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**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

***Invocación*, a comprehensive Ballet Nacional de España programme featuring flamenco, stylised dance and escuela bolero**

- It will be performed on 19th March at the Teatro Bretón in Logroño
- The programme, featuring choreographies by Rubén Olmo and Antonio Najarro, includes a tribute to flamenco creator Mario Maya

Logroño, 18th March 2022. The Ballet Nacional de España travels to Logroño to share the stylistic diversity of Spanish dance with audiences in La Rioja. On **19th March**, the **Teatro Bretón** in the regional capital will host a performance of the four-part programme ***Invocación***, featuring more than forty dancers together with the Ballet Nacional de España's flamenco ensemble of musicians and singers. "It 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, director of the Ballet Nacional de España.

The programme opens with **Rubén Olmo's** escuela bolera choreography ***Invocación bolera***. "I felt it was important for the Ballet Nacional de España to have an ensemble escuela bolera choreography, because the repertoire contains only one, Mariemma's *Danza y tronío*, while the others are choreographies for one or two dancers," adds Rubén Olmo. "To create *Invocación bolera*, I drew on the great masters of escuela bolera and on what my own teachers taught me, but the result is a highly personal escuela bolera choreography with a contemporary style," he says.

The music for *Invocación bolera* 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 same two creators are also responsible for the next piece in the programme, ***Jauleña***, a transitional solo that explores the possibilities of combining contemporary dance, stylised dance and flamenco. Musically, flamenco forms the basis of a piece divided into two sections: a granaína, in which the cello takes the solo role, and a zapateado, in which flamenco guitars and percussion form part of the orchestra.

The stylised dance, or Spanish classical dance, work included in the programme is ***Eterna Iberia***, one of the purest ballets in this style, choreographed 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 the ballet. The music was composed by **Manuel Moreno-Buendía** for *Eterna Castilla*, Antonio Ruiz Soler's ballet premiered in 1963, and was subsequently published as a suite under the title *Celtiberia*.

The recording that will accompany these three choreographies at the Teatro Bretón was performed by the **Orchestra of Extremadura** under the direction of **Manuel Coves**.

Tribute to a major creator of flamenco theatre

The second half of the programme pays tribute to **Mario Maya**, an artist who transformed the aesthetics and concept of flamenco and was a pioneer in telling stories and portraying the people of Andalusia through movement. He sought to elevate choreography through dramaturgy, music and costume, without ever losing sight of emotion.

To honour the Granada-born dancer and choreographer, who died in 2008, Rubén Olmo decided to restage ***De lo flamenco*** as faithfully as possible. This flamenco suite was premiered by the Compañía Andaluza de Danza, now the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, in 1994. According to the director, it is one of Mario Maya's freshest ballets and encompasses a broad range of flamenco styles, from classicism and baroque exuberance to the avant-garde.

"I believe Mario Maya would be very pleased to see his work included in the Ballet Nacional de España, a company he dreamed of directing," explains Rubén Olmo, director of the Ballet Nacional de España. "His repertoire is particularly well suited to the Ballet because he choreographed for large groups of dancers."

The production presented by the Ballet Nacional de España differs from the original, choreographed by Mario Maya, Milagros Menjíbar and A. Rueda "Toná", in two pieces commissioned from Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco. Bayón, who was a principal dancer in Mario Maya's company, created the choreography *Taranto*. Manuela Carrasco, meanwhile, is credited with *Romance del emplazado*, set to verses by García Lorca and following the master's essence and style in the soleá of the same title that Mario Maya choreographed especially for Israel Galván.

The Ballet Nacional de España's flamenco ensemble, accompanied by three guest cantaores, will perform live the music composed by **Diego Carrasco**, **Jesús Torres**, **Moraíto Chico** and **Los del Río**.



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Invocación was the first programme premiered by the Ballet Nacional de España under the direction of Rubén Olmo. After closing the Festival de Jerez on 7th April 2020, it has been performed in Madrid, Dubai, St. Petersburg, Santander, Pamplona, Zaragoza, Terrassa, Pozuelo de Alarcón and Albacete. Following Logroño, it will travel to **Torrejón de Ardoz** on 25th and 26th March, **Valencia** from 21st to 24th April, **Toledo** on 8th May, and **Granada** on 17th and 18th June.

Invocación Ballet Nacional de España

Programme:

Invocación bolera, by Rubén Olmo

Jauleña, by Rubén Olmo

Eterna Iberia, by Antonio Najarro

De lo flamenco. Homenaje a Mario Maya, by Mario Maya, Milagros Menjíbar, A. Rueda
"Toná", Manolo Marín, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco

**Teatro Bretón, Logroño, La Rioja
19th March 2022, 7:30 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.



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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.

Download high-resolution images:

<https://balletnacional.mcu.es/es/sala-de-prensa/temporada-21-22/gira-invocacion-logrono-2022>

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