

The Ballet Nacional de España presents the world premiere of *Afanador* at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville

Afanador will be the major premiere of the season, directed and choreographed by Marcos Morau and inspired by the work of the Colombian photographer

Seville, 1st December 2023. The Ballet Nacional de España launches its 2023–2024 season in grand style, in the year of its 45th anniversary, with the **world premiere of *Afanador* on 1st and 2nd December**, a production that blends Spanish and contemporary dance.

The venue chosen for the presentation of this new work is **Seville's Teatro de la Maestranza**, an especially fitting setting, as the production draws inspiration from **the visual world of Ruven Afanador**, the Colombian photographer who fell in love with Andalusia and flamenco, making them both his home and the source of inspiration for some of his most acclaimed works, including the books *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos*.

It is the characters portrayed in these photographs that fascinated and inspired **Marcos Morau**, who is responsible for the concept and artistic direction of this new work.

Afanador guides us through a gallery of images that intertwine the threads of past and present, where Spanish dance meets contemporary dance and the black and white of photography takes centre stage. This stark contrast allows the costumes and set, designed by **Silvia Delagneau** and **Max Glaenzel** respectively, to be transformed into waterfalls, avalanches and storms. We are confronted with a surrealist work that subverts the familiar, turning the reassuring elements of tradition into something strange and unrecognisable.

The choreography was created by **Marcos Morau, Lorena Nogal, Shay Partush, Jon López** and **Miguel Ángel Corbacho**, Assistant Director of the Ballet Nacional de España. Oversized bows, gallows and batas de cola accompany the musical composition created by **Juan Cristóbal Saavedra "Equipo"**, with a special collaboration by singer and composer **Maria Arnal**. This journey through worlds that dance along the borders of dreams, death and life is shaped by dramaturg **Roberto Fratini Serafide**, audiovisual designer **Marc Salicrú** and lighting designer **Bernat Jansà**.



MINISTERIO
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BALLET NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA

Director
Rubén Olmo



Teatro de
la Maestranza

Marcos Morau invites audiences to experience *Afanador* "as in certain dreams, where we recognise the places, the people and the landscapes and, without fully understanding what is happening to them, we know that they are speaking about us".

Programme:

AFANADOR

(World premiere)

Ballet Nacional de España

Teatro de la Maestranza, Seville

Friday, 1st December and Saturday, 2nd December 2023, 8:00 p.m.

<https://balletnacional.mcu.es/es/temporada/temporada-2023-2024/afanador>

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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