and buy cowboy accessories and authentic Western merchandise. Follow your nose for some delicious old-style barbecue, but leave room for that festival favorite: Dutch oven peach cobbler. William S. Hart Park, Santa Clarita. (661) 250-3735; cowboyleft.org.