

JOSÉ MAYA and ALFONSO LOSA

Dancing: José Maya, Alfonso Losa.

Flamenco Singing: José Anillo, Encarna Anillo, Antonio Ingueta, Juañares

Guitar: Pino Losada, Carlos de Jacoba

Percussion: Lucky Losada

Dancing

MADRID

TEATROS DEL CANAL-SALA ROJA (TEATROS DEL CANAL THEATER – RED HALL)

SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 20:00

GRITO (CRY)

The flamenco dancers from Madrid's Amor de Dios School are young maestros who have, from a tender age, traveled with a suitcase full of hope, books and make up. Their lives consist of spring seasons in Paris, autumns in Vienna, dance schools, work, and respect bordering on adoration towards their teachers. Today is their big moment. This new generation is stepping onto this great stage so that we can learn to love and admire them. They have a lot to say and, both at Suma Flamenca and at the Seville Biennial, they'll present us with their dreams come true.

Grito (Cry), Alfonso Losa and José Maya's new performance, is a recap of the learning process and evolution both flamenco dancers have undergone, and which they reveal making no excuses. The piece is undoubtedly a showcase of contemporary flamenco. Losa and Maya offer us a complete performance that is balanced yet full of specific details that are clear proof of their stock. At certain points, the piece is like a beautiful battle where the only winner is the audience. After opening with a *siguirilla* duo, Losa regales us by dancing a *farruca* with a cane, to which Maya responds with a *soleá por bulerías* so powerful that it forces his artistic rival to come out with a *soleá por derecho* from his own repertoire that keeps the audience on edge. Finally, José Maya responds with a fusion of all his flamenco expertise, offering us a master class in which all the flamenco *palos* (styles) merge together in order to put all the artist's best on stage. And both flamenco dancers close with a duo of *jaleos* that reveal what *Grito (Cry)* truly is: a celebration of our most profoundly rooted art form.

José Maya. José Maya Serrano "Joselillo Romero" was born in Madrid in 1983. He is part of a family of artists that includes such figures as the legendary flamenco dancer Fernanda Romero and painter Antonio Maya. Trained by the teachers at Amor de Dios, José Maya proved to be a precocious artist with a talent far superior to what was usual for his age. When he was just nine years old, Maya participated in a Benefit Festival at the Albéniz Theater along with figures such as Antonio Canales, Joaquín Grilo, Juan Ramírez and Enrique Morente. Soon afterward, he shared the stage with El Güito, Ramón El Portugués, Javier Barón and La China.

In 1995, at age twelve, Maya took part in Tele 5's contest *Bravo, bravísimo*, won the grand prize for Spain and traveled to Italy as a finalist. A year later, he starred in a TV show called *Gente con alma* (Soulful People).

In 1995, he participated in Los Veranos de la Villa along with La Tati and as a guest artist in *Homenaje al bailar El Tupé* (Tribute to the Flamenco Dancer El Tupé), along with El Güito,

Manolete, Juan Ramírez, and Blanca del Rey. This tribute was followed by two others to which José Maya would also be invited, such as *Homenaje a Antonio "El Bailarín"* (Tribute to Antonio "The Dancer") and *Homenaje al bailar Josele Heredia* (Tribute to the Flamenco Dancer Josele Heredia), in which Maya shared the stage with Lole Montoya, Ketama, El Güito, Manolete, Juan Ramírez, Enrique de Melchor and Vicente Soto, among others. When he was just thirteen years old, Maya went on his first tour with guitarist Paco Cruz.

Worth noting among his solo projects are: *Contra la Droga* (Against Drugs) at the Albéniz Theater in 1997, and, that same year, the Palma del Río Flamenco Week, dedicated to El Güito.

