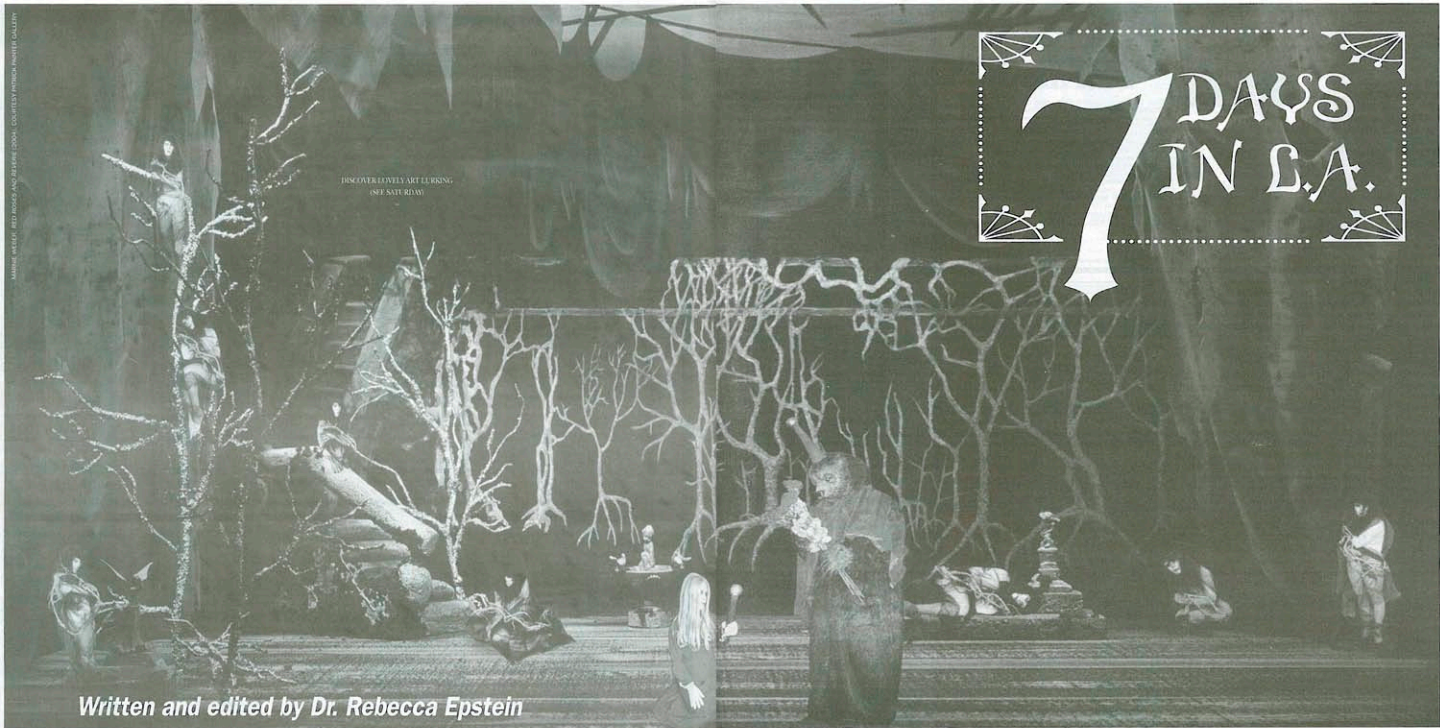


# LOS ANGELES VALLEY BEAT

FREE (WAY)



## 7 DAYS IN L.A.

Written and edited by Dr. Rebecca Epstein

**Thursday 25**  
**STUCK ON BAND-AIDS?**  
 There's nothing like a good metaphor to make a tough topic accessible, and there's nothing like a sardonic humor to catapult a point home. **Colson Whitehead's** latest novel, ***Apex Hides the Hurt***, uses the symbol of adhesive bandages to address contemporary debates about image, language, history, and racial relations. That is, when a small town has an identity crisis, with various factions angling to change its name to reflect their own racial and historical interests, residents call in a "nomenclature consultant" renowned for branding a line of bandages in custom flesh-tone colors (get it?). The story becomes a very top down a consumer culture path, asking if marketing and advertising now provide the only love we need. **Whitehead's**, a MacArthur Fellow, reads from and signs his book tonight, 7:30 p.m. **Free**. Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz, (323) 660-1175. [Skylightbooks.com](http://Skylightbooks.com).

**Friday 26**  
**A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM**  
 This weekend only at the conceptual wonderland that is the Museum of Jurassic Technology, "esteemed male soprano" **Randall Wong** presents ***FLATLAND: A Romance of Many Dimensions***. His "miniature opera," based on the 1884 "geometric novel" about a two-dimensional world peopled by geometric shapes who learn that there's a life beyond their plane, will be staged on a large table-top, giving the effect, Wong says, "of a performance viewed through the wrong end of the telescope." It will be a show of grand, microscopic, and illusionist proportions – so come early, because all latecomers will be rendered invisible (that is, you ain't getting 'in). Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 3 p.m., & 8 p.m.; Sun. at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m. **\$15-\$10** museum members, students, seniors, active service personnel. MIT's Tula Pearson, 5241 Venice Blvd., Culver City. Reservations: [Events@mitj.org](http://Events@mitj.org).

