

## ÁNGEL ROJAS

Art Direction and Choreography: Ángel Rojas

Music: Roni Martín

Musicians:

Guitar: Daniel Jurado

Percussion: Moi Sazetón

Vocals: Yasmin Levy

Flute and Vocals: Yahir Allauí

Dancer: Ángel Rojas

Scenery: Ángel Rojas

Costume: Vicente Soler

Lighting: David Pérez

Sound: Víctor Tomé

Director of Photography: Gabriel Lucas

Video: Olatz Zuazua

Dance

MADRID

TEATRO DE LA ABADÍA – SALA SAN JUAN DE LA CRUZ

SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH AT 20:30

### CONVERSACIONES PENDIENTES

*Conversaciones pendientes is the point where the experiences lived over the course of a lifetime come together. It is a moment for looking back with nostalgia and for carrying on living with the tranquility given by the years. It is the dialogue between different cultures. It is giving time to let the voice dance and to listen to the song. It is a conversation without words, it is the language of the body united with that of the music that spills over with ancient encounters between human beings. It is the encounter between two artists from two different worlds who decide to converse eternally in order to live that communion of energy that can only come from art.*

Ángel Rojas

*Conversaciones pendientes*, presented in the last edition of the Madrid en Danza Festival, is the third solo show by half of the Nuevo Ballet Español. Both Ángel Rojas and Carlos Rodríguez usually perform in individual shows in which they show their respective artistic profiles beyond the company they set up in 1995 and which is giving them such good creative and artistic results.

In *Conversaciones Pendientes*, Ángel Rojas shows an alternative profile which doesn't fit within the Nuevo Ballet Español and which allows him to develop all those things which concern him. It is a journey through different moments in the life of a creator, from the most human point of view, from words to movement, from the heart and from the truth.

With music by Roni Martín and texts by Ángel Rojas it is a show that aims to strip off all the memories expressed in the voice and always united to movement. They are thoughts spoken aloud, a necessary catharsis for creating a spectacle in which thoughts dance.

Ángel Rojas (Madrid 1974) is a dancer, choreographer and flamenco director. For years his career has been linked to Carlos

Rodríguez, with whom he has directed the Nuevo Ballet Español since 1995. Together they have created most of the group's

shows throughout its fifteen-year history, from *Infierno S.L.* ("Hell, Inc."), created in 1995 for International Dance Day, to *Cambio de tercio* ("Change of Pace", 2009), the company's latest production.

Ángel Rojas debuted as a professional at the age of sixteen and began his career touring with Luisillo's Ballet Teatro Español and Rafael Aguilar's Ballet Teatro Español. Antonio Canales' Ballet Flamenco also appears on this young artist's resume; he danced with the company on *A ti Carmen Amaya* ("For You, Carmen Amaya") and *Torero* ("Bullfighter"). He also took part in the Greco Roman Gala at Itálica's Festival and in the All Star Gala in Montreal.

As a choreographer, alongside with Carlos Rodríguez and before founding his own company, Rojas created *La zapatera prodigiosa* ("The Prodigious Shoemaker") for the Teatro de la Danza Company in Madrid, as well as several works for José Antonio y los Ballets Españoles, with whom Rojas danced as a soloist. Throughout 1994, he was a guest dancer with Víctor Ullate's Company and, that same year, Rojas won Most Outstanding Male Dancer at Madrid's National Choreography Competition, a prize he shared with Carlos Rodríguez.

In 1995, Ángel Rojas and Carlos Rodríguez founded their own company, Nuevo Ballet Español. Their first production, *Infierno SL*, featured José Antonio as a guest dancer and was a huge success all over Spain. This encouraged them to put together a second production called *Canela y fuego* ("Cinnamon and Fire", 1996); followed by *Sangre flamenca* ("Flamenco Blood", 1997); *Flamenco directo* ("Flamenco Live", 1998), which marked a milestone in the company's history with its technically and aesthetically revolutionary style; *Gallo de pelea* ("Fighting Cock", 1999); and *NBEx5* (2000), a show that commemorated the company's fifth anniversary with a season at Madrid's Centro Cultural de la Villa, as part of the Madrid en Danza International Festival. This was soon followed by *Furia* ("Fury", 2000), which gave rise to a collection of Rojas and

Rodríguez's best work that would be broadcast on television in North America as *Fury, Romeo y Julieta* (2003); *Tierra* ("Earth", 2004); *Alma* ("Soul", 2006), with which the company celebrated its tenth year; and *Sangre* ("Blood", 2008). In 2008, they renamed themselves the Rojas and Rodríguez Company and opened a new show called *Baile de máscaras* ("Masquerade"), with original music by José Nieto and Daniel Jurado. The show was commissioned by Madrid's Regional Government to commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of Independence.

Their shows *Furia, Flamenco Directo, Concierto Flamenco, Romeo y Julieta* and *Tierra* are currently touring nationally and internationally.

In 2005, Ángel Rojas and Carlos Rodríguez received the Villa de Madrid Pilar López Award for Best Dance Performance. In 2004, Rojas choreographed the piece *¿Y tú qué miras?* ("What are you looking at?") for graduates of the Royal Dance Conservatory. It was performed at the RESAD a year later. Another of Rojas and Rodríguez's most outstanding works outside their company was the musical *Don Juan*, a Canadian-French production that debuted in 2004 in Montreal (Canada) and was on stage for nine months; and *Dualía*, commissioned by the Spanish National Ballet and directed by José Antonio, who (according to Rojas and Rodríguez) is the best director the SNB has had after María de Ávila.

Rojas' first solo project as a choreographer was *En carne viva* ("Open Wound", 2004). In it he takes a look at gender violence through three different testimonies. Then, in 1997, he premiered *Bailando entre palabras* ("Dancing Between Words"), which was clear proof of the influence artists such as Mats Ek and New Yorker William Forsythe have had on his work. Now we have another chance to see Roja's solo work with his new production for Suma Flamenco 2011, *Conversaciones Pendientes* ("Pending Conversations").