

Ballet Nacional de España will combine the most classical forms of Spanish dance with contemporary approaches in the three productions of the 2021–2022 season

- The tours confirmed so far include performances in Madrid, Seville, Valencia, Murcia, Huelva and St. Petersburg
- In November, the Ballet Nacional de España will broadcast three contemporary folklore choreography workshops live

Madrid, 16th September 2021. During the 2021/2022 season, the Ballet Nacional de España, directed by Rubén Olmo, will continue to restore its usual level of activity by presenting three different programmes in several Spanish cities. "Everyone at the Ballet Nacional de España will work to ensure that, in the 2021/2022 season now beginning, we recover the performance schedule we lost during the previous two seasons as a result of the health crisis caused by COVID-19," announces Rubén Olmo. "The three programmes premiered so far under my direction—*Invocación*, *Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler* and *La Bella Otero*, which is now beginning its touring life—are available so that theatres, festivals and auditoriums can choose whichever they prefer, whether a narrative production or a programme devoted entirely to dance, and bring it to their city or country," he adds.

The first tours will take place in October at **Murcia's Auditorio Víctor Villegas on 7th October** and **Madrid's Teatro Real from 13th to 16th October**. *Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler*, a programme honouring the figure who was the most versatile dancer and choreographer in Spanish dance, on the centenary of his birth and the 25th anniversary of his death, is one of the three productions with which Spain's public Spanish dance company will tour Spain and other countries. In addition to reviving choreographies by the master that represent the height of his talent in three different styles—*escuela bolera*, stylised folklore and flamenco stylisation—the programme includes new works faithful to his style and aesthetics.

One month later, *Invocación*, the first programme devised by Rubén Olmo and premiered in 2020, will be presented to audiences at the **Dance Open Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 8th and 9th November**. Featuring choreographies by Rubén Olmo, Antonio Najarro and Mario Maya, the programme will subsequently be performed at **Madrid's Teatro de la Zarzuela from 10th to 22nd December**, Casa Colón in **Huelva on 5th March 2022**, and the Palau de les Arts in **Valencia from 21st to 24th April 2022**. Meanwhile, *La Bella Otero*, the most recent production premiered by the Ballet Nacional de España last July, will be performed on **26th and 27th May 2022** at **Seville's Teatro de la Maestranza**. These are the dates that can be announced at present, although further tours are expected to be added to the schedule through July 2022.



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The management team intends to resume international touring as soon as possible. Although the only confirmed international engagement at present is the company's participation in the Dance Open Festival in St. Petersburg in November, progress is being made towards resuming tours in other countries, despite the fact that health requirements continue to make this difficult. "We are exploring the possibility of taking our productions to several countries, and we have received some very interesting proposals," says Rubén Olmo.

Choreographic workshops streamed live

The Ballet Nacional de España will also continue this season with live broadcasts of choreographic workshops led by different choreographers for the dancers at the company's headquarters. This initiative, entitled #BNEenMovimientoPerpetuo, began in 2020 with the participation of Manuel Reyes, Belén López and Marcos Morau of La Veronal.

For this second edition, Rubén Olmo has sought to give greater visibility to folklore from a variety of traditions and styles. He has invited **Manuel Segovia**, co-director of Ibérica de Danza and winner of the 2001 National Dance Award for Creation; **Miguel Ángel Berna**, director of Danza Viva; and **Jon Maya**, founder of Kukai Dantza and winner of the 2017 National Dance Award, to collaborate with the BNE. The Aragonese jota, Castilian folklore and the fusion of Basque dance with avant-garde approaches will be the subjects explored with the dancers over three days. The results will be broadcast live on social media on **5th, 19th and 26th November**.

The first workshop, led by Manuel Segovia, will offer a contemporary perspective on Spanish dance and, in particular, stylised folklore. The dancer and choreographer will work with the company on the Aragonese jota and the castanet worn on the middle finger, an instrument used in traditional dance that differs in size and technique from the castanets played when dancing flamenco or *escuela bolera*.

Miguel Ángel Berna's approach to Castilian folklore is equally eclectic, owing to the influence of the wide variety of disciplines he has mastered, ranging from classical and contemporary dance to flamenco. Jon Maya will bring the choreographic workshops to a close with his contemporary approach, based on the interaction between traditional Basque dance and other artistic disciplines and dance styles. He will be accompanied by sound artist **Xabier Erkizia** and dramaturg **Ximun Fuchs**.

In addition to touring and live broadcasts, the company will revive several works from the Spanish National Ballet's repertoire during the season and begin preparing the new production to be premiered at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in December 2022.

School visits to rehearsals resume

As part of the educational activities that the Ballet Nacional de España has been developing since 2017, visits to the company's headquarters by school groups will resume after having been suspended since March 2020.

Workshops introducing Spanish dance to younger audiences, organised as part of the #BNEalCole and #BNEalColeEnGira projects, will also continue alongside the Ballet Nacional de España's performances. During this season, they will additionally be extended to special education centres in the Community of Madrid. This activity forms part of a series of initiatives aimed at making dance more accessible to all groups. In this regard, the company's educational publications will also be issued in easy-to-read versions.

2021/2022 touring schedule Ballet Nacional de España

7th October 2021

Auditorio Víctor Villegas, Murcia

Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler

Region of Murcia Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Manuel Coves

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/entradasMur>

13th–16th October 2021

Teatro Real, Madrid

Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler

Madrid Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Manuel Coves

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/CARZ-Mad>

8th–9th November 2021

Dance Open Festival. Baltic House Theatre, St. Petersburg, Russia

Invocación

10th–22nd December 2021

Teatro de la Zarzuela, Madrid

Invocación

Orchestra of the Community of Madrid. Conductor: Manuel Coves

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/TZdic2021>

5th March 2022

Casa Colón, Huelva

Invocación

21st–24th April 2022

Palau de les Arts, Valencia

Invocación

Orchestra of the Valencian Community. Conductor: Manuel Bustó

Tickets on sale from 2nd February



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26th–27th May 2022

Teatro de la Maestranza, Seville

La Bella Otero

Royal Seville Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Manuel Bustó

Tickets on sale from 2nd November

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.

Images

<https://balletnacional.mcu.es/es/sala-de-prensa>

Further information and interview requests

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