

Electra, a story of fate and revenge that brings together flamenco and contemporary dance, arrives at Málaga's Teatro Cervantes

- The Ballet Nacional de España, directed by Rubén Olmo, will perform this choreography by Antonio Ruz on November 22nd and 23rd
- Alberto Conejero, winner of the 2019 National Dramatic Literature Award, wrote the dramaturgy and song lyrics, performed by Sandra Carrasco

Madrid, November 18th, 2019. To avenge one who committed another crime in revenge. Blood calls for blood, and therein lies the curse. **The Ballet Nacional de España, directed by Rubén Olmo**, will perform *Electra*, a version of the Greek myth inspired by the Spanish rural imaginary, on **November 22nd and 23rd at the Teatro Cervantes in Málaga.**

Choreographer Antonio Ruz, in collaboration with Olga Pericet, has explored different dance languages — contemporary dance, Spanish dance and flamenco — to create an avant-garde and complex production. **Alberto Conejero, winner of the 2019 National Dramatic Literature Award**, was responsible for adapting Euripides' tragedy to the language and popular culture of Spain, and wrote both the dramaturgy and the song lyrics.

They have succeeded in giving this story of family conflict almost Lorca-like echoes. It begins and ends with a wedding and a death, in a kind of rite of passage that brings together passion and violence. This violence is unleashed by Agamemnon when he murders one of his daughters, and his wife avenges her death by killing him, prompting Electra and her brother to seek revenge. *Electra* is a tragedy driven by powerful, elemental emotions, such as the love between parents and children.

"Although its story is more than 2,000 years removed from us, its visceral nature and aesthetic beauty exerted a magnetism on me that led me towards our own popular culture: Spanish and Mediterranean. I dreamed of restoring dance and the chorus to the place we imagine they occupied in classical tragedy, as a unifying element for ideas and emotions," explains Antonio Ruz.

Electra features music by **Pablo Martín Caminero, Moisés Sánchez and Diego Losada**; costume design by **Rosa García Andújar**, inspired by the rich heritage of traditional dress from different regions of Spain; and set design by **Paco Azorín**.

For this production, the flamenco voice of cantaora **Sandra Carrasco** joins the Ballet Nacional de España cast as the coryphaeus. Principal dancer **Inmaculada Salomón** performs the title role, while **Antonio Najarro**, former director of the BNE, makes a special appearance as Aegisthus, the lover of Electra's mother.

"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. "Furthermore, *Electra* exemplifies the kind 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 work with us. **I want to make the BNE the company that every new creator wishes to work with.**"



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**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

Director
Rubén Olmo

***Electra* is a complete sensory experience.** It appeals to all the senses — through its set design, lighting, music and, of course, movement — allowing the audience to feel the full intensity, strength and passion of this universal story. **With this production, which premiered at Madrid’s Teatro de la Zarzuela in 2017, the BNE won the Cerino Award,** presented by the specialist press at the Mérida International Classical Theatre Festival.

Electra will subsequently be performed in Madrid from December 28th to 30th, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on March 20th and 21st, and Pamplona on May 8th.

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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