Upcoming international tour of *Afanador*: Copenhagen

The Ballet Nacional de España begins its European tour with sold-out performances in the Danish capital

Copenhagen, 24th September 2026. The next international stop for *Afanador* is Det Kongelige Teater in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Danish theatre opens its doors to welcome this Ballet Nacional de España production, which has been captivating audiences on stages in Spain and abroad since its premiere in Seville in 2023.

On 26th, 27th and 28th September, the company directed by Rubén Olmo will present *Afanador* to Danish audiences. The production brings Spanish Dance and contemporary dance together to reflect photographer Ruven Afanador's surrealist vision of flamenco, inviting audiences to enter, without preconceptions, a universe built upon fascination and desire.

As the work's dramaturg, Roberto Fratini, explains: "Approaching the multiverse of Andalusian folklore through desire, Afanador compels it to reveal itself, and in doing so reveals himself. As though dreaming of it, he allows the slips, deliriums and subconscious of flamenco to emerge, along with its impulses towards eros and death and its truths that cannot be documented. He unravels it through a thousand amplifications, like a grotesque and sumptuous world, an unimaginable body of shadow and light."

The figures portrayed in the Colombian photographer's books *Ángel Gitano* and *Mil Besos* served as inspiration for Marcos Morau, responsible for the concept and artistic direction, in creating one of the company's most hypnotic productions.

In the words of the choreographer and artistic director, Ruven Afanador "observes the world of flamenco through a distorting lens, a lens shaped by dreams, desire and memory". In *Afanador*, each scene begins with one of the photographer's iconic images. The stage transports us into the instant captured by the lens, bringing that evocation to life.

In the production, which is being presented in Copenhagen for the first time, the black and white of photography predominates in a dramatic contrast that transforms the traditional costumes and set design associated with flamenco imagery — designed by Silvia Delagneau and Max Glaenzel respectively — into strange and unrecognisable elements: waterfalls, avalanches and storms.

The choreography was created by Marcos Morau himself, together with Lorena Nogal, Shay Partush, Jon López and Miguel Ángel Corbacho, Assistant Director of the Ballet Nacional de España. Large bows, gallows and batas de cola accompany the musical composition created by Juan Cristóbal Saavedra, with a special collaboration by singer and composer María Arnal. This journey through worlds dancing along the boundaries of dreams, death and life is shaped by dramaturg Roberto Fratini Serafide, Marc Salicrú's audiovisual design and Bernat Jansà's lighting design.

Afanador has established itself as a phenomenon on the Spanish performing arts scene. Internationally, the production has also enjoyed success at Yelmaru-ro Theatre in Yeosu, South Korea; GS Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea; the Rome Opera House; Concertgebouw Bruges; the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès in Cannes, France; Maison de la Culture in Grenoble, France; Les Théâtres d'Aix-en-Provence, France; Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, France; and Forum am Schlosspark in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

Afanador has captivated both audiences and critics since its debut, as reflected in the numerous awards it has received, including five Max Awards, two Talía Awards and the Catalan Critics' Awards, among others.

Programme:

AFANADOR

Ballet Nacional de España

Royal Playhouse – Det Kongelige Teater, Copenhagen

Saturday, 26th September 2026, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 27th September 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, 28th September 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Sold out

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 working to preserve, promote and expand the reach of the traditional Spanish Dance repertoire, while also incorporating new creations and opening the company up to avant-garde approaches and experimentation. This marks his second period with the BNE, having previously been a member of the company as a dancer from 1998 to 2002.

From 2011, he served as Director of the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, an institution under 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 including *Érase una vez*, *Belmonte*, *Las tentaciones de Poe*, *Horas contigo*, *Naturalmente Flamenco* and *Diálogo de Navegante*. He has also collaborated as a choreographer or dancer with leading figures in Spanish Dance including Aída Gómez, Antonio Najarro, Eva Yerbabuena, Víctor Ullate, Antonio Canales, Rafael Amargo, Isabel Bayón, Rafaela Carrasco and Aída Gómez.

Further information and interview requests:

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