

BRAND NEW

CRITIC'S PICK: ART

# Latin culture clash

**W**ITH good reason, Latin American nations were long reluctant to give serious consideration to the art produced during centuries of often brutal colonial rule. Mexico, to cite one prominent example, elevated folkloric culture, the remnants of Aztec, Mixtec, Mayan and other pre-Columbian eras, and Modernism (especially with a political edge), while looking askance at most everything made between 1492 and the first stirrings of revolution early in the 19th century.

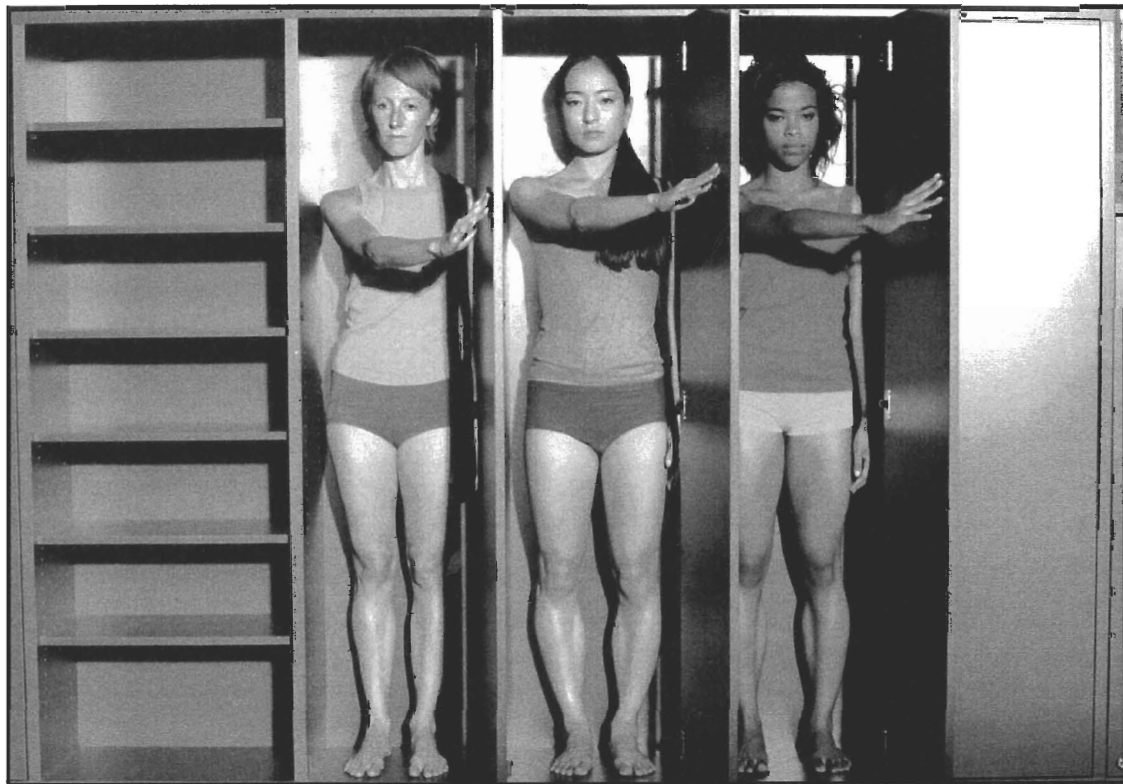


LACMA  
*Sacred heart, circa 1770, by José de Páez.*

During the last quarter-century, those misgivings have begun to dissipate. Art of the colonial era is being reclaimed, often as a distinctive New World expression not to be measured with an old-world yardstick. Exhibitions and museum collections have started to flourish. The most thrilling example to date is "The Arts in Latin America, 1492-1820," a survey of about 250 paintings, sculptures and decorative objects, which had its debut last fall (under a different title) in Philadelphia, then traveled to Mexico City. The show concludes its tour at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which helped organize the extravaganza.

— CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT

"The Arts in Latin America, 1492-1820" opens Aug. 5 and runs through Oct. 28 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. (323) 857-6000, [www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)



Dance Camera West

OPENING: Angelin Preljocaj's choreography is featured in the 2006 film "Pavillon Noir," to be shown June 1 at REDCAT.

CRITIC'S PICK: DANCE

# Reflection, projection

**N**O venue or series offers a more exciting array of major international choreographers this summer than the **Dance Camera West Film Festival**, running throughout June in eight Southland locations. Works by or documentaries about such contemporary titans as Pina Bausch, William Forsythe, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and Angelin Preljocaj set the seal on a schedule filled with new adventures, even as the festival enters its sixth year.

The opening slate of short films, titled "Screendance: A New Visual Language," at REDCAT includes Preljocaj (June 1), while Bausch is featured on a free program at the Hammer Museum (June 16). Keersmaeker's work and the latest from Forsythe are on view at REDCAT (June 23), and Thierry DeMey leads a festival-within-the-festival in UCLA's Glorya Kaufman Hall (June 23-26). Provocative collaborations between emerging filmmakers and dance-makers supplement the starrier screenings, and there's even an

evening of local work set for June 9 at the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center. And for those who absolutely insist on red carpet-style, celebrity-driven hoopla to glamorize anything filmic, there's always the very first Choreography in Media Honors, June 7 at the Directors Guild of America.

— LEWIS SEGAL

**Dance Camera West Film Festival** opens June 1 at REDCAT and runs at various venues through June 30. (213) 480-8633, [dancecamerawest.org](http://dancecamerawest.org)

CRITIC'S PICK: THEATER

# Four-part harmony from Jersey

**J**UKEBOX musicals deserve their bad rap, sacrificing imagination for commercial familiarity. But if you're inclined in this direction, you definitely won't want to miss "Jersey Boys," the Garden State groove-along that was last year's Tony winner for best musical.

The show, which opens at the Ahmanson on June 3, tells the story of the rise and fall and almost-too-good-to-

be-true comeback of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Valli's one-of-a-kind falsetto and heartthrob sincerity define a romantic era for baby boomers. And the hits, though bordering on the treacly, are nearly impossible to resist.

The book might traffic in the usual "Behind the Music" clichés and "Sopranos"-style stereotyping, but there's something undeniably involving about the group's blue-collar-to-shiny-suit journey. And under the smooth direc-

tion of Des McAnuff, the production (which was born at the La Jolla Playhouse) blends sympathy with a classic "Who Loves You" sound.

— CHARLES McNULTY

"Jersey Boys," Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., L.A. Runs June 3 to Aug. 31. 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$20 to \$100. (213) 972-4400, [CenterTheatreGroup.org](http://CenterTheatreGroup.org)



JOAN MARCUS

VALLI BOYS: The musical chronicles the Four Seasons' journey.