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BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA

Ballet Nacional de España will open the 26th Festival de Jerez with a tribute to Antonio Ruiz Soler

The BNE will give two performances of *Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler* on 17th and 18th February 2022 at the Teatro Villamarta in Jerez

The programme comprises four choreographies in stylised flamenco, folklore and escuela bolera created by Antonio, together with two works inspired by his style, choreographed by Rubén Olmo, Miguel Ángel Corbacho and Carlos Vilán

Madrid, 11th February 2022. Antonio Ruiz Soler, known as **Antonio 'el Bailarín'**, transformed the way Spanish dance was performed and became its most complete dancer, choreographer and director. He mastered every discipline and created productions encompassing folklore, stylised dance, *escuela bolera* and flamenco, which he performed on stage and screen and directed both with his own company and with the Ballet Nacional de España between 1980 and 1983.

In 2021, to celebrate the centenary of his birth in Seville, **Rubén Olmo**, director of the Ballet Nacional de España, devised a programme bringing together faithful revivals of key works from his career alongside new creations inspired by his style. ***Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler* will open the 26th Festival de Jerez on 17th February.** The Ballet Nacional de España will be accompanied by the **Orquesta Bética de Cámara**, conducted by **Manuel Coves**, and soprano **Maribel Ortega**.

Premiered on **15th April 2021 at Seville's Teatro de la Maestranza**, the production features three choreographies representing the pinnacle of Antonio's talent in three different styles: *escuela bolera*, flamenco stylisation and stylised folklore. *Escuela bolera* is represented by ***Sonatas***, a work that had not been performed in full since 1982. In *Sonatas*, Antonio combined *escuela bolera* with classical dance in a technically demanding choreography set within a palatial setting. Galician folklore inspired the choreographer's ***Fantasía galaica***. Set to music by **Ernesto Halffter**, it is an ensemble piece that elevates popular dances and imbues them with great lyricism. The programme also includes Antonio's most emblematic stylised flamenco solo, ***Zapateado***, set to music by **Pablo Sarasate**. Completing the selection of Antonio's choreographies is ***Vito de gracia***, a tribute to his film career and to the years he performed in Hollywood alongside his artistic partner Rosario.

Under the title ***Estampas flamencas***, the *Centenario Antonio Ruiz Soler* programme also presents new choreographies by Rubén Olmo and Miguel Ángel Corbacho that follow the master's style and aesthetics while updating four flamenco forms frequently performed by Antonio: ***Martinete***, ***Zorongo***, ***Taranto*** and ***Caracoles***. The overview of Antonio's artistic career is completed by the solo ***Leyenda***, choreographed by **Carlos Vilán** to **Isaac Albéniz's composition *Asturias***, another essential work in Antonio Ruiz Soler's productions. A collaborator of the master during the final years of his career, Carlos Vilán created *Leyenda* in 2016 especially for Esther Jurado, principal dancer with the

Ballet Nacional de España, who now includes it in her repertoire.

The staging of these works that the Ballet Nacional de España will present at the Festival de Jerez has sought to remain as faithful as possible to the original versions of Antonio's choreographies. The BNE's Wardrobe Department has recovered and adapted the costumes for *Sonatas* and *Fantasía galaica* used in the productions directed by Antonio Ruiz Soler at the Ballet Nacional de España in the 1980s. For the remaining works, pieces from the BNE's costume archive have been reused to evoke the aesthetics of the different stages of Antonio Ruiz Soler's professional life. Among the few designs commissioned specifically for this programme is the black lace bata de cola worn by Esther Jurado in *Leyenda (Asturias)*, designed by López de Santos.

For the set design, certain scenic elements have been replaced by audiovisual projections, such as the curtain featuring the halberdiers' coat of arms in *Sonatas*. José Maldonado also designed **audiovisual pieces for *Estampas flamencas***, using the flamenco form featured in each work as a common thread.

Educational workshops in Jerez

This year, the Ballet Nacional de España is once again holding its Spanish dance educational workshops in Jerez, for which it received the Flamenco en el Aula Award from the Regional Government of Andalusia. On this occasion, more than 200 primary and secondary school pupils from La Ina, San Juan de Dios, Blas Infante, Santa Isabel de Hungría, La Granja and Fernando Savater schools will attend workshops at Sala Compañía on 14th and 15th February. The sessions will be led by rehearsal director Maribel Gallardo; Belén Moreno, head of educational activities; and Sergio García, first dancer with the Ballet Nacional de España.

On Wednesday 16th February, an inclusive workshop will be held at the same venue with students from the CEE de Sordos de Jerez and IES Caballero Bonald. While the first workshops aim to introduce participants to the fundamentals of Spanish dance and develop new audiences, the inclusive sessions seek to improve the self-esteem and physical abilities of people with disabilities.

Participants in all three workshops will also attend a rehearsal of the production at the Teatro Villamarta on 16th February. During the sessions, they will receive the three interactive titles published to date by the Ballet Nacional de España as part of the #BNEnoscueta collection: *Escuela bolera*, *Antonio Ruiz Soler para jóvenes* and *Flamenco*.

These publications were produced with the support of Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) and in collaboration with the Complutense University of Madrid. Through a mobile application, readers can complement the text with videos and 3D augmented-reality animations.

All three titles are also available in easy-to-read versions to ensure cognitive accessibility.



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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.

Images

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

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