**Saturday 27**  
**COLOR YOUR WORLD**  
 Could there be more art fairs in L.A. this weekend? Feast your eyes and unfold your wallet at the **12th annual L.A. Art Show**, presenting work from 80 international and American galleries and spanning the centuries (Berier Harig, 5201 Airport Ave., Santa Monica; [Laartshow.com](http://Laartshow.com); Thu-Sat., **\$18-\$12** advance). Then hit **ART LA 2007**, the third annual contemporary art fair with a special focus on local figures and spaces (Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St., Santa Monica. [Artfairslac.com](http://Artfairslac.com); Fri-Sun. **\$15-\$25** for a three-day pass). Finally, it's art fit to print at the **22nd annual Los Angeles Fine Print Fair**, featuring 25 exhibitors showing works ranging from Old Masters to Japanese items, to stuff that's new and some will surely say "different" (LACMA West, Wilshire Blvd. at Fairfax Ave., L.A.; [Lacma.org](http://Lacma.org); Fri., Sun., **free**).

**Sunday 28**  
**SUITE TREAT**  
 Tonight, cellist **Antonio Lysy** switches it up and turns it around for "Sundays Live," LACMA's free classical music series presented by and broadcast on KMZT (105.1 FM). Lysy will perform an all-Bach program, but for two of the works he'll crank up his Yamaha electric cello, to give Suite No. 5 in C minor some reverie (so that's what it was missing!) and Chaconne in D minor some honest-to-godness amplification (normally arranged for solo violin, but he'll do it here with three other cellists). It won't be all rocking idioms – the recital opens with Lysy's rendition of Suite No. 1 in G minor on a cello set in a manner to make Johann Sebastian proud; with natural gut strings, no tail pin, a baroque-style bow, and a flat bridge. You heard me: no tail pin. 6 p.m. **Free**. Leo S. Bing Theater, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. (323) 857-6234. [Sundayslive.org](http://Sundayslive.org).

**Monday 29**  
**EASTSIDE TO THE WESTSIDE**  
 Stars are big in this town, but the Goethe Institut has them all beat with "**Starring Berlin**," a new, year-long series of 40 films celebrating 40 years of "sister city" relations between that town and L.A. Together, these silents, thrillers, comedies, dramas, and documentaries – plus more artful, historical, and otherwise notable cinematic works – represent 100 years of the German capital in film. Kicking things off is tonight's double feature, starting with ***Hintertreppe (Backstairs)***, a 1921 silent about a young maid who, despondent over her missing fiancé, falls in love with the handicapped man she works for. Next is ***Berlin: Die Sinfonie einer Großstadt (Symphony of a Great City)***, the 1929 classic documentary of a single, bustling day in Weimar Berlin. 7 p.m. **\$5**, 5750 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. (323) 525-3388. [Goethe.de/losangeles](http://Goethe.de/losangeles).

**Tuesday 30**  
**WRITE ON!**  
 We scribes at *CityBeat* and *ValleyBeat* never get writer's block. Ahahahahahahaha. Ho. Full stop. But we hear others do. To the rescue comes coach **Rachel Ballon, Ph.D.**, also known as "Doc Hollywood" for her uncanny ability to turn a paralyzed writer into a productive, creative conqueror of the page! This week, to celebrate her new manual, ***The Writer's Portable Therapist: 25 Sessions to a Creativity Cure***, she's offering a few tips, **free of charge**. On Thursday, January 25, she'll hold a workshop at the Writer's Store in Westwood to help you stop all that procrastinating and get down to business, damnit (2040 Westwood Blvd., L.A., at 6 p.m.; 800-272-6927; [RSPWritersStore.com](http://RSPWritersStore.com)). Today, she'll be preaching what she practices, and signing it too, at Dutton's Brentwood (11975 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, at 7 p.m.; 310-476-6263). [Rachelballon.com](http://Rachelballon.com).

**Wednesday 31**  
**COSMIC COMICS**  
 Wrapping up the month with a freaky viscose membrane is tonight's comedy showdown at the **Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre**. January has been "**Sci-Fi Month**" at the hip Hollywood howl factory, with movie clips and themed shows to send you to Planet Bof. Tonight, it all concludes with a big bang during the never-before/never-again showdown "**Exhibition Cage Match: Robots vs. Aliens**." In one corner, it's Yoda, E.T., and other top aliens talents, while in the other it's Small Wonder, Hal, and Datal! You decide which – species? Creature? Emotionally inaccessible mechanical or possibly bacovorous entity – is funnier. Because we know they can't get any wiser, 11 p.m. **\$5**, all ages, 5919 Franklin Ave., Hollywood, (323) 908-8702. [Ucbtheatre.com](http://Ucbtheatre.com).