

**BALLET
NACIONAL
DE ESPAÑA**
Director **Rubén Olmo**



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GENERACIONES



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Spanish Dance, between tradition and renewal

A mixed programme combining repertoire and new choreographies, rooted in the tradition of Spanish Dance and reflecting the evolution of stage practice through three generations of creators.

It alternates one of the Spanish classical works most highly regarded by the dancers with Antonio Canales's distinctive interpretation of flamenco, followed by solos

created by contemporary choreographers with very different artistic identities, who have renewed contemporary dance, flamenco and Spanish Dance by opening them up to influences from other styles.

The Director of the Ballet Nacional de España, Rubén Olmo, thus reaffirms the need to recover the classics without losing sight of new artistic currents.



PERFORMANCES

17TH NOVEMBER 2024

2:00 p.m. Aubade Hall, Toyama

20TH AND 21ST NOVEMBER 2024

7:00 p.m. Bunka Kaikan Hall, Tokyo

27TH NOVEMBER 2024

6:30 p.m. Forest Hall, Nagoya

29TH NOVEMBER 2024

2:00 p.m. Performing Arts Center Kobelko Hall, Hyogo



RITMOS

Choreography: Alberto Lorca

Music: José Nieto

Lighting design: Freddy Gerlache (AAI)

Lighting adaptation: Eduardo Solís and Asier Bastera

Costume design: Pin Morales, Román Arango

Rehearsal Director: Maribel Gallardo

Rehearsal Assistants: Cristina Visús, Miguel Ángel Corbacho

Costume production: Juanita Muro, González

Footwear: Gallardo, Artefyl

World premiere on 13th July 1984 at the Teatro de la Zarzuela by the Ballet Nacional de España, under the direction of María de Ávila.

Alberto Lorca dedicated this choreography to Encarnación López 'La Argentinita'. A plotless dance. A visual recreation based on pure abstraction in dance. A production in which symmetry becomes art through the progression of its five movements. Rhythmic heelwork, vibrant turns and the distinctive character of the castanets create a vivid display of sound and movement.



PASTORELA

Direction and choreography: Antonio Ruiz
Performance and choreographic collaboration:
Inmaculada Salomón
Music: *Sonata No. 1 in C Minor (Allegro)*,
Pastorela No. 6 in E Minor (Minuet) by Manuel
Blasco Nebra
Live piano: José Luis Franco
Lighting design: Olga García (AAI)
Costume design: Alejandro Andújar
Rehearsal Directors: Diana Noriega and Miguel
Ángel Corbacho
Costume production: Maribel Rodríguez
Fabric dyeing: María Calderón
Footwear: Gallardo

World premiere on 8th September 2022 at
Teatros del Canal by the Ballet Nacional de
España, under the direction of Rubén Olmo.

"This piece originated in an invitation from
Rubén Olmo two years ago to create a new ad
hoc choreography with BNE Principal Dancer
Inmaculada Salomón. The rapport that
developed between Inma and me during the
creation of *Electra* (2017) has led us on this

occasion to explore the creative process in
greater depth, with the intimacy inherent in solo
work and the level of subtlety and nuance that
only a performer with her sensitivity, maturity
and experience can achieve. Through my
interest in Spain's musical heritage, I discovered
the Seville-born composer Manuel Blasco de
Nebra (1750–1784) and his distinctive repertoire
of *sonatas* and *pastorelas* for harpsichord and
fortepiano. Playing with this music provided the
inspiration for this creation. The choreographic
language moves freely, without preconceptions,
between *escuela bolera*, stylised dance and
contemporary dance, bringing together
Goyaesque cadences and deconstructions with
the evolving forms of dance today. With a
costume design imbued with a distinctly
historicist flavour and refined lighting, *Pastorela*
proposes a poetic dialogue between music and
movement, between the ephemeral and the
eternal. A miniature from yesterday, a relic of
tomorrow."

Antonio Ruiz

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JACARANDA

Choreography: Rubén Olmo

Soloist: Débora Martínez

Music: *Suite de Danzas Criollas, Op. 15* by Alberto Ginastera

Live piano: José Luis Franco

Lighting design: Luis Perdiguero (AAI)

Costume design: Anselmo Gervolés

Rehearsal Directors: Diana Noriega and Miguel Ángel Corbacho

Costume production: Milagros González

Fabric dyeing: Marisa Echarri

Footwear: Gallardo

World premiere on 10th September 2022 at Teatros del Canal by the Ballet Nacional de España, under the direction of Rubén Olmo.

