

Ballet Nacional de España will showcase a comprehensive overview of Spanish dance at the first World Expo to be held in an Arab country

- The Ballet Nacional de España will perform *Invocación* at Expo 2020 Dubai on 2nd February, Spain Day at the World Expo
- This programme, devised by Rubén Olmo, includes choreographies featuring *escuela bolera* and stylised dance, as well as a tribute to flamenco creator Mario Maya

Madrid, 18th January 2022. The richness of the different styles of Spanish dance will travel to the United Arab Emirates with the Ballet Nacional de España, which will perform on **2nd February**, Spain Day, at two venues within the **Expo 2020 Dubai site**. BNE director **Rubén Olmo** will perform the solo *Jauleña* at Al Wasl Plaza. Later, the entire company will present a comprehensive overview of Spanish dance on the Jubilee Stage through the programme ***Invocación***. The Ballet Nacional de España thus joins the extensive cultural programme organised by the Spain Pavilion and Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) to promote Spanish culture and Spain's international image as part of this global event, which will close on 31st March 2022.

"*Invocación* is a very complete programme in which audiences can enjoy flamenco filled with life and energy on stage, a ballet representing the purest form of stylised dance and one of the few recent *escuela bolera* choreographies," says Rubén Olmo. The programme also includes the solo ***Jauleña***, a work exploring the possibilities of combining contemporary dance, stylised dance and flamenco, choreographed by the BNE's director to music by **Manuel Busto**. Rubén Olmo will perform it as part of the official events organised to mark Spain Day at Expo 2020 Dubai.

This programme offers an opportunity to introduce international audiences to the work of one of the great creators of Spanish dance: **Mario Maya**, the dancer, choreographer and director who transformed the aesthetics and concept of flamenco. Until his death in 2008, Mario Maya served as a bridge between traditional and contemporary flamenco, and his creativity and working methods inspired a generation of flamenco artists who are now among the leading figures in the art form.

As a tribute to the Granada-born artist, Rubén Olmo selected the suite ***De lo flamenco*** for inclusion in the *Invocación* programme because it encompasses a broad range of flamenco styles, from classicism and baroque exuberance to the avant-garde. "Mario Maya's repertoire is particularly well suited to the Ballet Nacional de España because he choreographed for large groups of dancers," adds Rubén Olmo. The version performed by the BNE adds two new choreographies to the original work, premiered by the Compañía Andaluza de Danza—now the Ballet

Flamenco de Andalucía—in 1994: **Rafaela Carrasco's** *Romance del emplazado* and **Isabel Bayón's** *Taranto*. The remaining choreographies seek to remain faithful to Mario Maya's creation, from the costumes to the music composed by **Diego Carrasco, Jesús Torres, Moraíto Chico** and **Los del Río**.

Flamenco is the best-known of the styles encompassed by Spanish dance, but it is not the only one. *Escuela bolera*—a discipline combining classical dance techniques with popular dances from the eighteenth century and mastery of castanets, also known as *palillos*—also has a place in this programme. **Rubén Olmo's** *Invocación bolera* is one of the few choreographies in this style created in recent years. The BNE's director drew inspiration from the great masters of *escuela bolera* and from the teachings of his own instructors to create a highly personal *escuela bolera* choreography with a contemporary style. The music is an original contemporary composition commissioned by the Ballet Nacional de España from the young Seville-born composer and conductor **Manuel Busto**. The costumes were designed by **Pedro Moreno** for *Fandango del Padre Soler*, premiered by the Ballet Nacional de España in 1988, and were adapted for this work by the designer himself.

The *Invocación* programme is completed by **Eterna Iberia**, one of the purest examples of stylised Spanish dance created by **Antonio Najarro** for the Ballet Nacional de España in 2019. The cape and Cordoban hat, enhanced by **Yaiza Pinillos's** costume designs, take centre stage in a ballet that revives the score composed by **Manuel Moreno-Buendía** for Antonio Ruiz Soler's *Eterna Castilla*, subsequently published as a suite under the title *Celtiberia*.

The Ballet Nacional de España **premiered *Invocación* on 7th March 2020 at the Festival de Jerez** and has since performed the programme in Madrid, St. Petersburg, Santander, Pamplona, Zaragoza, Albacete, Terrassa in Barcelona and Pozuelo de Alarcón in Madrid. Following Dubai, it will soon be presented in Logroño, Torrejón de Ardoz in Madrid and Valencia, among other cities.

Acerca del 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.

Download high-resolution images:

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

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, Ballet Nacional de España
Tel. 91 05 05 018 / 617 85 60 68
guadalupe.rodriguez@inaem.cultura.gob.es