

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

Start your summer of concerts and festivals this weekend



An image from Orlando Bedolla's documentary "Encuerados." (Orlando Bedolla)

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ICYMI, **Rüts Dance Studio** has a new location! The Koreatown dance studio, co-owned by **Diny** and **Eileen Kim**, has moved to a bigger space on **Western Avenue**. The studio first caught my eye for its variety of classes — from whacking to K-pop. Its expansion means more dance and more community. If you want to get moving this weekend, check out the brand-new space. I'm **Steven Vargas**, your **L.A. Goes Out** host, and here are the top events for this coming weekend recommended by the crew ([sign up here for the newsletter](#)):

Weekly countdown



"It's not only about practicing the kinks and the fetishes, or wearing the leather, but a lot of the work they do is charity work and fundraising," Orlando Bedolla says about the leather subculture. (Orlando Bedolla)

1. "Encuerados" at NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Film Festival

When **Orlando Bedolla** went to his first gay leather bar about 15 years ago, the patrons at **the Eagle** in Silver Lake ostracized him. He realized he was the only Latino there. He recalled hearing, "You don't look like you belong here," Bedolla told The Times.

In 2021, he was invited to a leather party by a friend and experienced the complete opposite — there were many more Latinos. As Bedolla witnessed the rise in Latino representation in the leather community, he started to document it. "**Encuerados**," his documentary highlighting the underground subculture of the L.A. Latino LGBTQ+ leather community, is now being screened at the **NewFilmmakers Los Angeles InFocus festival** dedicated to LGBTQ+ cinema.

His story centers around **Payasos L.A.**, a club founded by **Leo Iriarte**, and the fight for representation in the community. Iriarte started to "receive death threats on Facebook" after being named Mr. Los Angeles Leather in 2011.

Bedolla began filming "Encuerados" about a year ago and witnessed firsthand the growth of the subculture. Once he found his place in the community, both through the documentary and in his personal life, Bedolla recognized the importance of brotherhood, which is vital to the subculture.

"When it comes to leather, everybody knows everybody," he said. "It's not only about practicing the kinks and the fetishes, or wearing the leather, but a lot of the work they do is charity work and fundraising."

"They're always trying to help each other out," he added.

"Encuerados" screens at the NFMLA festival at **4 p.m. Saturday**. The festival runs from **3:30 to 10:30 p.m.** and tickets range from **\$10 to \$30**. More details can be found on [NFMLA's website](#).