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It was love at first sight. A friend had sent me a few images by world renowned photographer **Michael Kenna**.

They immediately inspired me and I started to write poems. At the time, I was in the process of producing my new album, but Michael's photographs totally captivated me and I could do nothing else but write. Eventually Michael and I made contact, and as I saw more of his work I was spellbound. All I wanted was to write about his intimate, sensual, enigmatic images. Two days after our first contact, our book idea was born – a collaboration of poetry and photographs. I worked for three months almost non-stop, and wrote over one hundred poems, exclusively for Michael's images.

The book, *Love in black and white* will be published by **Chris Pichler**, of **Nazraeli Press** in the Spring 2009. It will include 45 of my original poems, accompanied by selected photographs of Michael's landscapes made in many magical locations around the world. Michael is one of the greatest photographers of our time. With a career that spans over three decades, his photographic prints can be found in the permanent collections of major museums throughout the world. More than 30 books and catalogs have been published on his work. In 2000, Michael was made a Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters by the Ministry of Culture in France.

A video excerpt of *Love in black and white* is now available on youtube, with original music by Hollywood film composer **Dana Kaproff**. Video editing by **Thomas Daniel Jones**.

LA Opera's revival of **Bizet's** *Carmem* was exciting. As *Carmem*, the beautiful **Vikto-**



ria Vizin gave a sensual performance highlighted by her strong and warm voice. **Genia Kühmeier** as Micaëla was delicate and moving. **Marcus Haddock** gave a persuasive performance as Don José. I particularly liked the children's choruses, their not so perfect performance enhanced the innocence and beauty of their presence on stage.

UCLA LIVE at Royce Hall: John Updike's conversation with David Uhlin was punctuated by personal anecdotes and elegant, self deprecating humor, expressed in clear and incredibly well spoken language. One of the most celebrated authors of our time, Updike said that he sees a writer as a "distinguished and useful person who is illuminating society by adding a little light, a little amusement to the world."

In a romantic and heartfelt tribute to the classic Mexican music of her youth, **Linda Ronstadt** and the Mariachi **Los Camperos de Nati Cano** performed songs from her best-selling albums *Canciones de Mi Padre* and *Más Canciones*. Ronstadt was also joined by the renowned dance troupe, **Ballet Folklórico Paso del Norte** from El Paso, TX.



Tania Libertad's adventurous style of Afro-Peruvian roots music has earned critical acclaim and fans worldwide. The Peruvian singer's albums have featured collaborations with numerous Latin artists including Brazilian stars **Djavan** and **Ivan Lins**. Her guest, Portuguese singer

Lura, brought an exciting and vibrant energy to the evening.

Québécois director, actor and storyteller **Robert Lepage's** *Blue Dragon* was visually enthralling. Its minimalist set design was a poetic and mesmerizing work of art.

The full concert and musical, *FEZ: Queen of Cities*, featured a multi-ethnic and multi-religious cast that illustrated the evolution of Arabic music, and the influence it has today throughout the world. The event celebrated the 1200th anniversary of the city of Fez and the designation of the city as a UNESCO world heritage site.

No Subtitles Necessary, a documentary produced by my friends **Zachary W. Kranzler**, **Tony Frere**, **Kian Soleimanpor** and **James Chressanthis** tells a very human story about the lives, friendship and stunning work of the past four decades by two phenomenal director of photography: **Vilmos Zsigmond**, **Laszlo Kovács**. Watching their eyewitness footage of the 1956 Soviet invasion and heroically smuggling it to Austria on foot, one can understand more easily through their work and perseverance what it is to have a calling as an artist -- a passion, that can transcend just about anything.



Disney Hall: Grammy-winning singer **Milton Nascimento** & *the Jobim Trio*

performed their new release *Novas Bossas*, celebrating 50 years of Bossa Nova. I prefer to hear Milton singing his own compositions, but the band was one of the very best, subtle, intimate, and very together, I had to get up and dance.

* Special Thanks:
Don Heckman (<http://irom.wordpress.com>),
Denise Dorman (writebrainmedia.com),
Galina Sobolev (buysingle.com),
André Cohen (myspace.com/WCAPhotoStudio)
and **Gigi of Beverly Hills** (capillarybygigi.com)