

The Ballet Nacional de España premieres *Afanador* in South Korea

***The BNE's latest production will be presented abroad
for the first time, following its tour of Spain***

***Performances will take place in the coastal city of Yeosu
and in the South Korean capital, Seoul***

Yeosu, 24th April 2025. *Afanador* premieres today in Yeosu, marking its first performance outside Spain. The South Korean coastal city will host two performances of the **BNE's** latest production. Following today's performance and a second on Friday 25th April, the company will travel to the country's capital, where the production will premiere on 30th April. Two further performances will take place on 1st May.

Premiered in December 2023 at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville, *Afanador* has since toured successfully to the Teatro Real in Madrid, Teatro MIRA in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Teatros del Canal in Madrid, Les Arts in Valencia and the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona.

"We are delighted to be able to present this production abroad and showcase the ability of Spanish dance to adapt to twenty-first-century artistic languages," said **Rubén Olmo**, director of the Ballet Nacional de España, of the work's international premiere. For Olmo, *"Afanador is an example of how dialogue between different artistic disciplines can enrich a work when approached without preconceptions,"* and demonstrates that *"Spanish dance can benefit from this exchange while preserving its character and essence"*.

In *Afanador*, Spanish and contemporary dance come together to reflect photographer **Ruven Afanador's** vision of flamenco. Captured in his acclaimed works *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos*, the figures featured in these two books inspired **Marcos Morau**, responsible for the concept and artistic direction, to create *Afanador*.

For Morau, *Afanador "observes the world of flamenco through a distorting lens, one shaped by dreams, desire and memory"*. It is this surrealist vision that the work evokes, with each scene beginning from one of the Colombian 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 Easter set the dance in motion, accompany it and awaken the memory of the black-and-white photographs. **Rubén Olmo** himself, the subject of one of the iconic images in *Ángel Gitano*, brings the photograph to life through his dancing in this original production.

The production being presented in Korea is dominated by the black and white of photography, creating a dramatic contrast that transforms traditional flamenco costumes and set design — 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**.

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 our present and propel it into the future.”*

Programme:

AFANADOR

Ballet Nacional de España

Yeosu, Yeulmaru Theatre

Thursday, 24th April 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 25th April 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Seoul, GS Arts Center

Wednesday, 30th April 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 1st May 2025 — two performances: 7:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

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 various 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 Danza&Danza 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 2024, Marcos Morau has been an associate artist with the Staatsballett Berlin, where he premieres 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.

Further information and interview requests:

Eduardo Villar de Cantos

Communications Director

Ballet Nacional de España

Tel. 91 05 05 052 / 611 60 92 44

eduardo.villar@inaem.cultura.gob.es