

GALA FLAMENCA

MERCEDES RUIZ, EDUARDO GUERRERO, AND MARÍA MORENO

Guest artist: María Terremoto

“A FISTFUL OF SPAIN’S GREATEST DANCERS COLLUDING IN A FOOT-STOMPING, SHAWL-SWIRLING, CASTANET-CLICKING PARTY”

—*The Stage* (UK)

Gala Flamenca has long been the centerpiece of Flamenco Festival, bringing together exceptional dancers and singers in an evening that demonstrates the range and vibrancy of flamenco. This year’s Gala features **Mercedes Ruiz**, lauded for her “commanding truth and virtuosity” (*Financial Times*); **Eduardo Guerrero**, known for his “marvelously eccentric solos” (*The New York Times*); and **María Moreno** whose astonishing dance pays tribute to the traditional style of Cádiz. These remarkable dancers are joined on stage by a cadre of musicians and a special guest artist: rising singer **María Terremoto**, the youngest artist ever to receive the Giraldillo Award for New Artist at the Seville Flamenco Biennial.

BIOGRAPHIES

MERCEDES RUIZ:

Mercedes Ruiz (Jerez, 1980) is her generation's reference point in her commitment to the evolution within the classic flamenco dance style. She essentially taught herself, going to the most important masters and, above all, learning from them on stage. Thus, with just seven years, she already worked in the company of Manuel Morao and Gitanos de Jerez. Later, as a trained Flamenco dancer Mercedes Ruiz entered successively in the companies of Antonio El Pipa, Eva Yerbabuena and Adrian Galia: three different artists who helped Mercedes forge her personality: A personality that was already appreciated by the jury of the XVI National Contest of Córdoba, who gave her the Antonio Gades Award.

In 2002 Mercedes Ruiz began her career as a soloist. In her first productions, Mercedes Ruiz already very clearly demonstrated her aesthetics, which is strongly committed to an updated tradition, an evolution within classicism. Mercedes Ruiz has also been investigating the expressive possibilities of camera productions or small format, where the relationship between Flamenco singing, guitar and dance intensifies. Since 2003, Mercedes has presented eight successful shows: "Dibujos en el aire" (2003); "Gestos de mujer" (2004); "Juncá" (2006); "Mi último secreto" (2009); "Baile de palabra" (2011); "Perspectivas" (2013); "Déjame que te baile" (2016) and "Tauromagía" (2018).

Among the main international awards are: International Award "Movimientos" (Wolzburg, Alemania); Giraldillo Award Bienal de Flamenco de Sevilla (2002); Antonio Gades Award (Concurso Nacional de Arte Flamenco de Córdoba); Best Dancer Flamenco Critics Choice Awards (2012); Audience Award Festival de Jerez (2015); Critics Choice Award Festival de Jerez (2013); and Best Dancer Flamenco Hoy National Awards (2015).

EDUARDO GUERRERO

Eduardo Guerrero (Cádiz, 1983) began dancing when he was just six years old in Cadiz, where he forged the base of his dancing career that he then further developed with professional dancers such as Mario Maya, Antonio Canales or Manolo Marín among others.

He studied Spanish Dance in Cádiz at the conservatory of music, and afterwards he extended his contemporary and classic dance knowledge with David Greenall and Montserrat Marín.

It was in 2002 when he started to work with major artists on the national scene who valued Eduardo's physical ability, flawless technique and evident quality developing leading roles in: the company of Aída Gomez, Eva La Yerbabuena or Rocio Molina.

In 2011, he was awarded him first prize by the Professional Conservatories for a choreography he created, called 'Mayo'. Since then, Eduardo began a solo career

taking over the creation of his own performances: Suite Flamenca (2011); De Dolores (2012); Las Minas (2013); Re-torno (2014); El Callejón de los Pecados (2014); Desplante (2015); A Solo Piece for a Flamenco Dancer (2016); Guerrero (2017); Faro (2017); and Sombra Efímera (2018).

Among the numerous awards that endorse his career, we mention the First Dance Prize of the prestigious Las Minas de la Unión Festival 2013, which marked his consecration. In 2017 his show Guerrero wins the Audience Award of the Jerez Festival. Nowadays, Eduardo is creating "Underfoot", a piece directed by Mateo Feijoo (Matadero Madrid) that will be premiered in 2019.

Right now, Eduardo is in a great moment. His contemporary aesthetics, refined technique, profound knowledge of the Flamenco essence, his artistic talent and powerful force, places Eduardo Guerrero among the greatest names of the International Dance scene.

MARÍA MORENO

María Moreno has definitely got something. Something special, a spark. You can tell when she speaks using few words, prudent, dry, contrasting with what she transforms into when she dances.

Moreno was born in Cádiz in 1986. She started in dance at the age of 8 at the Professional Dance Conservatory of Cádiz, along with masters such as Javier Latorre, Rafaela Carrasco, Antonio Canales and Eva Yerbabuena, among others.

In 2004, she joined the Eva Yerbabuena Company, with which she premiered the shows "A cuatro voces", "Eva"; "5 mujeres 5"; "El huso de la memoria" and "Federico según Lorca". With Eva, María toured the most emblematic venues in the world.

She began her solo career in 2006. She took part of the XXXV International Flamenco Congress held in Cádiz, and participated in the premiere of the show "Kalho Calo" under the artistic direction of Rafael Estevez, premiered at the Festival de Jerez. She collaborated as a guest artist with famous singers as Arcángel, Miguel Poveda, José Mercé and Marina Heredia. Along with dancer Rafael Campallo, María premiered the shows "Puente de Triana" and "Triana, the other shore", with which he travels through Italy and Canada.

Her first solo production "Alas de Recuerdo" came in 2014. Thanks to this show, she was awarded with the New Artist Award at the 2017 Festival Flamenco de Jerez. In the Bienal de Flamenco 2018, she presented her second solo piece "De la concepción".

María Moreno also has the First National Award of Bajo de Guía, held in Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz) and the First National Dance Award for Alegrías held by the Peña la Perla de Cádiz.