

Tel Aviv: a new international tour for the Ballet Nacional de España with *Invocación*

- The company will give six performances from 12th to 15th July at the Tel Aviv Opera
- The programme comprises two choreographies by Rubén Olmo, one by Antonio Najarro, and a tribute to flamenco creator Mario Maya
- The Ballet Nacional de España brings *Invocación* to Tel Aviv on its second international tour of the season

Tel Aviv, 10th July 2023. From **12th to 15th July**, the Ballet Nacional de España will present six performances of ***Invocación*** at the Tel Aviv Opera. Devised by **Rubén Olmo**, director of the BNE, this four-part programme showcases the dancers' versatility and technical mastery across three disciplines of Spanish dance: flamenco, stylised dance and escuela bolera. The production also includes a tribute to dancer and choreographer Mario Maya, one of the great masters of Spanish dance.

In the words of Rubén Olmo, it is a highly comprehensive 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".

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 the style. This is one of the most technically demanding disciplines of Spanish dance, requiring mastery of classical ballet, while also being one of the most spectacular because of the speed of its steps and jumps. The music is an original contemporary composition written especially for the piece by the young Seville-born composer and conductor Manuel Busto. The costumes, designed by Pedro Moreno, were recovered from the Ballet's archives and adapted for this work by the designer himself.

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.

The first half of the programme concludes with Antonio Najarro's ***Eterna Iberia***, which 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. The company performs in Yaiza Pinillos's earth- and sea-toned costumes. 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, both regular collaborators of Maya. According to the director, the work brought a refreshing and distinctive approach to the flamenco being performed at the time.

Invocación premiered in 2020 at the Teatro Villamarta in Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz. Since then, the Ballet Nacional de España has performed it in Spanish cities including Madrid, Valencia, Santander and Granada, as well as internationally in St. Petersburg, Dubai, Athens, Mexico City and Monterrey, among others.

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

Tel Aviv Opera, Tel Aviv, Israel

12th and 13th July 2023, 8:00 p.m.

14th July 2023, 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

15th July 2023, 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

<https://www.israel-opera.co.il/eng/?CategoryID=1273&ArticleID=6498>

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 and Rafaela Carrasco.

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

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