

Medea: The Emotion of a Story Told Through Dance

- The Ballet Nacional de España will present the premiere of *Medea: In Memory of Maestro José Granero* at the Teatro Real from 16th to 19th October.
- Alongside the artist's emblematic choreographies, the programme will feature new creations that carry forward his legacy.

Madrid, 9th October 2025. From 16th to 19th October, the Ballet Nacional de España will perform at the Teatro Real, presenting four performances conceived as a tribute to one of the most important figures in the history of dance in Spain, José Granero (1936–2006). The carefully curated programme will feature four of his most emblematic choreographies alongside two new creations that draw on his legacy and reinterpret it through a twenty-first-century perspective.

José Granero, a Spanish dancer and choreographer of Argentinian origin, universally known as Maestro, is a key figure in the development of a new choreographic language for Spanish dance. He endowed it with a powerful narrative quality and theatricality that have kept his creations alive to this day and have served as a source of inspiration and a pathway for new generations of creators.

He began his studies at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires before travelling to New York to complete his training at the schools of the New York City Ballet, Martha Graham and Hanya Holm. On arriving in Spain, he worked as a dancer with the companies of Mariemma, Pilar López and Luisillo, where he developed a passion for Spanish dance. His first choreographic works for José Greco and Antonio Gades followed, as did the founding of the Ballet Español de Madrid and his unforgettable creations for the Ballet Nacional de España.

Rubén Olmo, Director of the Ballet Nacional de España, in his ongoing commitment to recovering the company's choreographic repertoire, has selected four works by José Granero for this tribute, which will be presented at the Teatro Real for the first time: *Leyenda (Crónica de un amor no consumado)*, *Cuentos del Guadalquivir (pas de deux)*, *Bolero* and the iconic *Medea*, which takes centre stage in the second half of the programme. *Medea* returns to the Plaza de Oriente stage following its appearance there in 2003, when the Ballet

Nacional de España celebrated its 25th anniversary with the participation of the great Manolo Sanlúcar. The role of Medea will be performed by two outstanding dancers: Eva Yerbabuena (guest artist on 16th, 17th and 18th October) and Maribel Gallardo, whose performance on 19th October will mark her farewell to the stage.

Rubén Olmo has explained why he is convinced that *Medea: In Memory of Maestro José Granero* will captivate audiences at the Teatro Real: “*Medea* is going to be a success, because it already is. It is an exceptionally well-constructed work. On this occasion, we are joined by an award-winning artist, Eva Yerbabuena, who takes on the role of Medea. She is a bailaora with pure flamenco training, as Manuela Vargas was. Seeing someone with that same physical essence interpret Medea again is very important. We will also have Maribel Gallardo. She was the last dancer to perform Medea while Maestro Granero was still alive. I am sure it will be a wonderful farewell for her.”

Medea is one of the finest examples of theatrical flamenco ballet. Its dramaturgy, written by Miguel Narros based on Seneca’s tragedy, Manolo Sanlúcar’s music and José Granero’s choreography come together in a harrowing and seamless production: a story of love, betrayal and revenge whose artistic power remains undiminished to this day. Winner of the New York Critics’ Award in 1988, it is perhaps the most performed and reinterpreted choreographic work in the history of Spanish dance.

For his part, Javier Palacios, choreographic supervisor of the programme, believes that the venue chosen for this tribute could not be more fitting: “The Teatro Real is one of the most important stages in Spain, and it is where this production belongs.” For him, “the most important thing about Granero’s choreographies is that they make the audience’s heart vibrate. And that is what we will achieve with this tribute.”

The programme is completed by two new creations that look to Granero’s legacy in order to reinterpret it and, through the language of the twenty-first century, keep it alive and reaffirm its contemporary relevance. These two world premieres are *Segunda piel* by Miguel Ángel Corbacho and *Arriero* by Eduardo Martínez.

The performances will feature the Teatro Real Orchestra, conducted by Manuel Coves, performing works by Isaac Albéniz, Maurice Ravel, Domenico Scarlatti, Moreno Torroba, Nin Culmell, Martínez Palacios, Manolo Sanlúcar and José Luis Greco.

Programme:

MEDEA
Ballet Nacional de España
Teatro Real

Thursday, 16th October 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 17th October 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 18th October 2025, 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, 19th October 2025, 6:00 p.m.

https://balletnacional.mcu.es/es/temporada/copy_of_temporada-2024-2025/medea

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 Rubén Olmo

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.