

MARCO FLORES present

# SOTA CABALLO Y REINA

JONDISMO ACTUAL

Inspirado en el Concurso de  
Cante Jondo de Granada en 1922



JACK, HORSE AND QUEEN.  
*contemporary jondismo*

guest artist:

Jesús Méndez

special collaboration:

Claudia Cruz & Marina Valiente

## Cante Jondo:

*"The true flamenco cante comes from hardship, from dawn to dusk, from pain. This cante, which conveys deep expression, is a musical and innovative crusade, where adornment is avoided, tune perfection is not a must and black sounds take the lead."*

Manuel de Falla, Antonio Cachón, Manuel Torre and others.

*"A quest for Andalusian genuine and primitive cante, the deep and solid cante, which is infused by the misterious color of the early ages."*

Federico García Lorca.

A hundred year have passed since the first **Cante Jondo competition in Granada**. The concept of cante jondo, has evolved with the times. Making that *jondismo* our best asset and means of artistic expression.

We look at some of the patrons of this historical contest, being Manuel de Falla an outstanding figure. He understood the fabric of society and what the artistic ideals of the times were. We reminisce about the most important participants and guest artists who took part in the iconic contest in 1922, such as: La Niña de los Peines, Manuel Torre, Antonio Chacón, Diego Bermúdez "El Tenazas" and Manolo Caracol. We build bridges between the memories of this significant event and the present, thus suggesting a view of the idea of *jondismo nowadays*.

## Contemporary Jondísmo:

*“Art cannot be separated from life. Art is nothing but the interpretation of a sensitive nature during a phase of their life.”*

Federico García Lorca.

We propose a jondismo that bends the limits between what used to be considered cante jondo and other kinds of cantes which were seen far from this concept. We build upon what we have inherited from flamenco and our teachers' legacy.

We understand the idea of *jondo* as an everchanging state and not as a fixed preconceived form. It is a guide that keeps us in a constant quest and reflection about our human, artistic and vital pulse. Our jondismo allows us to delve into sorrow, injustice, submission, inequality and sociopolitical corruption which are a constant. Opening doors to a hopeful and positive path, giving us the possibility to improve socially and culturally.

## Motivation and impulses

This project intends to reflect upon the motives that led these enlightened figures to create such an event, whose aim was to dignify and keep *cante jondo* from disappearing.

Our creative process was mostly focused on the figure of Manuel de Falla. Because of the age difference, he was the leader of this illustrated movement. He had a more mature intellectual and artistic approach than the rest. Moreover, he had already found inspiration in *cante jondo* for some of his previous compositions: *La Vida Breve*, *El Amor Brujo* as well as *El Sombrero de Tres Picos*.

That is why, along with the help of a very young Federico García Lorca, Falla promoted and directed this project, as the artistic leader and mentor to all the rest of the group of creators

In this show we do not expect to explicitly portray any of these authors' repertoire. However, we will delve into some of the works they were working on in 1922.

Rooted on this investigation we intend to find harmony with flamenco, understanding and conveying – from a current perspective – the artistic circle and the musical poetry in which they were immersed back then.

Therefore we decided to chose some of the lesser known Falla works, which were very present and influential at that time: "*Homenaje a Debussy*" (1920), "*Canto de los remeros del Volga*" (1922), "*Fantasia Baetica*" (1922), "*Retablo de Maese Pedro*" (1923).

Falla's music along with Lorca's words, caricatures by Ramón Gómez de la Serna and the artistic universe of Luis Bagaría and Manuel Ángeles Ortiz are the basis of our investigation. We will connect their exploration of *arte jondo* to ours. A contemporary *jondismo*. An ultraistic version about the ultraism of these artists' perception and their works.

## Cast & Crew

Artistic direction and choreography. MARCO FLORES.

Choreography advise. CLAUDIA CRUZ Y MARINA VALIENTE.

Special guest collaboration. JESÚS MÉNDEZ.

Musical composition and arrangements. JOSE TOMÁS JIMENEZ, FRANCIS GÓMEZ.

Music. MANUEL DE FALLA & FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA.

Dance. MARINA VALIENTE, CLAUDIA CRUZ & MARCO FLORES.

Singers. JESÚS MÉNDEZ, EL QUINI, MANUEL DE LA NINA, & REMACHE.

Guitar. JOSE TOMÁS JIMENEZ, FRANCIS GÓMEZ.

Light design. GLORIA MONTESINOS.

Video creations and illustrations . PATRICIO HIDALGO.

Costume design. OLGA PERICET.

Sound. JORGE CACHEDA "CHIPÍ".

Direction assistance. JONATÁN MIRÓ.

Production director. MIQUEL SANTIN.

Production and Distribution. MARCO FLORES COMPANY.



## Marco Flores

Flamenco dancer and choreographer. He is the recipient of the **Spanish National Flamenco Award**.

He considers himself a free style performer. He has a contemporary discourse which is constantly evolving. He is an eager creator with a distinctive artistic personality, qualities which have consolidated into a solid career for the last twenty years.

