

Ballet Nacional de España opens the season at Teatro Circo Murcia with a version of *Electra* echoing Lorca

- November 16th, one performance only in Murcia
- *Electra*, choreographed by Antonio Ruz, with the collaboration of Olga Pericet, premiered at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in 2017
- This narrative work blending contemporary dance, Spanish dance and flamenco will subsequently be performed in Málaga and Madrid in 2019, and in Las Palmas and Pamplona in 2020

Madrid, November 11th, 2019. Blood ties can stain a family with tragedy when they become entwined with revenge. **Electra** could never forget the murder of her father, and she became a myth. On November 16th in Murcia, the **Ballet Nacional de España** opens its first season under the **direction of Rubén Olmo** with this choreography by **Antonio Ruz, in collaboration with Olga Pericet**. Together, they have delved into different languages of dance — contemporary, Spanish dance and flamenco — to bring Euripides' tragedy to life through an original and contemporary vision inspired by the Spanish rural imaginary.

They have worked with **Alberto Conejero, winner of the 2019 National Dramatic Literature Award**, who is responsible for the dramaturgy and the song lyrics. They have succeeded in giving this story of family disputes 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. A violence unleashed by Agamemnon when he murders one of his daughters, and which his wife avenges by killing him, thus prompting the revenge of Electra and her brother. *Electra* is a tragedy driven by very powerful, telluric emotions, such as the love between parents and children.

"I wanted to continue performing it because it is one of the most ambitious and avant-garde productions created by the BNE in recent years, and I want audiences in other cities to have the opportunity to enjoy it," says Rubén Olmo. "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.**"

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 clothing from different regions of Spain; and set design by **Paco Azorín**. For this production, the flamenco voice of cantaora **Sandra Carrasco** joins the cast of the Ballet Nacional de España as coryphaeus. Principal dancer **Inmaculada Salomón** embodies the title role, while **Antonio Najarro**, former director of the BNE, makes a special appearance as Aegisthus, the lover of Electra's mother. **With this production, premiered in 2017, the BNE won the Cerino Award**, granted by the specialised press at the Mérida International Classical Theatre Festival.

***Electra* is a complete sensory experience.** It appeals to all the senses — from the set design to the lighting, the music and, of course, movement — in order to make the audience feel the full intensity, strength and passion of this universal story.

The only performance of *Electra* in Murcia will take place on **November 16th at 9:00 p.m. at Teatro Circo Murcia**. Tickets can be purchased at the box office and on the theatre's website.

The production will subsequently travel to Málaga on November 22nd and 23rd, and Madrid from December 28th to 30th. The BNE will also perform it in 2020 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on March 20th and 21st, and in 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.

Further information and interview requests:

Eduardo Villar
Communications Director, Ballet Nacional de España
Tfno. 91 05 05 052 / 611 60 92 44
eduardo.villar@inaem.cultura.gob.es

Graphic material:

<https://prensa.balletnacional.mcu.es/>