

***Afanador*, the Ballet Nacional de España's new production, comes to the stage of Madrid's Teatro Real**

Four performances of *Afanador* will be presented from 9th to 11th February: Friday 9th February at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 10th February, with two performances at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday 11th February at 6:00 p.m

Premiered last December at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville, *Afanador* opens up a new direction in the Ballet's repertoire

Madrid, 7th February 2024. The Ballet Nacional de España will present the Madrid premiere of ***Afanador*** at the Teatro Real on 9th, 10th and 11th February, with a production that blends Spanish dance and contemporary dance.

Best known for his work in the fashion world and for his portraits of major personalities, **Ruven Afanador** has always felt a deep passion for Andalusia and flamenco. He observes, immerses himself and becomes fascinated, before presenting them through his highly personal gaze, as reflected in his books *Mil Besos* and *Ángel Gitano*, in which he explores the aesthetics and expression of the female and male body respectively. In flamenco, he finds the full range of human emotion and, through flamenco, gives form to his most intimate passions.

It is the figures portrayed in these photographs that fascinated and inspired **Marcos Morau**, responsible for the concept and artistic direction of this new work. "Ruven Afanador does not simply 'take photographs'; he constructs them and stages them."

Afanador guides us through a gallery of images that intertwines the threads of past and present, where Spanish dance meets contemporary dance and where the black and white of photography prevails in a dramatic contrast. This contrast transforms the costumes and set design, created by **Silvia Delagneau** and **Max Glaenzel** respectively, 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 has been 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 score created by **Juan Cristóbal Saavedra**, with a special contribution from 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**.

Each scene in ***Afanador*** begins with one of the photographer's iconic images. The stage transports us into the instant captured by the lens, and the evocation comes to life. Electronic music, minera, seguriya, harvesting songs and echoes of Holy Week set the dance in motion, accompany it and awaken the memory of the black-and-white photographs.

As Roberto Fratini explains in the programme notes, Ruven Afanador "approaches the multiverse of Andalusian folklore through desire. *Afanador* forces it to reveal itself, and it does. As though dreaming of it, he allows the slips, deliriums and subconscious of flamenco to emerge, together with its impulses of eros and death and its truths that cannot be documented. He unfolds it through a thousand enlargements, like a grotesque and sumptuous world, an unimaginable body of shadow and light."

The success of its premiere at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville last December points to a brilliant future for ***Afanador*** within the repertoire of the Ballet Nacional de España, under the direction of **Rubén Olmo**. Olmo himself appears in one of the pages of *Ángel Gitano*, which he also brings to life through dance in this original production.

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

Programme
AFANADOR
Ballet Nacional de España

Teatro Real, Madrid

Friday, 9th February 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10th February 2024, 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, 11th February 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Tickets:

<https://tickets.teatroreal.es/selection/event/date?productId=10228675974350>

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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