

Afanador continues its European Tour in Austria

- St. Pölten, Austria, is the next stop on *Afanador*'s European tour.
- This season, *Afanador* will tour several cities in Austria, Belgium and France.

Austria, 26th September 2025. Following the opening of the 40th edition of the RomaEuropa Festival, the Ballet's next stop with *Afanador* will be the Festspielhaus in the Austrian city of St. Pölten.

During the final four months of 2025, *Afanador* will also be performed in four European cities in Belgium and France.

For Rubén Olmo, Director of the Ballet Nacional de España, the success of *Afanador* lies in offering audiences something different that they had never seen before in Spanish Dance or at the Ballet Nacional de España: "It is a work that surprises audiences; it is different from anything that had been done before. The success of *Afanador* lies in its inspiration. We are always inspired by writers, poets and so on, but never by a photographer, by a photo shoot. It is something innovative in the world of dance."

Afanador conveys photographer Ruven Afanador's surrealist vision of flamenco through the language of dance, encouraging audiences to discover a universe shaped by fascination and desire. The acclaimed works of the Colombian artist, *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos*, provide 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.

Its premiere in 2023 at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville marked the beginning of a long series of successful tours and achievements. *Afanador* has since filled venues including the Teatro Real in Madrid, Teatro MIRA in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Teatros del Canal in Madrid, Les Arts in Valencia, the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Yeulmaru Theatre in Yeosu, South Korea, the GS Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea, the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid and the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

Afanador has received widespread acclaim from both audiences and critics, as reflected in the numerous awards it has received throughout 2025: five Max Awards, two Talía Awards and the Catalan Critics' Awards, among others. All of them are a clear reflection of the admiration this ballet has inspired among audiences and critics alike.

Continuing its mission to promote Spanish Dance, the Ballet Nacional de España has recently published the booklet *"Afanador para jóvenes"*, written by Elna Matamoros. Its pages invite younger audiences to embark on a journey through and enjoy the ballet alongside Ruven Afanador, Marcos Morau and the artists of the Ballet Nacional de España. "We have attracted many young people with this production, and I am very pleased about that," explained the BNE's Director.

Programme:

AFANADOR
Ballet Nacional de España

Festspielhaus, St. Pölten

Friday, 26th September 2025, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 27th September 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets:

<https://www.festspielhaus.at/de/programm/marcos-morau-ballet-nacional-de-espana-director-ruben-olmo/42761>

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.

About de Rubén Olmo

Rubén Olmo, winner of the 2015 National Dance Award, took over as Director of 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.