In 1998, he won the Copa Pavón Prize and performed as a guest artist with different companies including Pepe Habichuela at the Salzburg Classical Music Festival, Antonio Canales' show *Raíces* (Roots), Carmen Cortés show *Racial* and Lola Greco's piece *Carmen y Flamenco* (Carmen and Flamenco). He participated in the show called *Al son cinco* (Melody Five) along with Rafael Amargo, Lola Greco, María Vivó and José Serrano and performed with Estrella Morente at the Conde Duque in Madrid. That same year (1998), he recorded two shows for TVE-La2: *Algo más que flamenco* (More than Flamenco) and *Tiritirán*.

In 2000, he won Best Dancer at the Choreography Competition in Madrid and was given a scholarship from the Fundación Autor (the Spanish author's guild) to attend the prestigious Alicia Alonso Classical Ballet Master Class.

In addition to performances such as *Maya* (2004) and *Pies de Fuego* (Feet of Fire- 2005), one of his main works has been *Al natural* (Natural- 2006), a show he performed in along with Farru and Barullo in 2008 and which was a major hit at the Nuevo Teatro Alcalá theater in Madrid and at the Jerez Flamenco Festival. José Maya's latest premier is *El velero de las rosas* (The Roses' Sailboat), featuring Lola Greco. The piece was first shown at the Corral de Comedias in Alcalá de Henares.

Maya has been called upon to perform as the opening act at concerts for major international stars such as Marc Anthony, Beyoncé and Björk.

Alfonso Losa. Flamenco dancer Alfonso Losa was born in Madrid thirty years ago. He began training with Rafael Córdoba when he was only nine and obtained the highest marks as a student at the Royal Professional Dance Conservatory. Losa completed his training alongside major artists such as El Güito, Manolete, María Magdalena, Antonio Reyes, Juan Ramírez, Domingo Ortega, La China, Antonio Canales and Javier Latorre.

His professional career began in 1994, when he obtained the Jury's Special Mention in the Community of Madrid's Spanish Dance and Flamenco Choreography Competition. In 1996 and again in 2001, he won Best Flamenco Dancer in this same contest. But these are just two of the important awards Losa has obtained throughout his career, having also received the El Güito award in the 2007 edition of Córdoba's Flamenco Art Contest, and the El Desplante prize at the Festival del Cante de las Minas de la Unión (La Union's Flamenco Mine Song Festival) in 2008.

As a solo flamenco dancer, Losa has worked in the companies of such artists as Adrián Gallia, Ricardo Franco, Manolete, El Güito, whose company he danced in for four years, and Manuela Carrasco, with whom he worked for three years during that same period (1998 to 2002). During this time he also worked as the main dancer with Ricardo Franco and with Rafael de Córdoba, whom, along with Manolete, Losa considers his main teachers.

In 2000, he began a new professional venture by launching his own company with the show *En Candela* (On Fire), which he presented at the Madrid en Danza Festival. Losa later premiered a performance called *A Tierra* (Take Cover) and, in 2003, he put together a show called *Dos Mundos* (Two Worlds) along with dancer José Maya.

From that moment on he began to collaborate as a guest artist in the companies of major flamenco masters such as Rubén Dantas, Enrique de Melchor, La Susi, Gerardo Núñez, Montse Cortés, Niño Josele, Tatiana Garrido and Guadiana, among others. Enrique Morente had him

dance at the presentation of his latest album, *Pablo de Málaga* (Pablo from Málaga), at the Reina Sofía Museum.

Losa participated as a choreographer in *Hombres Flamencos* (Flamenco Men) and *Duende* (Inner Spirit) along with such figures as Isaac, Niño de los Peines and José Maya.

Losa has taken his art to different places in Europe, South America and Asia. He currently combines his work as the head of his own company with various collaborations as a guest artist and with his work as an educator teaching courses and master classes both in Spain and abroad.

Mirando Atrás (Looking Back) is Alfonso Losa's latest show. The piece expresses the desire to recover what has been forgotten. It combines the elegance of the *farruca*, the temperance of the *soleá*, and the strength of the *fandango*. Losa does not purport to pay tribute. Instead, he seeks out new rhythms while sticking close to his roots.