His refined technique and musicality stand out. He is able to connect with the most traditional flamenco origins, yet with the influence of other dance disciplines, which dignify his choreographies. His work does not follow trends nor is afraid of risk. Throughout his works he has addressed subjects such as: femininity, intergenerational issues, queer identity, and the intangible search of the artist.

After ten years coproducing shows alongside Manuel Liñán, Olga Pericet and Daniel Doña, he founded his own company in 2010. Cía. Marco Flores premiered its first show “DeFlamencas” that same year in Gran Teatro de Córdoba. This show received the **Crítica Especializada del Festival de Jerez award in 2012**.

Since then the company has produced more than ten shows in which many important artists have taken part: Lola Greco, Olga Pericet, Sara Cano, David Lagos and Alejandro Granados among others. As well as renowned stage directors as Francisco López and Juan Carlos Lérica.

Among his most recent awards we can mention: **El Ojo Crítico de Danza 2018** (Radio Nacional de España) for “his personal language, full of different textures which enrich flamenco as well as his constant exploration and curiosity connecting to other dance languages”, and **The Max Award to Best Male Dance Performer 2020 for the show “Origen”**.

He has worked as a choreographer for Ballet Nacional de España as well as for many other dance companies.

*"In the exquisite balance of his work, in the elevations that separate one leap from another in a professional career which is dissimilar as it is coherent. Marco Flores's facets coexist in perfect harmony. His dance is pure, captivating, elegant. So influenced in its arm movement and turns by Spanish Dance, but so rooted in its jondo attitude, compás, expression. There is Duende in every hip movement. Since there is nothing left to be uncovered today, it is nothing but pure joy to watch Marco Flores dance."* **Diario de Cádiz, 2019**

"Marco Flores ratifies the great professional moment he is living and the way dance reinvents itself - undoubtedly one of its wholesome qualities - his work is artistic evolution, an intercultural constant of our reality which requires the recollection of all the knowledge of our time in one place so that art can find creativity at play"

**Diario El Mundo, 2020**

"Marco is one of the best dancers of today. His shattering elegance blends with refined technique, strength and infalible taste. His arched back and arms speak with every movement, his form and esthetics remind us of those provocative and cheeky men you find in Toulouse-Lautrec's paintings.

**DeFlamenco.com, 2020**



"With a mentality which is both urban and imbued in deeply rooted Spanish tradition. His work oscillates between orthodoxy and eclecticism. He is conscious that the repertoire of flamenco is an ever-expanding creative channel. (...) He always brings a breath of fresh air. His work rather than new is innovative and convincing, because it is well done. **La Voz de Asturias, 2019.**

## Jesús Méndez

He is born in one of the most important families of flamenco singers in Jerez. The Méndez family, whose most important figure was his aunt La Paquera de Jerez.

From the first time he performed on stage in 2002, the young singer has worked with acclaimed artists such as: Moraíto Chico, El Güito, Rocío Molina, Alejandro Granados, María del Mar Moreno and Carmen Cortés, among others.

He is a staunch defender of cantes de la Plazuela, bulerías and soleares. He has traveled the world with the great guitarist Gerardo Núñez, whom he considers his patron and who has played a big role in his professional growth. He has also worked with Mercedes Ruíz with whom he has perfected his singing for dance accompaniment.

In 2008 he released his first album called “Jerez Sin Fronteras”, with the collaboration of artists such as Moraíto, Diego del Morao and Santiago Lara. This work was awarded Premio Nacional de la Crítica for best new album. In 2012 he presents his second recording album “Añoranza”, at Bienal de Flamenco de Sevilla in Jerez accompanied by El Torta, Miguel Poveda and Manuela Méndez as guest artists.

He has taken part in important national and international flamenco festivals, such as Festival de Nîmes.





## Claudia Cruz

Claudia Cruz comes from Cádiz. She has become a reference flamenco dancer in her fifteen years of professional career. She has worked in the most important flamenco venues in Spain, especially in Madrid and Barcelona. As well as in international flamenco festivals around the world.

She was a finalist at Concurso Nacional de Flamenco de Córdoba in 2016. She has collaborated with renowned flamenco artists, such as: Sara Baras, Marco Flores, Antonio el Pipa, Remedios Amaya, Duquende, Niña Pastori and Josemi Carmona, among others.

In 2015 she coproduced a show with Marina Valiente at Festival de Jerez and in 2018 she premiered her work "Hilenco"(videodance).



## Marina Valiente

From an early age she has been a regular dancer in the most important flamenco venues in Seville, Madrid and Barcelona. She has had a very intense career collaborating as a soloist with some of the most important artists in the flamenco world, such as: José Maya, Belén Maya, Israel Galván, Farruquito, Rafaela Carrasco, Pastora Galván, Remedios Amaya, La Tana, Rafael Campallo and Juan de Juan, among others.

As a solo artist she has gone on tour around Portugal, France, Russia, Japan, South Korea and Dominican Republic. She has taken part in flamenco festivals such as: Mont de Marsans, Rivesante and Festival de Jerez.



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