

The Ballet Nacional de España takes *Afanador* to the heart of Germany

Afanador arrives in Ludwigsburg on 19th and 20th June
The BNE continues to captivate audiences across Europe

Madrid, 17th June 2026. This weekend, the Ballet Nacional de España takes *Afanador* to the Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele in Germany. The company, directed by Rubén Olmo, arrives in the German city with a production that has been captivating audiences in Spain and abroad since its premiere on 1st December 2023.

Inspired by the photography of Ruven Afanador, the work has shone on every stage it has visited, from South Korea and Bruges to Austria and Italy, with Paris the latest city to fall under the spell of *Afanador*.

In the words of Marcos Morau, creator of the concept and artistic director of the production, "*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."

It is one of the company's most contemporary productions. To speak of *Afanador* is to speak of innovation in Spanish Dance. According to Rubén Olmo, Director of the Ballet Nacional de España, it is precisely this originality that lies behind its great success: "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."

With its hypnotic choreography and performances poised between vitality and stillness, *Afanador* focuses on photographer Ruven Afanador's surrealist vision of flamenco through a distorting lens shaped by dreams, desire and memory, drawing audiences into a universe created from fascination and desire.

Ruven Afanador freezes movement while capturing all the beauty and power of Spanish art, while Morau allows those same bodies to move again. In doing so, he reveals the tension between vitality and stillness, between gaze and desire. The paradox of photography becomes tangible: a medium that freezes movement

yet is capable of revealing an entire current of life. In *Afanador*, as Morau explains: “the bodies move again, not to imitate the photograph, but to understand what lies within that stillness.”

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 by singer and composer Maria Arnal. This journey through worlds dancing along the boundaries of dreams, death and life is brought to the stage with dramaturgy by Roberto Fratini Serafide, audiovisual design by Marc Salicrú and lighting design by Bernat Jansà.

The ballet *Afanador* has established itself as a phenomenon on the international stage. Since its debut, the Ballet Nacional de España production has received unanimous acclaim from audiences and critics alike, earning major distinctions including five Max Awards, two Talía Awards and the Catalan Critics' Awards, among others.

As Marcos Morau explains, “I would like people to enter and watch us as they do in certain dreams, where we recognise the places, the people, the landscapes and, without fully understanding what is happening to them, we know that they are speaking about us.”

Programme:

AFANADOR
Ballet Nacional de España

Forum am Schlosspark, Ludwigsburg (Germany)

Friday, 19th June 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 20th June 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Last tickets available:

<https://schlossfestspiele.de/en/events/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 and Sport. 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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