

The first performance of *Invocación* in 2021 brings the Ballet Nacional de España to Pozuelo de Alarcón

Audiences at Teatro Mira will enjoy a programme showcasing different styles of Spanish dance on January 23rd and 24th

Madrid, 19th January 2021. Storm Filomena has not prevented the Ballet Nacional de España from beginning its 2021 tour of *Invocación* on **23rd and 24th January at Teatro Mira in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid**. The theatre's capacity has been limited to the 75% currently permitted in the Community of Madrid as a COVID-19 safety measure. In addition, all dancers and technical staff will undergo an antibody test the day before the first performance.

The programme that audiences at Teatro Mira in Pozuelo will see closed the most recent edition of the Festival de Jerez in March 2020. *Invocación*, devised by Rubén Olmo, director of the Ballet Nacional de España, offers a comprehensive overview of Spanish dance, encompassing most of its styles, from escuela bolera to flamenco. **It comprises Rubén Olmo's choreographies *Invocación bolera* and *Jauleña*; Antonio Najarro's *Eterna Iberia*; and *De lo flamenco. Homenaje a Mario Maya*, featuring choreography by Mario Maya, Milagros Menjíbar, Manolo Marín, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco.** "It is a very complete programme in which audiences will be able to enjoy flamenco filled with life and energy on stage, a ballet representing the purest form of stylised dance and one of the few recent escuela bolera choreographies," says Rubén Olmo.

With *Invocación bolera*, Rubén Olmo has updated the essence of traditional escuela bolera while paying tribute to the great masters who shaped the development of this style, which emerged in the eighteenth century: Mariemma, Ángel Pericet and Antonio 'el Bailarín'. For this choreography, he commissioned an original score from Manuel Busto. The composer and conductor also created the music for *Jauleña*, a transitional solo that interweaves several styles, from flamenco and stylised dance to escuela bolera, created and performed by Rubén Olmo.

The first part of the programme is completed by *Eterna Iberia*, a stylised dance ballet created by Antonio Najarro and premiered by the Ballet Nacional de España in 2019. It incorporates traditional elements of Spanish dance, such as the cape and Cordoban hat. The music was originally composed by Manuel Moreno Buendía for Antonio Ruiz Soler's ballet *Eterna Castilla* and was subsequently arranged as a suite under the title *Celtiberia*.

Invocación also marks the **incorporation into the Ballet Nacional de España's repertoire of a work by Mario Maya**, one of the great masters of contemporary Andalusian flamenco. "With *De lo flamenco*, Mario Maya brought a new freshness to the way flamenco was created and experienced on stage in 1994, particularly with a large company of dancers. This production, premiered by the Compañía Andaluza de Danza—now the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía—of which he was the first director, marked a turning point because of its stylisation, freshness and movement. Even today, it remains innovative and entirely unlike anything else," says Rubén Olmo.

The Ballet Nacional de España's production of *De lo flamenco* includes two new choreographies created by two of Mario Maya's regular collaborators: **Rafaela Carrasco's *Romance del emplazado* and Isabel Bayón's *Taranto***. The programme also includes **Manolo Marín's choreography *Los cinco toreros***.

Mariana Ovalle, the flamenco dancer's widow, advised Rubén Olmo during the preparation process to ensure that the production remained as faithful as possible to the original. Artists who formed part of the original cast have also collaborated, including rehearsal director Manuel Betanzos and musician Diego Carrasco. The costumes are replicas of the originals and were hand-painted by Juan Andrés Maya.

Invocación **Ballet Nacional de España**

Programme:

Invocación bolera, by Rubén Olmo

Jauleña, by Rubén Olmo

Eterna Iberia, by Antonio Najarro

De lo flamenco. Homenaje a Mario Maya, by Mario Maya, Milagros Menjíbar, Manolo Marín, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco

Teatro Mira
Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid
23rd January 2021, 7:30 p.m.
24th January 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale from 20th January at the theatre box office and via the following link:

<https://www.elcorteingles.es/entradas/teatro/entradas-invocacion-ballet-nacional-de-espana-pozuelo-de-alarcon-0000087wB0000087UW00000858M/>

About the Ballet Nacional de España

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

Rubén Olmo, Director of the Ballet Nacional de España

Rubén Olmo, winner of the 2015 National Dance Award, joined the Ballet Nacional de España in September 2019 with the aim of preserving, promoting and expanding the reach of the traditional Spanish Dance repertoire, while also incorporating new creations and opening the company to avant-garde approaches and experimentation. This marks his second period with the BNE, having previously danced with the company from 1998 to 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, including *Llanto por Ignacio Sánchez Mejías* and *La muerte de un minotauro*. Before that, he founded his own company, for which he created productions such as *Érase una vez*, *Belmonte*, *Las tentaciones de Poe*,



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DE ESPAÑA**

Director
Rubén Olmo

Horas contigo, Naturalmente Flamenco and *Diálogo de Navegante*. He has also worked as a choreographer and dancer with leading figures in Spanish Dance, including Aída Gómez, Antonio Najarro, Eva Yerbabuena, Víctor Ullate, Antonio Canales, Rafael Amargo, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco.

Further information and interview requests:

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