



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA
Y DEPORTE

inaem
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE
LAS ARTES ESCÉNICAS Y DE LA MÚSICA

**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

Ballet Nacional de España opens the Palau de Les Arts de Valencia's dance season with *Invocación*

- *It will give four performances from 21st to 24th April, accompanied by the Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana under the direction of Manuel Busto*
- *The programme comprises two choreographies by Rubén Olmo, one by Antonio Najarro, and a tribute to flamenco creator Mario Maya*

Valencia, 20th April 2022. **From 21st to 24th April**, the Ballet Nacional de España (BNE), directed by **Rubén Olmo**, will open the dance season at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia with a comprehensive overview of almost every style of Spanish dance. *Invocación*, a four-part programme premiered in 2020, features choreographies by Rubén Olmo and Antonio Najarro and includes a tribute to **Mario Maya**, one of the pioneers of flamenco theatre in Andalusia. The Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana, conducted by **Manuel Busto**, together with the BNE's flamenco musicians and cantaores, will accompany the company's more than forty dancers live.

"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 the BNE's director.

Invocación opens with the escuela bolera choreography ***Invocación bolera***. This style is one of the most technically demanding disciplines within Spanish dance because of the speed of its steps and jumps, and its combination of classical ballet technique with castanets, also known as *palillos*. In this work, Rubén Olmo updates the essence of traditional escuela bolera while paying tribute to the great masters who established the path followed by this style.

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**, who later also contributed to the collective score for *La Bella Otero*. 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 creative partnership of Rubén Olmo and Manuel Busto is responsible for ***Jauleña***, a solo that intertwines several dance styles, with particular emphasis on the zapateado and the granaína. In Valencia, assistant director **Miguel Ángel Corbacho** and soloist **José Manuel Benítez** will alternate in the role.

Antonio Najarro's *Eterna Iberia* completes the first half of the performance. Premiered by the Ballet Nacional de España in 2019, this stylised dance choreography incorporates traditional elements of Spanish

dance, including the cape and Cordoban hat. The music was originally composed by **Manuel Moreno-Buendía** for Antonio Ruiz Soler's ballet *Eterna Castilla* and was later published as a suite under the title *Celtiberia*. Yaiza Pinillos's sophisticated costume designs represent the richness of Spain's landscape through the use of blue, green and burgundy, symbolising three of its treasures: the sea, olive groves and wine.

Flamenco takes centre stage in the second half of *Invocación*, with the inclusion of a **Mario Maya** choreography in the Ballet's repertoire for the first time. Maya, who died in 2008, was a leading figure in Spanish dance, renowned for his brilliance and sensitivity. He was a pioneer of flamenco theatre, the creator of daring and innovative productions, and one of the most tireless researchers of his generation.

Rubén Olmo selected ***De lo flamenco*** because, in his view, this **Mario Maya** production, premiered by the Compañía Andaluza de Danza in 1994, refreshed the way flamenco was created and experienced on stage through its stylisation and movement, particularly when performed by a large company of dancers. "Even today, it remains innovative and completely different from anything else," says Rubén Olmo.

The Ballet Nacional de España's production of ***De lo flamenco*** differs from the original by **Mario Maya**, Milagros Menjíbar, A. Rueda "Toná" and Manolo Marín through the inclusion of two new choreographies created by two of Maya's regular collaborators: **Rafaela Carrasco's** *Romance del emplazado* and **Isabel Bayón's** *Taranto*. Artists who formed part of the original cast have also contributed to this revival, from rehearsal director Manuel Betanzos to musician Diego Carrasco, one of the composers of the songs alongside Jesús Torres, Moraíto Chito and Los del Río. The costumes are replicas of Mario Maya's original designs and were hand-painted by Juan Andrés Amaya.

To coincide with the Ballet's performances in Valencia, a group of twenty-five children from the family prevention and support programme run by **Aldeas Infantiles SOS** in Valencia will attend an **educational workshop** on 20th April in the Aula Magistral at the Palau de les Arts, followed by the dress rehearsal. The activity forms part of the Palau de les Arts' Les Arts és Educació educational programme and will be led by first dancer **Sergio García**, rehearsal director **Maribel Gallardo** and **Belén Moreno**, head of the Educational Activities Department. The three members of the Ballet Nacional de España will introduce the children to Spanish dance through some of its most characteristic elements, including the shawl, rhythmic hand-clapping, footwear and castanets. The activity will also draw on interactive educational resources published by the Ballet Nacional de España, including an illustrated book, three augmented-reality booklets and a video game.



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA
Y DEPORTE

inaem
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE
LAS ARTES ESCÉNICAS Y DE LA MÚSICA

**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

**Invocación
Ballet Nacional de España**

**Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía
Valencia**

21st–24th April 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday performance at 6:00 p.m.

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



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA
Y DEPORTE

inaem
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE
LAS ARTES ESCÉNICAS Y DE LA MÚSICA

**BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**

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, 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.

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 Department
Ballet Nacional de España
Tel. 91 05 05 081 / 617 85 60 68
guadalupe.rodriguez@inaem.cultura.gob.es