

Ballet Nacional de España closes the year at Madrid's Teatro Real with *Electra*, a family tragedy

- The BNE, directed by Rubén Olmo, will perform this creation by Antonio Ruz, with choreographic collaboration by Olga Pericet, from December 28th to 30th
- Alberto Conejero, winner of the 2019 National Dramatic Literature Award, is the author of the dramaturgy and the lyrics of the songs performed by cantaora Sandra Carrasco

Madrid, December 18th, 2019. A reunion with a brother long absent. The moving memory of a deceased father. The elements of a touching Christmas scene become a tragedy in the storyline of ***Electra, a choreography by Antonio Ruz that blends contemporary dance, Spanish dance and flamenco, with the collaboration of Olga Pericet.*** The Ballet Nacional de España will perform this work at Madrid's Teatro Real from December 28th to 30th.

Electra could never forget the murder of her father, and she became a myth. A myth narrated by Euripides and Sophocles, reworked by Shakespeare in *Hamlet*, and which choreographer Antonio Ruz, with the collaboration of Olga Pericet, has transposed to the rural Spain so vividly portrayed by Lorca.

"Whenever I take on a new project, I try to listen to my intuition and look for the points of connection between its subject matter and my own creative universe, my imagery, my roots. When *Electra* emerged for the Ballet Nacional de España, I visualised its story in the deep, traditional rural Spain that has inspired and fascinated me so much since childhood. Although its plot is more than 2,000 years removed from us, its visceral nature and aesthetic beauty exerted a magnetism on me that led me to our own popular culture: Spanish, Mediterranean. I dreamed of restoring dance and the chorus to the place we imagine they occupied in classical tragedies, as a unifying element of ideas and emotions," explains Antonio Ruz.

The dramaturgy and song lyrics are by Alberto Conejero, winner of the 2019 National Dramatic Literature Award. "*Electra* is a story of family ghosts, old quarrels and uncontrollable absences. A myth that continues to dazzle us with its strength and universality," says the playwright.

The music has been composed by Pablo Martín Caminero, Moisés Sánchez and Diego Losada. Rosa García Andújar has drawn inspiration from the rich heritage of traditional clothing from different regions of Spain to design the costumes; Paco Azorín is responsible for the set design, and Olga García for the lighting design.

Joining the cast of the Ballet Nacional de España as a **guest artist is the flamenco voice of cantaora Sandra Carrasco.** She acts as coryphaeus, marking out the ballet's plot from the stage through song. Antonio Najarro, former director of the BNE, also makes a special appearance in the role of Aegisthus, the lover of *Electra's* mother.



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**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

Director
Rubén Olmo

The Ballet Nacional de España premiered *Electra* at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in 2017 and, after Madrid, the production will tour to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on March 20th and 21st, 2020, and Pamplona on May 8th, 2020.

"I wanted to continue performing *Electra* because it is one of the most ambitious and avant-garde productions created by the BNE in recent years, and audiences in other cities should have the opportunity to enjoy it," says Rubén Olmo, director of the BNE. "In addition, *Electra* exemplifies the type of collaborative production I want to create. **My intention as director of the Ballet Nacional de España is to invite the most talented choreographers on today's Spanish dance scene to collaborate with us.** I want to turn the BNE into the company with which all new creators wish to work."

The performances of *Electra* from December 28th to 30th will feature live music performed by the **Teatro Real Orchestra, conducted by Manuel Coves**. Performance times are 8:00 p.m. on December 28th and 30th, and 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on December 29th. Tickets are on sale at the Teatro Real box office and on its website.

Rubén Olmo, director of the BNE

Rubén Olmo, winner of the 2015 National Dance Award, joined the Ballet Nacional de España in September 2019 with the aim of working to preserve, promote and expand the reach of the traditional Spanish Dance repertoire, while also incorporating new creations and opening the doors to the avant-garde and experimentation. This marks his second period with the BNE, a company of which he was a member as a dancer between 1998 and 2002.

From 2011, he served as director of the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, an institution belonging to the Regional Government of Andalusia, where he premiered his own productions such as *Llanto por Ignacio Sánchez Mejías* and *La muerte de un minotauro*. Previously, he founded his own company, for which he created shows including *Érase una vez*, *Belmonte*, *Las tentaciones de Poe*, *Horas contigo*, *Naturalmente Flamenco* and *Diálogo de Navegante*. He has also collaborated as a choreographer or dancer with leading figures in Spanish Dance such as Aída Gómez, Antonio Najarro, Eva Yerbabuena, Víctor Ullate, Antonio Canales, Rafael Amargo, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco.

About the BNE

The Ballet Nacional de España is Spain's leading public company for Spanish dance. It was founded in 1978 under the name Ballet Nacional Español, with Antonio Gades as its first director. It forms part of the production units of the National Institute for the Performing Arts and Music (INAEM), which belongs to the Ministry of Culture and Sport. The BNE's mission focuses on preserving, promoting and transmitting Spain's rich choreographic heritage, embracing its stylistic diversity and traditions, represented through its various forms: academic, stylized, folklore, *escuela bolera* and flamenco. It also works to bring dance closer to new audiences and to promote its national and international profile within a framework of full artistic and creative autonomy.

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