In our collective imagination, the jacaranda is associated with the tree that grows in many Latin American cities. Its flowering heralds the arrival of spring. It is an ornamental tree with tubular violet-blue flowers, but it is also synonymous with femininity, beauty, essence and fragrance. *Jacaranda* is an evening stroll; it is the dance of a woman. It is a symbiosis between the essence of nature and woman.

Rubén Olmo



ZAPATEADO DE SARASATE

Music: Pablo Sarasate

Orchestration: Manuel Coves

Lighting design: Ginés Caballero (AAI)

Costume production:

First cast: Taller González

Second cast: José Antonio Arroyo

Footwear: Gallardo

World premiere in 1946 by Antonio at the Teatro Bellas Artes in Mexico. Premiered by the Spanish National Ballet on 14 June 1982 at the Teatro Lope de Vega in Seville.

Antonio Ruiz Soler's interpretation of Pablo Sarasate's music enhanced his reputation as both a dancer and choreographer and became one of the jewels of his repertoire following its

premiere in 1946 at the Teatro Bellas Artes in Buenos Aires. The influence of tap dance evident in the technique of this zapateado makes it a virtuosic example of stylised flamenco.

In 1959, Antonio performed a version of this solo while walking along a country road in the film *Honeymoon*, a Spanish-British co-production directed by Michael Powell, which visually evokes Gene Kelly in *An American in Paris*. Over the years, it has been danced by countless Principal Dancers from different companies, all of them striving to follow Antonio's maxim: "To dance it is to caress the floor; you have to speak to the floor, not kick it."



BOLERO

Choreography: José Granero
Music: Maurice Ravel (pre-existing)
Costume design: José Granero
Set design: José Granero
Lighting: José Granero

World premiere by the Ballet Nacional de España on 9th October 1987 at the Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux (France).

The forms, movements and lines of this choreography caress the notes once composed by Ravel, bringing together the purest Spanish classical style with the essence of flamenco dance. The set, inspired by *art nouveau*, features mirrors that multiply the graceful silhouettes wrapped in brightly coloured silks, contrasting with the austerity of leather in the men's costumes.



GRITO

Choreography: Antonio Canales

Music: José M^a Bandera, José Carlos Gómez, José Jiménez 'El Viejín', Juan Ignacio Gómez Gorjón 'Chicuelo'

Lighting design: Sergio Spinelli

Lighting adaptation: Eduardo Solís and Asier Basterra

Costume design: Pedro Moreno

Revival staged by: Mónica Fernández and Pol Vaquero

Rehearsal Director: Maribel Gallardo

Rehearsal Assistant: Miguel Ángel Corbacho

Costume production: Pipa y Milagros 'En escena', González

Dyeing workshop: María Calderón

Footwear: Gallardo

World premiere on 9th December 1997 at the Teatro Pérez Galdós in Las Palmas by the Ballet Nacional de España, under the direction of Victoria Eugenia, Nana Lorca and Aurora Pons.

Antonio Canales created this choreography for the Ballet Nacional de España, offering a brief journey through different flamenco palos: seguiriyas, soleás, alegrías, tientos and tangos.

