

Ballet Nacional de España celebrates Flamenco Day with the purity of flamenco dancer Manuela Carrasco's style

The masterclass will be streamed live on the Ballet Nacional de España's social media channels on 16th November from 1:45 p.m.

Madrid, 11th November 2021. On 16th November, the Ballet Nacional de España will share a masterclass by **Manuela Carrasco** on its social media channels to commemorate **Flamenco Day**. This day has been celebrated since 2011, marking the date on which UNESCO inscribed flamenco on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The workshop on *bulerías* and *jaleos*, followed by a conversation between the flamenco dancer and director Rubén Olmo, will be **streamed live from 1:45 p.m. on the Ballet Nacional de España's Facebook, YouTube and Twitter channels**.

"Manuela Carrasco is one of those flamenco figures who can bear witness to the way flamenco was danced in another era. She is a natural-born artist whose dancing did not emerge from an academy, but from sharing the stage from a very young age with great masters. I am certain that the dancers will learn a great deal from her experience and passion on Flamenco Day, a date that deserves to be celebrated in style, just like every day of the year devoted to culture," says Rubén Olmo, director of the Ballet Nacional de España.

"To achieve a variety of sounds from the heart, without metal plates on the shoes, artificial stage settings or other accessories" was one of the principles set out in the famous *Decálogo sobre el baile flamenco*, written by Vicente Escudero in 1951. Manuela Carrasco (Seville, 1958), winner of the 2007 National Dance Award for Performance and the 2018 Gold Medal of Merit in the Fine Arts, is today the guardian of the purity of flamenco championed by Escudero, defending a form of dance free from any artifice beyond that created by the feet and hands.

The daughter of flamenco dancer José Carrasco "El Sordo" and Cipriana Salazar Heredia, a member of the Los Camborios family, she trained as a self-taught dancer. Against the wishes of her parents, who did not want her to endure the sacrifices demanded by the profession, she made her debut at the age of just ten at the 'El Jaleo' tablao in Torremolinos, directed by Mariquilla. She learnt by watching Carmen Amaya dance in the film *Los Tarantos* and later by observing the trio Los Bolecos—Matilde Coral, Rafael el Negro and Farruco—whom she met at the 'La Cochera' tablao in Seville. At the age of thirteen, she toured Europe with the company of flamenco dancer Curro Vélez. She later worked at the 'Los Gallos' tablao in Seville and became the leading performer at Manolo Caracol's 'Los Canasteros' tablao in Madrid.

At the age of just eighteen, Juan de Dios Ramírez Heredia christened her the "Goddess of Flamenco" because of the majesty with which she moved on stage. Since then, she has continued to take her art around the world, premiering productions such as *Flamenco Puro* and *Corazón flamenco*; sharing the stage with Mario Maya, Merche Esmeralda and Camarón de la Isla; and appearing in Carlos



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Saura's film *Flamenco*, in which she performed her celebrated soleá accompanied by José Mercé's singing. In September this year, she passed the torch to her daughter, Manuela Carrasco Jr., who made her stage debut at the premiere of *Aires de mujer* as part of the 7th Málaga Flamenco Art Biennial.

Manuela Carrasco Masterclass

**Streaming live on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter
16th November 2021
1:45 p.m.**

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 Spanish National Ballet 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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