

Ballet Nacional de España conjures the spirit of Spanish dance at the Centre Cultural Terrassa

The public dance company will give four performances on 12th, 13th and 14th February as part of the 38th BBVA Dance Season

Terrassa, 11th February, 2021. **The Ballet Nacional de España will give four performances at the Centre Cultural Terrassa on 12th, 13th and 14th February.** These performances were postponed twice due to the temporary closure of cultural venues in March and November. Capacity will be limited to 50%, and the starting times of some performances have been brought forward in order to comply with the 10 p.m. curfew.

The *Invocación* programme, which the Ballet Nacional de España will perform as part of the 38th BBVA Dance Season, offers a comprehensive overview of Spanish Dance, encompassing most of its styles, from escuela bolera and stylised dance 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, A. Rueda "Toná", Manolo Marín, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco.**

The programme devised by Rubén Olmo also marks the first time in the company's history that a choreography by Mario Maya—the brilliant flamenco dancer, choreographer and teacher who died in 2008—has entered its repertoire. Mario Maya is a leading figure in the world of Spanish Dance, renowned for his genius and sensitivity. He was a pioneer, the creator of daring and innovative productions, and one of the most tireless researchers of his generation.

"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*. Manolo Marín's choreography *Los cinco toreros* has also been added. The music, composed by Diego Carrasco, Jesús Torres, Moraíto Chico and Los del Río, will be performed live by the Ballet Nacional de España's flamenco ensemble, together with three guest cantaores.

Rubén Olmo has sought to reproduce Mario Maya's flamenco suite in the finest possible detail. To achieve this, he has worked with Manuel Betanzos, rehearsal director for *De lo flamenco*, and Mariana Ovalle, the choreographer's widow, who allowed him to consult the artist's personal archives. The costumes have also been hand-painted, just like the originals. Artist Juan Andrés Amaya was responsible for reproducing the designs created by Maya for his production.

***Invocación bolera* is one of the few recent escuela bolera compositions.**

Rubén Olmo has updated the traditional essence of this style, one of the most characteristic, complex and distinctive forms of Spanish Dance, which emerged in the eighteenth century from the combination of popular Andalusian dances and academic dance. At the same time, the work pays tribute to the great masters who shaped the development of escuela bolera, including Ángel Pericet, Mariemma and Antonio 'el Bailarín'.

The music is also an original contemporary composition created specifically for the piece, commissioned by the Ballet Nacional de España from the young Seville-born composer and conductor Manuel Busto. The costumes were designed by Pedro Moreno for the Ballet Nacional de España's 1988 production *Fandango del Padre Soler* and adapted for this work by the designer himself.

Invocación also includes a choreography by Antonio Najarro, former director of the Ballet Nacional de España, premiered in May 2019 at the Auditorio y Centro de Congresos Víctor Villegas in Murcia. ***Eterna Iberia* is a stylised dance ballet in which traditional elements of Spanish Dance—such as the cape, castanets and Cordoban hat—play a prominent role.**

Yaiza Pinillos's sophisticated costumes represent the richness of Spain through the use of blue, green and burgundy to symbolise three of its treasures: the sea, olive trees and wine. The music was originally composed by Manuel Moreno Buendía in 1963 for the ballet *Eterna Castilla*, commissioned by Antonio Ruiz Soler, and was subsequently published as a suite under the title *Celtiberia*.

In addition to directing the entire programme, **Rubén Olmo also performs his choreography *Jauleña*, set to music by Manuel Busto and performed by the Orchestra of Extremadura.** It is a transitional solo interweaving several dance styles and inspired by Granada's cultural fusion, with particular prominence given to zapateado and granaína. The costumes are by Rosa García Andújar.

The Ballet Nacional de España premiered *Invocación* on 7th February 2020 at the closing of the Festival de Jerez, and it has since been performed in Albacete and Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid. Following Terrassa, it will travel to Pamplona in May.

**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, A.

Rueda "Toná", Manolo Marín, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco

Running time: 1 hour and 45 minutes, plus a 20-minute interval.



MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA
Y DEPORTE



**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

Director
Rubén Olmo

**Centre Cultural Terrassa
Terrassa, Barcelona
12th February 2021, 8:00 p.m.
13th February 2021, 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
14th February 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

Tickets are available from the box office and online:
<https://www.fundaciocct.cat/es/programacio/ballet-nacional-de-espana-2/>

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*, *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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