

**COMPAÑÍA BELÉN MAYA. Guest artist: OLGA PERICET**

Dance: Belén Maya and Olga Pericet  
Vocals: José Valencia, Miguel Ortega, Jesús Corbacho  
Guitarist: Javier Patino, Antonia Jiménez  
Stage Director: Juan Carlos Lérica  
Musical Director: David Montero  
Lighting: Ada Bonadei  
Costume: Yaiza Pinillos

Dance

MADRID  
TEATROS DEL CANAL – SALA ROJA  
TUESDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 20:30

**BAILES ALEGRES PARA PERSONAS TRISTES**

*Flamenco dancers are like islands, each one working on their own terrain, isolated and alone, not sharing anything with others.*

Belén Maya

This reflection gave rise to the show *Bailes alegres para personas tristes* by Belén Maya who remains faithful to herself, to her search and to collaboration, proposing a shared show with one of the most personal dancers of her generation: Olga Pericet.

This is a space where the dancer is not isolated and alone, but forms part of a much more extensive complex that in turn is enriched by its own contributions. It is a work of investigation and collaboration that aims to create a space where language can be shared and developed and thus extend its borders until a new form of communication is created that is never severed from the main connection that is dancer-guitar.

Working from the contrasts and similarities between Maya and Pericet, a show is gradually woven which, as its title suggests, tries to create a space of light and colour, but also of shadow and pain. It is the face to face encounter with the other ego like someone looking at himself in a mirror and contemplating that which goes beyond the image, the physical element. *It is all human interaction: the other as a threat, as a necessity, as a mirror in which to look at oneself, as a crystallization of what we deny about ourselves, as an opportunity to grow.* (David Montero)

Belén Maya was born in New York 45 years ago while her parents, Carmen Mora and Mario Maya, were on tour. She began studying dance at the Amor de Dios studios in Madrid. Belén has trained in classical ballet, classical Spanish dance, flamenco and even jazz and contemporary dance. She has studied with teachers such as Rosa Naranjo, Paco Romero, José Antonio, Goyo Montero, Teresa Nieto, Alvin Ailey, Paco Fernández,

Manolete, La Tati, El Güito, Carmen Cortés, La Toná... She also studied at the National Ballet's School, which at the time was directed by María de Ávila. A year later, Belén moved to Sevilla in order to focus on flamenco. There she joined Mario Maya's company and, within three years, became the company's principal dancer and rehearsal master. Meanwhile, she also acquired experienced in Los Gallos and El Patio, two

*tablaos* in Sevilla. Belén later went on to spend six months at the El Flamenco *tablado* in Tokyo, working alongside other first-class performers. Upon returning from Japan, she joined the newly formed Compañía Andaluza de Danza as its principal dancer. Carlos Saura asked her to represent the younger generations in the film *Flamenco*. Some outstanding flamenco dancers and choreographers such as Javier Barón, Alejandro Granados, Manuel Reyes, Ricardo Franco, Andrés Marín, Manolete and Goyo Montero have invited her to collaborate with their companies or on their shows. She also worked on *Frontera* ("Border") with Ramón Oller performing in one of the lead roles.

In 1996 Belén formed her own company with a performance called *La Diosa en nosotras* ("The Goddess Within Us") featuring choreographer Teresa Nieto and working with musical director Emilio de Diego. The company is composed exclusively of female flamenco dancers: Yolanda Heredia, Teresa Nieto, Rafaela Carrasco, Isabel Bayón...

In 1997, Mayte Martín invited her to the Festival Grec in Barcelona. Their collaboration gave rise to the Mayte Martín and Belén Maya Dance Company. With their strong artistic connection and their common approach to flamenco, the two women put on two shows: *Mayte Martín and Belén Maya* and *Flamenco de Cámara* ("Chamber Flamenco"). Both shows garnered excellent critiques at such key venues as Jerez's Festival (2002 and 2003), Madrid's Teatro Real, the Teatre Grec in Barcelona, Madrid's Festival de Otoño, Sevilla's Teatro Central and Teatro Lope de Vega, Granada's Festival de Música y Danza, the Teatre de la Ville in Paris, Barcelona's Spai, and New York's Symphony Space, among others.

In 2004, Belén participated in a show called *Los Caminos de Lorca* ("Lorca's Paths") with Compañía Andaluza de Danza, and opened *Fuera de los límites* ("Beyond the Limits") alongside Rafaela Carrasco, with Ramón Oller as director. In 2005, she presented a show called *Dibujos* ("Drawings") in Madrid. The show debuted during Los Veranos de la Villa and was presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Festival

Flamenco in Jerez. Both shows were a huge success among critics and audiences. Later, in March 2007, Belén performed in *Souvenir* and *La voz de su amo* ("The Master's Voice"). This last show was one of Belén Maya's most emblematic performances and she toured with it around Europe and the rest of the world. In 2008, Belén was a guest artist on the show *Mujeres* ("Women"), a production commissioned by Andalucía's Flamenco Promotion Agency.

At the 2009 Festival in Jerez, Belén coordinated a show in homage to Mario Maya. And in 2010 she debuted with *Bailes alegres para personas tristes* ("Joyful Dances for Sad People") at the event in Jerez. Last March, at this same event, she also presented her latest work, *Tres* ("Three"), an austere show based on and inspired by the genuine roots that form the backbone of flamenco. The show has no plot, just dancing, singing and guitar playing. In it, the dancer performs alongside Jesús Méndez with Rafael Rodríguez on percussion.

Belén Maya is now a well-established flamenco dancer and, though she is still young, after a long career characterized by curiosity and the search for her own aesthetic, she has truly matured as an artist.

**Olga Pericet** is a native of Córdoba and a graduate in Spanish Dance who trained with such great teachers as Matilde Coral, Manolo Marín, Maica Moyano, La Toná, José Granero and Cristóbal Reyes. She has been part of Rafael Amargo's and Rafaela Carrasco's companies. Olga premiered as a choreographer and principal dancer in 2004 with a show called *Bolero, cartas de amor y desamor* ("Bolero, Songs of Love and Indifference"). Later that year, she won prizes for music and choreography with *Suite en Cámara Negra* ("Black Chamber Suite") at Madrid's 12<sup>th</sup> Certamen de Danza Española y Flamenco. In 2006 she was also honored with a Pilar López Award for Best Dance Performer at Madrid's Premios Villa and, in 2007, she won Córdoba's Concurso Nacional de Arte Flamenco.

## Dossier de prensa

---

Olga has collaborated with groups such as Teresa Nieto's company and Arrieritos. She has participated in some of the most prestigious flamenco and dance festivals and was invited to celebrate Corral de la Morería's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with Marco Flores and Belén López, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

Actor's Union with Enrique Morente. Olga helped conceptualize shows such as *Chanta la mui* and *En clave* ("On Key") that have toured around Spain, Europe, the United States and Asia.