

***Afanador*, the Ballet Nacional de España's new production, premieres at Les Arts in Valencia**

Valencia, 27th June 2024. ***Afanador*** comes to the **Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía** in Valencia on **27th, 28th, 29th and 30th June** with a production in which Spanish dance blends with contemporary dance to create a surrealist work: seeing the world of flamenco through a distorting lens.

The work premiered at the Teatro de la Maestranza in 2023. It was subsequently presented at the Teatro Real in Madrid, Teatro MIRA in Pozuelo de Alarcón and Teatros del Canal in Madrid, and the Ballet Nacional de España now brings it to Les Arts in Valencia.

The production is inspired by **the visual world of Ruven Afanador**, the Colombian photographer who became captivated by Andalusia and flamenco, making them both his home and the source of inspiration for some of his most celebrated works, including his books *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos*.

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

For **Marcos Morau**, his "starting point was Ruven Afanador's world: to dream about it and all its dreamlike distortions; to see the world of flamenco through a distorting lens, one shaped by dreams, desire and memory".

Afanador guides us through a gallery of images that intertwine the threads of past and present, where Spanish dance meets contemporary dance. The black and white of photography predominates in a dramatic contrast that 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 composition created by **Juan Cristóbal Saavedra**, with a special contribution from singer and composer **Maria Arnal**. This journey through worlds dancing along the borders of dreams, death and life is shaped by dramaturg **Roberto Fratini Serafide**, audiovisual designer **Marc Salicrú** and lighting designer **Bernat Jansà**.

"**Afanador** is a work rooted in a sacred legacy that confronts our time and its transformations. It is a work of rigour, beauty and mystery, because only by combining the past with the present can we discover new paths and move forwards. This is what Afanador seeks to do: respect the legacy, blend it with the present and propel it into the future." —**Marcos Morau**

Programme:

AFANADOR

Ballet Nacional de España

Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía, Valencia

Thursday, 27th June 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 28th June 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 29th June 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 30th June 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets:

<https://www.lesarts.com/es/afanador-ballet-nacional-de-espana/>

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:

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