RUBÉN OLMO

Rubén Olmo (Seville, 1980) discovered his love of dance at an early age. At the age of nine, he entered the Seville Conservatoire, where he graduated in Spanish Dance and Classical Dance in 1996. His teachers there included Marisol Delgado, José Manuel Moreno and Pepa Coral, among others. During his training, he also attended classes at the schools of Manolo Marín, Carmen Montiel and José Galván, and took courses with Pedro Azorín, Juanjo Linares, Victoria Eugenia, 'Manolete', 'Güito', Mario Maya, José Granero, Javier Latorre, Aída Gómez, Nadín Astor, Antonio Canales, Teresa Nieto, Rosa Naranjo and Carmina Ocaña. His professional career as a dancer began at the age of 16, when he joined Javier Barón's company and took part in the production *El pájaro negro*, with Belén Maya as principal bailaora. A year later, he joined Aída Gómez's Spanish Dance Company, where he performed as a soloist in *Estamos solos*, choreographed by José Antonio, Javier Latorre and Aída Gómez. He also took part in the Teatro de la Zarzuela production *El barberillo de Lavapiés*, choreographed by Ramón Oller. In 1998, at the age of 18, he joined the corps de ballet of the Ballet Nacional de España (BNE) under the direction of Aída Gómez and was promoted to soloist one year later. During his time with the BNE, he performed as a Principal Dancer in productions including *Luz de alma*, choreographed by Javier Latorre; *La Celestina*, choreographed by Ramón Oller and directed for the stage by Adolfo Marsillach; *Poeta*, by Javier Latorre; *Carmen*, by José Antonio Ruiz; *Ritmos*, by Alberto Lorca; *Oripandó (Farruca)*, by Israel Galván; and *Grito (Alegrías)*, by Antonio Canales. In 2002, he decided to leave the BNE and join Eva Yerbabuena's company. He has nevertheless continued to collaborate with the BNE subsequently as a choreographer and guest dancer, including in the production *Ángeles Caídos*. Before fulfilling his dream of forming his own company in 2006, he danced in *Carmen* and *Dalí* with Compañía Metros, directed by Ramón Oller, and in *Los Tarantos (Flamenco Musical)*, choreographed by Javier Latorre and directed by Emilio Hernández. He also worked as Principal Dancer, choreographer and Assistant Director with Rafael Amargo's company. For the company that bears his name, Rubén Olmo has created productions including *Érase una vez que era*, premiered at the Teatro Albéniz in Madrid (2003); *Belmonte* (Teatro Albéniz, Madrid, 2006);

Pinocchio (Teatros de la Villa, Madrid, 2007); *Tranquilo alboroto* (Teatro Central, Seville, 2010); *Las tentaciones de Poe* (Teatro Central, Seville, 2012); *Horas contigo* (Teatro Fernán Gómez, 2018); *La muerte de un minotauro* (Itálica International

Dance Festival, 2019); *Naturalmente Flamenco* (Festival de Jerez, 2019); and *Diálogo de Navegante* (Málaga Biennial, 2019). He was a teacher at the Centro Andaluz de Danza (CAD) from 2008 to 2018 and Director of the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía (BFA) from 2011 to 2019. At the head of the Andalusian public company, he premiered the productions *Metáfora* (2012) and *Llanto por Ignacio Sánchez Mejías* (Gardens of the Generalife at the Alhambra, 2012). He has also collaborated, as a guest dancer or choreographer, with some of Spain's leading dance companies and artists. He took part in productions including *Permíteme bailar* by Aída Gómez; *Jazzing Flamenco* by Antonio Najarro; *La horma de su zapato* by Isabel Bayón; and *El amor brujo* by Víctor Ullate. He also appeared in the opera *El público* by Federico García Lorca, composed by Mauricio Sotelo (Teatro Real, 2015). Winner of the National Dance Award in 2015, Rubén Olmo has received numerous accolades throughout his career, including a Max Award (2014), the Indanza Silver Slipper Award (2012), the Giralddillo at the Seville Flamenco Biennial (2010) and the Pilar López Dance Performance Award (2007). His productions have also received awards, including the Critics' Award at the Festival de Jerez (2019) for *Horas contigo* and the Giralddillo Ciudad de Sevilla (2016) for *Toda la vida bailando*. Rubén Olmo has been Director of the Ballet Nacional de España since September 2019.





BALLET NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA

The Ballet Nacional de España (BNE), directed by Rubén Olmo since September 2019, 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.

Maintaining a programme that combines new creation with the preservation of the traditional Spanish Dance repertoire and the ongoing incorporation of new works is one of the guiding principles of the current Strategic Plan. In this regard, the BNE has launched a new creative direction open to avant-garde approaches and emerging trends, inviting international choreographers and new creators to collaborate with the company. Within this context of learning and development, the BNE also organises workshops aimed at encouraging the specialisation and professional development of dance practitioners in both performance and creation.

To promote Spanish Dance, the BNE encourages both national and international touring, alternating large-scale productions with more compact formats open to experimentation. It promotes the sustainable financial management of all its productions and fosters cooperation between the different INAEM production units and other public institutions across Spain's autonomous communities, as well as public-private collaboration at national and international level.

In recent years, the BNE has developed initiatives and collaborations within the world of fashion and increased visits by conservatoires and dance schools from across Spain to its rehearsals. As part of its educational programme, it has organised various masterclasses for groups of children with different abilities and published the first Spanish Dance book and video game for children, entitled *Bailando un Tesoro*. As part of this commitment to outreach, the BNE has created its Friends' Circle and a merchandising product line.

