

# Japan: The BNE's First International Tour of the 2024–25 Season

**The Ballet Nacional de España will perform in four Japanese cities, including the capital, Tokyo**

**Rubén Olmo makes his debut in Japan as director of the company with *Generaciones* and *Invocación***

**Madrid, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.** On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November, the Ballet Nacional de España will begin its first international tour of the season in the Japanese city of Toyama. This will be Rubén Olmo's first tour of the country as director of the company.

The productions presented will be ***Generaciones*** and ***Invocación***, **mixed programmes that showcase the different styles of Spanish Dance** through choreographies created by several generations of artists. The selection reflects the Ballet Nacional de España director's commitment to reviving the classics of Spain's choreographic heritage without losing sight of new artistic currents.

***Generaciones*** will be performed at all four stops on the tour: Toyama, Tokyo, Nagoya and Hyogo Prefecture. The programme includes ***Ritmos***, ***Pastorela***, ***Jacaranda***—the latter two alternating depending on the performance—***Zapateado de Sarasate***, José Granero's ***Bolero*** and ***Grito***.

**Alberto Lorca's *Ritmos*** is one of the dancers' favourite works from the Spanish classical repertoire. Dedicated to Encarnación López "La Argentinita", this plotless choreography brings dance, music, lighting and costumes together in perfect harmony. ***Pastorela***, choreographed by **Antonio Ruz** to music by Manuel Blasco de Nebra, is a solo in which dancer Inmaculada Salomón moves freely between escuela bolera, stylised dance and contemporary dance. **Rubén Olmo's *Jacaranda*** is another solo, created especially for Débora Martínez and inspired by the symbiosis between the essence of nature and that of women, with music by Alberto Ginastera. ***Zapateado de Sarasate*** has been one of the jewels of **Antonio El Bailarín's** repertoire since its premiere in 1946. The influence of tap dance evident in its technique makes it a virtuosic example of stylised flamenco. The fourth work in the programme, ***Bolero***, was choreographed by **José Granero** to Ravel's famous composition and combines the purest Spanish classical style with the essence of flamenco dance. ***Grito***, meanwhile, is **Antonio Canales's** masterpiece, a flamenco suite in which the choreographer journeys through a range of flamenco palos: seguiriyas, soleá, alegrías, tientos and tangos.

***Invocación***, which will be presented only in Tokyo, "is a highly comprehensive programme in which audiences can enjoy flamenco brimming with life and power on stage, a ballet rooted in the purest form of stylised dance and one of the few recent choreographies created in the escuela bolera tradition", in the words of the BNE's director.

The production opens with ***Invocación bolera***, Rubén Olmo's contemporary reinterpretation of the style, featuring music by Manuel Busto and castanet choreography by Maribel Gallardo. It is followed by ***Jauleña***, a solo by Rubén Olmo inspired by Granada, in which the granaína and zapateado take centre stage. The music is once again by Manuel Busto. To conclude the first half of the programme, the company wears costumes in the colours of earth and sea designed by **Yaiza Pinillos** to perform ***Eterna Iberia***, a stylised dance work choreographed by **Antonio Najarro** to music by Manuel Moreno-Buendía.

After the interval, the Ballet's flamenco ensemble of cantaores and musicians joins the dancers on stage to pay tribute to **Mario Maya** (1937–2008), one of the bailaores and choreographers who transformed flamenco dance in Andalusia. ***De lo flamenco. Homenaje a Mario Maya*** is a seven-movement flamenco suite that reflects Maya's distinctive and innovative style. The BNE production adds two new choreographies to the original, created by two of Mario Maya's long-standing collaborators: **Rafaela Carrasco** and **Isabel Bayón**, who have choreographed ***Romance del emplazado*** and ***Taranto***, respectively.

### Tour Cities:

#### TOYAMA

17<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Aubade Hall

**GENERACIONES**

#### TOKYO

20<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Bunka Kaikan Hall

**GENERACIONES**

**INVOCACIÓN**

#### NAGOYA

27<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Forest Hall

**GENERACIONES**

#### HYOGO

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Performing Arts Center — Kobelco Hall

**GENERACIONES**

### Programme:

Ballet Nacional de España  
Artistic Director: Rubén Olmo

## **GENERACIONES**

**RITMOS** (All performances)  
Choreography: Alberto Lorca

**PASTORELA** (Toyama, 17<sup>th</sup> November;  
Tokyo, 21<sup>st</sup> November;  
Nagoya, 27<sup>th</sup> November)  
Choreography: Antonio Ruz  
Piano: José Luis Franco

**JACARANDA** (Tokyo, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November;  
Hyogo, 29<sup>th</sup> November)  
Choreography: Rubén Olmo  
Piano: José Luis Franco

**ZAPATEADO** (All performances)  
Choreography: Antonio Ruiz Soler

**BOLERO** (All performances)  
Choreography: José Granero

**GRITO** (All performances)  
Choreography: Antonio Canales

Guest Artists  
Mónica Fernández  
Pol Vaquero

Special Appearance  
Juan José Jaén "El Junco"

BNE Flamenco Musicians

**INVOCACIÓN**  
(Tokyo, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November)

**INVOCACIÓN BOLERA**  
Choreography: Rubén Olmo

**JAULEÑA**  
Choreography: Rubén Olmo

**ETERNA IBERIA**  
Choreography: Antonio Najarro

**DE LO FLAMENCO**  
Choreography: Mario Maya, Isabel Bayón and Rafaela Carrasco

BNE Flamenco Musicians

## 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.

## Further information and interview requests:

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