

The Ballet Nacional de España takes *Afanador* on tour to the iconic Théâtre du Châtelet

A date with dance in Paris: the Ballet Nacional de España presents
Afanador from 27th March to 2nd April

The Théâtre du Châtelet becomes the epicentre of Spanish Dance
today, Friday, with the premiere of *Afanador*

Paris, 27th March 2026. Paris is embracing Spanish talent. The company directed by Rubén Olmo arrives this Friday at the emblematic Parisian theatre with one of its most avant-garde productions, inspired by the photography of Ruven Afanador.

Afanador has become synonymous with innovation in Spanish Dance. According to Rubén Olmo, Director of the Ballet Nacional de España, its great success lies in its originality. "Until now, audiences had never seen this kind of production in Spanish Dance or at the Ballet Nacional de España."

Stages in South Korea, Italy, Belgium, France and, of course, Spain have thrilled to the choreography and overwhelming power of *Afanador*.

"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," Olmo explained.

Afanador seeks to reveal photographer Ruven Afanador's surrealist vision of flamenco through the language of dance, drawing audiences into a universe created from fascination and desire. The acclaimed works of the Colombian artist, *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos*, provided the starting point for this production, in which Spanish Dance merges with contemporary dance 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.

Ruven Afanador freezes movement while capturing all the beauty and power of Spanish art; 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.

Afanador has enjoyed uninterrupted success since its premiere at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville in 2023. In addition to filling major Spanish venues such as the Teatro Real, Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid, Teatro MIRA in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Teatros del Canal in Madrid, Les Arts in Valencia, the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona and the Palacio de Festivales in Santander, it has also achieved the same success on international stages including Yeulmaru Theatre in Yeosu, South Korea, the GS Arts Center in Seoul, the Teatro dell’Opera di Roma, the Concertgebouw Brugge, the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès in Cannes, the Maison de la Culture in Grenoble and Les Théâtres in Aix-en-Provence.

In 2025, *Afanador* captivated audiences and critics alike, rounding off the year with numerous awards: five Max Awards, two Talía Awards and the Catalan Critics’ Awards, among others. All of them are clear evidence of the admiration this ballet has inspired among audiences and critics alike.

Programme
AFANADOR
Ballet Nacional de España

Théâtre du Châtelet (Paris, France)

Friday, 27th March 2026, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, 28th March 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, 28th March 2026, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, 29th March 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 31st March 2026, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 1st March 2026, 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, 2nd March 2026, 8:00 p.m.

Last tickets available

<https://www.chatelet.com/en/programmation/25-26en/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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