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Best bets in dance for 2014-15

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Batsheva Dance Company GADI DAGNON

1. Miami City Ballet performs *Romeo and Juliet*, Oct 17-19, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami; Oct. 24-26, Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale; and Nov. 21-23, Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

This lushly costumed production of choreographer John Cranko's version of Shakespeare's tragic love story was a hit in the company premiere three years ago — with ravishing sweep, captivating romantic pas de deux, and a deliciously satisfying heartbreaker of an ending.

2. Batsheva Dance Company, Oct. 25-26, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami.

Israel's riveting modern dance troupe Batsheva returns in a new version of *Deca Dance*, the troupe's trademark montage of artistic director Ohad Naharin's choreography.

3. Shen Wei — *In Black, White and Gray*, Dec. 5-7, Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College in downtown Miami.

MDC Live brings renowned modern dance choreographer and MacArthur “Genius” award-winner Shen Wei to Miami in what promises to be a singular event. Known for breathtaking imagery and hypnotic movement, Shen Wei will present a world premiere, site-specific performance and exhibition that will also be his first museum show in the United States.

4. Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Jan. 17, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay.

A rare visit from one of the most adventurous ballet troupes in America, this San Francisco-based contemporary company features the work of artistic director Alonzo King paired with music from around the world.

5. Carlota Pradera’s *Bare Bones*, Feb. 12-13, On.Stage Black Box Theater at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium.

Tigertail Productions brings back this expressionistic, physically and emotionally wrenching dance theater work by Pradera and her extraordinary partner Lazaro Godoy, a sellout in its original run at Miami Theater Center’s tiny Sandbox Theater last spring.

6. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Feb. 19-22, Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale.

The storied and soul-stirring modern dance troupe headed by Miami native Robert Battle will be in Fort Lauderdale this season. Battle has challenged his dancers and audiences with a string of new choreographers and pieces; this visit should be no exception.

7. Urban Bush Women, March 7, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay.

This female African American collective, led for 30 years by the indomitable Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, continues to make powerful, original dance theater based on a deep commitment to community engagement. This show features *Walking with 'Trane*, inspired by the life of jazz great John Coltrane and set to his seminal jazz suite *A Love Supreme*.

8. Basetrack, March 21, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay.

A fascinating-sounding performance project examining the experience of U.S. Marines serving in Afghanistan and their families. *Basetrack* weaves together the stories of real soldiers and their loved ones with video, photos and a live score. Presented by MDC Live, the show is the

center of a season-long project connecting Miami veterans with the community, which will also include events at Miami Book Fair International and the O Miami poetry festival.

9. Miami City Ballet – Program IV, March 27-29, Kravis Center in West Palm Beach; April 10-12 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami; and April 17-19 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale.

The troupe's final program of the season features a world premiere from hot New York City Ballet choreographer Justin Peck collaborating with famed muralist Shepherd Fairey. Also on tap is the company premiere of Jerome Robbins' brilliant and beloved comedic ballet *The Concert (or, The Perils of Everybody.)*

10. Rosie Herrera in *Cookie's Kid*, May 28-31, The Light Box at Goldman Warehouse in Miami.

Miami Light Project commissions and premieres the first solo piece from Herrera, the most original and striking creative dance talent to emerge from Miami. In *Cookie's Kid*, Herrera explores pop icons ranging from La Lupe to Walter Mercado, connecting them via themes of rebellion, strength and vulnerability.