

***Afanador*, the BNE's acclaimed production, comes to Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu**

Six performances will be presented from 12th to 17th October, the first of which will be exclusively for young audiences as part of the Under35 programme

Conceived by Marcos Morau, this original Ballet Nacional de España production explores photographer Ruven Afanador's surrealist vision of flamenco

Barcelona, 11th October 2024. *Afanador* will be presented at the **Gran Teatre del Liceu** in Barcelona in six performances **from 12th to 17th October**, the first of which will be aimed at audiences under the age of 35. This **original production by the Ballet Nacional de España, directed by Rubén Olmo**, has already been successfully presented in several Spanish cities. Since its premiere in December 2023 at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville, *Afanador* has appeared on the stages of the Teatro Real in Madrid, Teatro MIRA in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Teatros del Canal in Madrid and Les Arts in Valencia.

The production conveys **photographer Ruven Afanador's surrealist vision of flamenco through the language of dance**, inviting audiences to enter, without preconceptions, a universe shaped by fascination and desire. Afanador's acclaimed works *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos* provided the starting point for this production, in which Spanish dance meets contemporary dance in order to "see the world of flamenco through a distorting lens, one shaped by dreams, desire and memory", as **Marcos Morau, creator of the concept and artistic director of *Afanador***, has explained.

In *Afanador*, the black and white of photography predominates in a dramatic contrast that transforms the traditional costumes and set design associated with flamenco imagery, created by **Silvia Delagneau** and **Max Glaenzel** respectively, into strange and unrecognisable elements: waterfalls, avalanches and storms.

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**. **Afanador** moves along the boundaries of dreams, life and death, shaped by dramaturg **Roberto Fratini Serafide**, audiovisual designer **Marc Salicrú** and lighting designer **Bernat Jansà**.

Each scene 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. **Rubén Olmo**, director of the BNE and the subject of one of the iconic images in *Ángel Gitano*, also brings the photograph to life through his dancing in this original production.

For **Marcos Morau**, "**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."

Programme
AFANADOR
Ballet Nacional de España

Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona

Saturday, 12th October 2024 — Under35, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 13th October 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Monday, 14th October 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 15th October 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 16th October 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 17th October 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets:

<https://www.liceubarcelona.cat/ca/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. 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.

Marcos Morau & La Veronal, Choreographer

Trained in Barcelona and New York in photography, movement and theatre, Marcos Morau (Valencia, 1982) creates imaginary worlds and landscapes in which movement and image meet and consume one another.

For more than ten years, Marcos has led La Veronal as its director, choreographer and designer of sets, costumes and lighting. He is also a guest artist with companies and theatres around the world, where he develops new creations that consistently lie between the performing arts and dance.

The youngest recipient of Spain's National Dance Award, Marcos Morau has developed a distinctive language rooted in abstract movement and physical theatre. He has also received the FAD Sebastià Gasch Award, presented by the FAD Foundation for Arts and Design; the Time Out Award for Best Creator; and

Italy's DanzaeDanza Award for Best Creator of the Year, among many others. His works have won prizes at numerous national and international choreography competitions, including those held in Hanover, Copenhagen and Madrid.

Since this year, Marcos Morau has been an associate artist with the Staatsballett Berlin, where, from 2024 onwards, he will premiere a new creation each year with one of Europe's largest ballet companies, affiliated with the Deutsche Oper, Komische Oper and Staatsoper Unter den Linden. A regular presence in the programme at the Mercat de les Flors, this will be the first time one of his productions has been presented at the Gran Teatre del Liceu.

Further information and interview requests:

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