Throughout its history, the BNE has received numerous national and international awards, including the New York Metropolitan Critics' Award for Best Foreign Production (1988); the Japanese Critics' Award (1991); the Critics' Award for Best Production (1994) at the Teatro Bellas Artes in Mexico; the El País newspaper Award (1999) for the production *Poeta*; the Critics' and Audience Awards (2002) for Antonio Gades's choreography *Fuenteovejuna* at the 6th Festival de Jerez; the Audience Award (2018) at the Festival de Jerez; the Cerinos Award (2018) at the Mérida International Classical Theatre Festival; the Teatro de Rojas Audience Awards in Toledo for Best Dance Production in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014; and, in 2010, the Festival Internacional del Cante de las Minas presented the company with its Extraordinary Performing Arts Award for its "magnificent contribution to the preservation and promotion of the finest flamenco".



BALLET NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA TEAM

Director Rubén Olmo

Assistant Director Miguel Ángel Corbacho; Guest Principal Dancers Esther Jurado, Francisco Velasco; Principal Dancers Aloña Alonso, Inmaculada Salomón, José Manuel Benítez, Sergio García, Eduardo Martínez; Soloists Estela Alonso, Débora Martínez, Miriam Mendoza, Cristian García, Matías López, Carlos Sánchez; Corps de Ballet Ana Agraz, Cristina Aguilera, Ana Almagro, Sara Arévalo, Pilar Arteseros, Marina Fernández, Mercedes Burgos, Irene Correa, Patricia Fernández, Yu-Hsien Hsueh, María Martín, Sara Nieto, Laura Vargas, Noelia Ruiz, Vanesa Vento, Sou Jung Youn, Diego Aguilar, Juan Berlanga, Axel Galán, Álvaro Gordillo, Antonio Jiménez, Adrián Maqueda, Álvaro Marbán, Víctor Martín, Alfredo Mérida, Javier Polonio, Manuel del Río, Pedro Ramírez, Sergio Valverde; Rehearsal Director Maribel Gallardo; Rehearsal Assistant Cristina Visús; Dance Instructor Diana Noriega; Ballet Masters Elna Matamoros, Tino Morán, Raúl Tino; Cantaores Saray Muñoz; Cantaores Gabriel de la Tomasa, Juan José Amador 'El Perre'; Guitarists Enrique Bermúdez, Jonathan Bermúdez, Diego Losada, Víctor Márquez; Percussionists Iván Fernández, Roberto Vozmediano; Pianists José Luis Franco, Juan Antonio Mata.

Deputy Director Guiomar Fernández Troncoso; General Manager Pablo Gauna; Production Director Sarah Bonaldo; Technical Director Tomás Pérez; Communications Director Eduardo Villar; Sponsorship, Educational Activities and Director's Secretary Jesús Florencio; Production Department Manuel Balaguer, María Fernández, Luis Tello; Communications Department Ana Gallego; Wardrobe Supervisor Javier Caraballo; Human Resources Samantha Hilario; Administration Belén Moreno, Ángela Santana; Maintenance Manager José Ramón Gómez; Deputy Technical Director Pedro Muñoz; Assistant to the Technical Director José Román; Stage Managers Elena Sanz, Alejandro Martínez; Stage Machinery Ismael Martínez, Juan Ramón Pérez, Goizeder Itoiz; Lighting Asier Basterra, Javier Hernández, Arturo Dosal, Eva Suarez, Noelia Jiménez, Arturo Sánchez; Props Juan M^a Arguedas, Pilar López, Rosa Ana García; Audiovisuals Jesús Ávila, Luis M. Castro, Mercedes Martín, Rodrigo Cotobal, Mirko Vidoz; Wardrobe Department Cristina Catoya, Mónica Ramos, Teresa Rodrigo, Isabel Fernández, Loreto García, Carmen Abarca; Physiotherapists Juan Pedro Barranco, José Daniel Albarrán, Ángel Pérez; Massage Therapist Julián Mínguez; Usher José Manuel Ollero; Warehouse Manager Vicente Antonio Gómez; Cleaning Staff Dolores Escrivá, Antolina Pequeño.

Acknowledgements: BNE Friends' Circle