

Colombia: *La Bella Otero's* first international tour

The Ballet Nacional de España premieres La Bella Otero at the Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santo Domingo in Bogotá from 4th to 7th May

Bogotá, 4th May 2023. ***La Bella Otero*** arrives today at the **Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santo Domingo in Bogotá**. This is the sixth tour of the work choreographed and directed by Rubén Olmo, and its first international tour since its premiere in Madrid in July 2021.

Rubén Olmo has placed dance at the service of the story, blending styles ranging from folklore to flamenco and stylised dance to tell, through movement, the story of a woman who reinvented herself following a traumatic event in her childhood, achieved success as an artist and courtesan, and ultimately lost her fortune through gambling.

For **Rubén Olmo**, director of the Ballet Nacional de España, this first international tour of *La Bella Otero* "will give audiences in other countries the opportunity to discover this character. *La Bella Otero* tells the story of a woman who constantly fights for her freedom at a time of profound social inequality, and there could be no better moment than the present to tour with this ballet."

The narrative, dramatised by **Gregor Acuña-Pohl**, selects some of the most significant moments from the artist's life that could be expressed through dance, without attempting to provide an exhaustive account. "I have tried to remain faithful to the historical figure and create a ballet that moves audiences without judging her. The most important thing for me was to portray someone with tremendous magnetism, charisma and strength."

Granada-born dancer **Patricia Guerrero** once again joins the tour as guest artist in the role of Carolina Otero. Speaking about the character, Guerrero says: "I am portraying a remarkable woman whom I admire in many ways, and I greatly value the opportunity to play her." The dancer and choreographer trained with the companies of Mario Maya and Rubén Olmo. She is now a leading figure in avant-garde flamenco and received the 2021 National Dance Award for Performance. She acknowledges that "***La Bella Otero*** is a work with a harsh underlying story, but it is also dynamic, entertaining and fresh, with a colour and energy that will allow all of us, both on stage and in the audience, to enjoy it."

To portray the protagonist in her later years, Rubén Olmo has once again enlisted the special collaboration of **Maribel Gallardo**, rehearsal director at the Ballet Nacional de España. "Returning to the role of Madame Otero, beyond the experience of stepping into the shoes of such a fascinating woman despite her tragic life, also means reliving the thrill of being on stage

and feeling the warmth of the audience. Sadly, a dancer's performing career is very short, and life rarely offers you an opportunity like the one I am fortunate enough to be experiencing now, with intensity and gratitude," says the Cádiz-born dancer.

Musically, this new Bogotá tour of *La Bella Otero* will feature the **National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia**, conducted by composer and musical director **Manuel Busto**. Busto coordinated the musicians from different genres who composed the music for the ballet, integrating their contributions into the symphonic score he created.

For Maestro Busto, "it is deeply moving to present *La Bella Otero* in Bogotá on its first international tour. It is undoubtedly a major leap, both symbolically and geographically, in the life of such a passionate work, as well as a true test to present it before an audience with such a unique culture. I am very mindful of the country's great artists and writers, and of a people with whom we share far more than a common language."

The remaining music for the production was composed by **Alejandro Cruz Benavides, Agustín Diassera, the group Rarefolk**, and flamenco guitarists **Diego Losada, Víctor Márquez, Enrique Bermúdez** and **Pau Vallet**.

Since its premiere at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid in 2021, ***La Bella Otero*** has also toured to Seville, Albacete, Málaga and Lorca. This week, it will have its Bogotá premiere, before continuing its tour to Granada and Oviedo in June.

This tour to Colombia has been made possible through the European Union's NextGenerationEU funds and Spain's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.

Programme

LA BELLA OTERO

Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santo Domingo, Bogotá

Thursday, 4th May 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, 5th May 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 6th May 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 7th May 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Tickets:

<https://www.teatromayor.org/es/evento/danza/ballet-nacional-de-espana-la-bella-otero-direccion-y-coreografia-ruben-olmo-13832?function=2823>



Financiado por
la Unión Europea
NextGenerationEU



**Plan de Recuperación,
Transformación
y Resiliencia**

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.

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