

GUADIANA and PACO TARANTO

Flamenco Singing: Guadiana, Paco Taranto
Guitar: Paco Cortés, Camarón de Pitita

Song

RIVAS VACIAMADRID
AUDITORIO PILAR BARDEM (PILAR BARDEM AUDITORIUM)
SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH AT 21:00

DE BADAJOZ A TRIANA (FROM BADAJOZ TO TRIANA)

On the one hand, we have Guadiana, a native of Extremadura and one of the great masters of *cante* (flamenco singing), both as a performer and as a composer. Guadiana has proven his ability to innovate and his skill at creating fusion.

On the other hand, we have Seville-born Paco Taranto, who first learned to sing in the taverns of Triana and later went on to tour Spain with the famous "troupes" made up of artists with the widest imaginable range of styles. This concert offers us a vision of two very different voices, with different backgrounds, a journey *From Badajoz to Triana*.

Guadiana. Antonio Suárez Salazar, Guadiana, was born in Badajoz in 1955. He is part of an authentic dynasty of *cantaos*. His brother is Ramón el Portugués, his uncle is Porrinas de Badajoz and his cousins include de La Negra, Juan Salazar and Los Chunguitos. He is all flamenco, a favorite *cantaor* (flamenco singer) among *bailaores* (flamenco dancers), and the *palmero* (hand clapper) Camarón had been searching for...

At age twelve, Guadiana won First Prize at the Flamenco Festival in Badajoz's Fair and, at sixteen, he debuted at the Café de Chinitas *tablaos* in Madrid, sharing the stage with the likes of Manuel Soto "Sordera", Manzanita, Carmen Mora, Enrique Morente, Juan Habichuela and Ramón el Portugués, among others.

During the eighties, he worked at *tablaos* (flamenco venues) such as Torres Bermejas, Los Canasteros and Las Brujas. It was the heyday for *tablaos* and flamenco.

Guadiana is one of the most popular singers to accompany dance, as is evidenced by his work with companies such as El Güito, La Tati, Javier Barón, La Tolea, Juan Ramírez, Carmen Cortés and Merche Esmeralda with whom he has traveled the world. He has recently been working with Antonio Canales, writing the music for some of his choreographies.

He has also worked on international shows with *cantaos* such as Enrique Morente and with guitarists such as Pepe Habichuela who included one of Guadiana's songs in his album *Yerbabuena* (Peppermint).

Guadiana's first solo album was recorded in 1999 under the Nuevos Medios record label. It was produced by his nephew Juan José Suárez "Paquete" and by Juan Carmona. On this record, *Cuando el río suena* (When There's Smoke), the *cantaor* offers his personal and inestimable approach to traditional *cante* (flamenco singing). The record is both old-fashioned and up-to-date, reflecting Guadiana's own outgoing and innovative nature with songs such as his personal Andalusian rock version of Javier Ruibal's *Pasará* (It'll Pass).

This open-minded approach to new musical experiences is also evident in some of Guadiana's compositions, such as *Tu madre tuvo la culpa* (It Was Your Mother's Fault) for leading flamenco fusion group Pata Negra. Guadiana has also participated in the *Chanson Flamenca* project in which a great many *cantaos* did their best to add a touch of flamenco to French songs. In 2002, he recorded a second album called *Brillo de Luna* (Moonshine) with Nuevos Medios.

Guadiana has an excellent voice for singing flamenco and still has a lot left to say.

Paco Taranto. Francisco Álvarez Martín, Paco Taranto, was born right in the heart of Triana (Seville) 57 years ago. Although he is the first flamenco artist in his family, he has an innate talent for *cante* (flamenco singing) that he began to develop as a child by visiting the taverns around his neighborhood (Triana) where he listened to *cantaores* such as Oliver, El Arenero, Abadía, El Teta, El Sordillo, etc. There he learned, not just Triana's *cantes*, but also each *cantaor's* personal nuances, which he would then practice at home until he entered and won the Radio Sevilla competition. That is when he began his career as a professional *cantaor* (flamenco singer).

After several tours and performances, Paco joined up with Salvador Távora to form a duet called Los Tarantos and traveled all over Spain with those famous "troupes" along with other artists such as Enrique Montoya, El Sevillano, Emilio "El Moro", Pepe Pinto, etc. He worked with Juanita Reina's company on shows such as *Ole con Ole* and *Señorío*.

After that, he began his career as a soloist working at La Cochera *tablaos*, where he sang for Farruco, Matilde Coral and Rafael "El Negro".

He worked in Los Gallos for fifteen years and this is where he made his first recording along with other artists. That was in 1972, but it wasn't until 1979 that Taranto recorded his first solo record, *Nuevos Cantes* (New Flamenco Songs). This record was followed by seven more on which he was accompanied by guitarists such as Paco Cerero, Ricardo Miño, Rafael Riqueni, Quique Paredes, Manolo Franco, and Pedro Sierra. Taranto's latest album was recorded in 2001 along with Quique Paredes and Pedro Sierra: *Cuánto te quise* (How I Loved You).

After he recorded his first solo record, Taranto's artistic career veered away from the *tablaos* and he more or less gave up singing to accompany dance. He offered a number of recitals at festivals and *peñas* (flamenco folk clubs), not just in Spain but also in Europe and in countries such as Brazil and Japan.

One of his most celebrated accomplishments is the fact that he has participated in every Flamenco Biennial Seville has held to date.

Paco Taranto has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is fully aware of his role as the guardian of a flamenco heritage that has given the neighborhood of Triana its distinct personality and presence.