

Painting and the performing arts merge in an anti-war choreography

INAEM's dance companies dance for peace in front of *Guernica*

- **The Ballet Nacional de España and the Compañía Nacional de Danza come together to mark International Dance Day on 29th April with a livestream performance in front of Picasso's *Guernica***
- **The National Institute of the Performing Arts and Music, in collaboration with the Museo Reina Sofía, is promoting this initiative to convey a message of harmony and solidarity through the universal language of dance**

28th April 2022. The National Institute of the Performing Arts and Music (INAEM), in collaboration with the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, has organised a very special event to mark International Dance Day on 29th April: a livestream for peace bringing together choreographies by the Ballet Nacional de España (BNE) and the Compañía Nacional de Danza (CND) with the condemnation of the atrocities of war symbolised by Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* (1937).

Room 206 of the Sabatini Building has never previously opened its doors to host a choreographic performance of this kind. For the first time, Spain's national dance companies will come together in a joint artistic programme performed in front of this universally recognised work. The programme will be broadcast from 10:00 a.m. on Friday and will remain available on the social media channels of the participating institutions.

Two world premieres

The programme will open with the world premiere of *Sombras*, choreographed especially for the occasion by Miguel Ángel Corbacho, Assistant Artistic Director of the BNE, to Raúl Domínguez's composition *Racheo*. This will be followed by Ricardo Amarante's choreographies *Fear and Loss*, performed by CND dancers to Jacques Brel's *Ne me quitte pas* and Charles Dumont's *Mon Dieu*, both arranged by Nataliya Chepurenko. The programme will conclude with *Sangre de toro*, created by Ballet Nacional de España Director Rubén Olmo to Diego Losada's *Bulería*, and the premiere of *Guernica*, created specifically for

this commemoration and also featuring music by Losada.

Coinciding with the 85th anniversary of the attack on the Basque town of Guernica, which was bombed on 26th April 1937, this initiative conveys a message of harmony and solidarity through the universal language of dance. In the words of the Minister of Culture and Sport, Miquel Iceta: "For the first time, we are bringing together our two national dance companies in front of a universal symbol of peace, Picasso's *Guernica*, so that the talent and dedication of our dancers, together with the unique expression of dance in its different styles, may offer us comfort through a message of fellowship, beauty and hope."

The BNE's director, one of the driving forces behind the initiative, explains: "Through dance, we wanted to express the suffering caused by war and our rejection of the possibility that events like this could ever happen again." Joaquín De Luz, director of the CND, adds: "Dance is a universal language that connects us as human beings. It creates the opposite of war, which brings destruction and separation."

The dancers performing in this programme for peace will be Inmaculada Salomón, Miriam Mendoza, Débora Martínez, Aitana Rousseau, Cristian García, Álvaro Gordillo, Matías López, Adrián Maqueda, Álvaro Marbán, Alfredo Mérida, Áxel Galán and Manuel del Río from the Spanish National Ballet; and Alessandro Riga, Cristina Casa, Anthony Pina, Giada Rossi, Ion Agirretxe and Pauline Perraut from the Compañía Nacional de Danza.

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 to 2013, 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, Rafaela Carrasco and Aída Gómez.

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<https://balletnacional.mcu.es/es/sala-de-prensa/temporada-21-22/>

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