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**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

Ballet Nacional de España explores the renewal of traditional dances through three choreographic workshops to be streamed online

The workshops led by choreographers Manuel Segovia, Miguel Ángel Berna and Jon Maya will be broadcast live on 5, 19 and 26 November

Madrid, 2nd November 2021. The reinvention of traditional dances from a contemporary perspective is the path followed by certain dancers and choreographers in what has become known as neofolk. As part of his commitment to the continuous development of the Spanish National Ballet's dancers, director Rubén Olmo has invited **Manuel Segovia, Miguel Ángel Berna** and **Jon Maya** to lead three choreographic workshops during November. All three artists have built distinguished careers by expanding the boundaries of traditional dance as a choreographic language and using it as a tool to create new works. "I want the dancers to deepen their knowledge of folklore, one of the styles of Spanish dance included in the Ballet Nacional de España's repertoire, and to explore new trends with choreographers who specialise in this field," says Rubén Olmo.

The final session of each workshop will be broadcast live through the Ballet Nacional de España's social media channels on **5th, 19th and 26th November**. This initiative, entitled **#BNEenMovimientoPerpetuo**, was launched in July 2020 as a way of bringing dance and the dancers' work in the rehearsal studios closer to audiences, following the postponement of the company's scheduled performances until September. Those workshops, led by Manuel Reyes, Belén López and Marcos Morau of La Veronal, focused on flamenco and contemporary dance.

For this second edition, **Manuel Segovia**, co-director of Ibérica de Danza and winner of the 2001 National Dance Award for Creation, will open the series of choreographic workshops, this time focusing on folklore and traditional dances. He will offer a contemporary perspective on Spanish dance and, in particular, stylised folklore, a discipline that coexists in his career with *escuela bolera* and flamenco.

The workshop involving the Ballet Nacional de España's dancers from 3rd to 5th November will be based on the rhythms of the *baile charro*. Drawing on the choreographic structure of *Suite del Rebollar*, Manuel Segovia will develop a new work with his own distinctive choreographic language, rooted in traditional dance and its personal reinterpretation.

According to the choreographer, the aim is to create another reality for traditional dance: an imaginary folklore, or neofolk, that also provides an open-source emotional space, free from borders and stereotypical limitations. "I want the dancers to become aware of the importance of traditional dance, its capacity for renewal and development in the creation of new choreographies, and the possibilities it offers performers and



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creators connected with Spanish stage dance.”

Miguel Ángel Berna, director of the company Danza Viva, takes an equally eclectic approach to folklore, influenced by the wide variety of disciplines he has mastered, from classical and contemporary dance to flamenco. The dancer and choreographer will revisit the traditional steps of the Aragonese jota and develop the technique of playing castanets on the middle finger as the foundations for working on the choreography *La templanza*, which won first prize at the Spanish Dance and Flamenco Choreography Competition in 2000.

“My intention is to reflect on how traditional dances can be adapted to the society in which we live, turning them into a choreographic instrument capable of engaging with major works and bringing them to the stage. I believe traditional dance needs to evolve choreographically beyond the repertoires of folklore groups, so that it can take its place on the international dance scene, just as flamenco has done.”

Jon Maya, founder of Kukai Dantza and winner of the 2017 National Dance Award, will bring the choreographic workshops to a close from 24th to 26th November 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 and composer **Xabier Erkizia** and dramaturg **Ximun Fuchs**. Together with the dancers, they will explore the concept of the source through movement, sound and dramaturgy. “I would like us all to become collaborators in this laboratory, where we will not work on a specific technique but instead embark on a process of exploration,” says the Basque creator.

Choreographic workshops streamed live
#BNEenMovimientoPerpetuo

5th November 2021

2:15 p.m.

Manuel Segovia (Ibérica de Danza)

19th November 2021

2:15 p.m.

Miguel Ángel Berna

26th November 2021

2:15 p.m.

Jon Maya (Kukai Dantza)



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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

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

Guadalupe Rodríguez
Communications Department
Ballet Nacional de España
Tel. 91 05 05 081 / 617 85 60 68
guadalupe.rodriguez@inaem.cultura.gob.es