



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
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INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE
LAS ARTES ESCÉNICAS Y DE LA MÚSICA

**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

Ballet Nacional de España takes *Invocación* on tour to seven Mexican cities this July

- *The Spanish company, directed by Rubén Olmo, has not performed in Mexico since 2004*
- *It will give fourteen performances in Mexico City, San Luis Potosí, León, Morelia, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Puebla from 1st to 31st July*
- *Patricia Guerrero, winner of the 2021 National Dance Award for Performance, will join the tour as a guest artist*

Madrid, 31st May 2022. Promoting Spain's rich choreographic heritage in all its stylistic diversity and strengthening its national and international profile through cultural partnerships between institutions are two of the principles set out in the Ballet Nacional de España's 2019–2023 Strategic Plan under the direction of Rubén Olmo. As part of this mission, the company will give fourteen performances of ***Invocación*** in seven Mexican cities from **1st to 31st July: Mexico City, San Luis Potosí, León, Morelia, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Puebla.**

This tour by the Ballet Nacional de España, which has not performed in Mexico for eighteen years, has been made possible through the collaboration between the National Institute of the Performing Arts and Music (INAEM) and the University of Guadalajara, through its Department of Cultural Outreach and Promotion, Cultura UDG. The initiative has also received support from the Embassy of Spain in Mexico and the Cultural Centre of Spain in Mexico.

A showcase of versatility and colour

Founded in 1978, the Ballet Nacional de España will present Mexican audiences with the four-part programme *Invocación*, which offers a comprehensive overview of Spanish dance through most of its styles. In the words of Rubén Olmo, 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". *Invocación* premiered at the Teatro Villamarta in Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, in 2020.

The programme opens with ***Invocación bolera***, a work by Olmo himself that updates the essence of traditional escuela bolera and pays tribute to the great masters who shaped the development of this style. The music is an original contemporary composition written especially for the piece by the young Seville-born composer and conductor Manuel Busto.

Jauleña, meanwhile, was conceived by Rubén Olmo as a transitional solo combining stylised dance, escuela bolera and flamenco, with particular emphasis on the granaína and zapateado. The music is also by Manuel Busto.

Antonio Najarro's ***Eterna Iberia*** brings together castanets, the Spanish cape and the Cordoban hat, as well as the technical mastery and powerful performance style characteristic of Spanish stylised dance. Featuring music by Manuel Moreno-Buendía, the work premiered in 2019 at the Teatro Auditorio Víctor Villegas in Murcia.

The second half of the programme is devoted to ***De lo flamenco. Homenaje a Mario Maya***, through which the Ballet Nacional de España pays tribute to dancer and choreographer Mario Maya (1937–2008), a flamenco legend whose work had not previously featured in the company's repertoire.

Comprising seven movements, the work is conceived as a flamenco suite reflecting Mario Maya's distinctive and innovative style. Maya founded the Compañía Andaluza de Danza, now the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, in 1994. Rubén Olmo has restaged the original *De lo flamenco*, premiered that same year, as faithfully as possible, while adding two new choreographies by Rafaela Carrasco and Isabel Bayón. According to the director, the production brought a refreshing and distinctive approach to the flamenco being performed at the time. **Patricia Guerrero**, winner of the 2021 National Dance Award for Performance, will join the production as a guest artist.

Ballet Nacional de España

Invocación

1st and 2nd July

San Luis Potosí, SLP

Centro Cultural Universitario Bicentenario, 8:00 p.m.

With the support of the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí

7th and 8th July

León, Guanajuato

Fórum Cultural Guanajuato, Teatro del Bicentenario Roberto Plasencia Saldaña,
8:00 p.m.

11th and 12th July

Morelia, Michoacán

Teatro Morelos, 8:00 p.m.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture

16th and 17th July

Guadalajara, Jalisco

Conjunto Santander de Artes Escénicas, University of Guadalajara

Sala Plácido Domingo, 6:30 p.m.

With the support of the University of Guadalajara's General Department of Cultural
Outreach and Promotion



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20th July

Monterrey, Nuevo León

Auditorio Pabellón Monterrey, 8:00 p.m.

With the support of Decisión Fundamental S.C.

24th July

Puebla, Puebla

Teatro Metropolitano de la Explanada, 7:00 p.m.

With the support of FR Producciones and Iberarte

28th–31st July

Mexico City

Palacio de Bellas Artes Theatre, Main Auditorium

8:00 p.m. on 28th and 29th July

7:00 p.m. on 30th July

5:00 p.m. on 31st July

With the support of the National Institute of Fine Arts and Literature



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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 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 and Rafaela Carrasco.

Further information and interview requests:

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