

The Ballet Nacional de España celebrates 45 years of dance at its Anniversary Gala

The Teatro de la Zarzuela will host the celebrations marking the institution's 45th anniversary

Todo el pasado por delante, the Ballet Nacional de España's first documentary film, will be presented at the gala

Madrid, 20th December 2023. Since its foundation in 1978, the Ballet Nacional de España has been shaped by different artistic directors, venues and generations of dancers, all of whom have contributed to defining and redefining the institution throughout its forty-five-year history. Yet it has never lost sight of the purpose for which it was created: to preserve, promote and pass on Spain's rich choreographic heritage, embracing its stylistic diversity and traditions.

To reflect the journey of the Ballet Nacional de España, production began in early 2023 on the documentary film ***Todo el pasado por delante***, an initiative promoted by INAEM and the first film to be devoted entirely to the BNE since its creation. The aim is to highlight the entire process and team behind each production, offering a behind-the-scenes view of daily life within the company while also providing a historical perspective on its development. Directed by **Emilio Belmonte** and **Luis Delgado**, the documentary features interviews with key figures from the Ballet's history, together with genuine treasures drawn from its audiovisual archives. On **21st and 22nd December**, a preview of footage from *Todo el pasado por delante* will be presented at the Ballet Nacional de España's **45th Anniversary Gala**, held at Madrid's **Teatro de la Zarzuela**.

Naturally, no celebration of the Ballet Nacional de España would be complete without dance. The gala will feature choreographies representing all the styles that make up **Spanish Dance: escuela bolera, stylised dance, folklore and flamenco**, creating both a stylistic and historical overview. The performances will be accompanied by live music from the **Orchestra of the Community of Madrid (ORCAM)**, conducted by **Manuel Busto**, who has also composed the original soundtrack for the documentary.

The programme has been designed so that the choreographies embrace the documentary, intertwining live dance with dance on screen. The first choreography will be **Mariemma's *Danza y tronío*** (1984), a work in which escuela bolera and Spanish classical dance come together with flamenco. This will be followed by ***Vito de gracia***, choreographed by **Rosario** and **Antonio**



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and premiered in the 1944 film *Hollywood Canteen*. The work was revived by the Ballet Nacional de España in 2021 to mark the centenary of the birth of Antonio "El Bailarín", who directed the institution from 1980 to 1983. "El vito" reflects the style of dance that characterised Rosario and Antonio, known as "Los Chavalillos Sevillanos". After these performances, the **first part** of the documentary ***Todo el pasado por delante*** will be screened. This section of the gala will conclude with **Antonio Ruiz Soler's *Zapateado***, set to music by **Pablo Sarasate**. Premiered in 1946, it quickly became one of Ruiz Soler's most celebrated choreographies. *Zapateado* is a highly demanding technical work, blending tap-dance influences with stylised flamenco. In Antonio's own words: "To dance it is to caress the floor; you have to speak to the floor, not kick it."

Miguel Ángel Corbacho's *Martinete*, premiered in 2021, will open the second half of the evening. It is a flamenco work inspired by the style and character of Ruiz Soler. This will be followed on 21st December by the **world premiere** of ***Farruka***, choreographed by **Rubén Olmo**, director of the Ballet Nacional de España. After these choreographies, the **second part of the documentary** will be screened. **Pedro Azorín's *Jota Aragón*** will close the evening. This choreography, created in 1975, will be performed by the Ballet Nacional de España for the first time on 21st December, celebrating the recent recognition of the jota as a representative expression of intangible cultural heritage.

For the gala, **Rubén Olmo** wanted "to show not only the essence of Spanish Dance, but also the contribution of choreographers, dancers, costume designers, lighting designers, stage technicians, institutions, foundations, conservatories and many others who have shaped, continue to shape and will shape the history of the Ballet Nacional de España".

Ballet Nacional de España 45th Anniversary Gala

Teatro de la Zarzuela, Madrid
21st and 22nd December 2023, 8:00 p.m.

First Part

Danza y tronío

Baile en la casita de arriba
El jaleo de las tres picadas

Vito de gracia

Todo el pasado por delante

(Preview screening, Part One)

Zapateado

Second Part

Martinete

Farruka

(World premiere)

Todo el pasado por delante

(Preview screening, Part Two)

Aragón (Jota)



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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, 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.

Download high-resolution images:

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

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