

The Ballet Nacional de España and the Orquesta Nacional de España premiere *Que venga, Que venga...*, a family production inspired by Falla's *El Amor Brujo*

The Ballet Nacional de España and the Orquesta Nacional de España will present Manuel de Falla's ***El amor brujo*** on Sunday 14th April at 12 p.m., in the only En Familia concert of the OCNE's season to be held at the Auditorio Nacional de Música.

Conducted by Josep Gil, the Orquesta Nacional de España will perform a version featuring cantaora María Toledo and narrator Ana Hernández.

Songs, spells, dances, love... In this new ballet based on *El amor brujo*, **Rubén Olmo**, director of the Ballet Nacional de España, offers a more contemporary and personal vision of Falla's classic.

Part monodrama, part ballet and part concert suite, *El amor brujo* is one of the most emblematic scores in the Spanish orchestral repertoire, with its 'Danza ritual del fuego' as its best-known movement. Rewritten on numerous occasions between 1915 and 1925 in different formats, the work has always remained open to creation and reinvention, as well as to collaboration with artists rooted in flamenco.

This project is a joint initiative by the Orquesta and Coro Nacionales de España and the Ballet Nacional de España. BNE director Rubén Olmo had previously danced and choreographed several sections of the work, but had never staged it in its entirety.

For Rubén Olmo, "this new ballet is **a metaphor for love**". In creating it, he has used only the characters from *El amor brujo* in order to explore the freedom of love and its different forms. In his words: "Love cannot be controlled. Love must be allowed to be free and to flow. Its freedom must be felt. It is a tribute to the freedom of love. Everything ends up where it belongs: in free and true love."

As part of the educational activities of both institutions, two special performances for school audiences will be held on 11th and 12th April. In addition, the **Orquesta and Coro Nacionales de España has produced**

an educational guide to introduce the programme to those attending the Sunday concert, as well as to the nearly 4,000 primary and secondary school pupils attending the two school performances.

OCNE educational guide:

<https://ocne.mcu.es/ficheros/guia-didactica-en-familia-01-temporada-23-24/@@images/file>

Programme:

El amor brujo, by Manuel de Falla

Orquesta Nacional de España

Josep Gil, conductor

María Toledo, cantaora

Ana Hernández Sanchiz, narrator

Ballet Nacional de España

Rubén Olmo, director

Cast

Sorceress: Inmaculada Salomón

Candelas: Débora Martínez

Lucía: Irene Tena

Spectre: Eduardo Martínez

José: José Manuel Benítez

Carmelo: Albert Hernández

Auditorio Nacional, Madrid

School concert: Thursday, 11th April 2024, 10:30 a.m.

School concert: Friday, 12th April 2024, 10:30 a.m.

En Familia: Sunday, 14th April 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Sold out

Josep Gil, Conductor

Josep Gil is Associate Conductor of the Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra for the current season. He has worked as assistant conductor to maestros including Gustavo Dudamel, James Gaffigan, Gustavo Gimeno and Daniel Oren.

His conducting engagements include *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona; *Orpheus in the Underworld* at the Komische Oper Berlin; the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès at the Palau de la Música Catalana; the Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra at the Auditorio Alfredo Kraus; and the Orchestra of the Comunitat Valenciana at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía, among others.

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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