

Joaquín de Luz

Born in Madrid in 1976, dancer, choreographer and teacher Joaquín de Luz has recently been appointed Director of the Spanish National Dance Company (CND), a position that he will be taking up on 1 September 2019, for a term of five years.

Joaquín began his studies at the Víctor Ullate School, where he excelled as a student, leading him to take his first steps as a professional as part of the Víctor Ullate Ballet. Hence, between 1992 and 1995 he would perform the choreographies of his mentor, as well as those of Eduardo Lao, Nils Christie, Hans Van Manen, Maurice Béjart, Rudy Van Dancing, Misa Van Hoeke and Georges Balanchine.

He later joined the Pennsylvania Ballet as a soloist, where he performed the leading roles in classics such as *Diana and Acteon*, *Coppelia* and *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as works by Taylor-Corbette, Van Manen, Neenan and Balanchine. In December 1997, he joined the American Ballet Theatre of New York as a member of the corps de ballet, only to become a soloist within one year. He stayed with this company for six seasons, performing in works by Makarova, Petipa, Demille, Ashton, Robbins, Homes, Lander, McKenzie, Ivanov, Welch, Taylor, Killian, Tharp, Massine, Graham, Tippet and Balanchine, among others.

In 2003, he went on to join the New York City Ballet as a soloist, becoming the principal dancer just two years later, in 2005. He continued to form part of this company until October 2018, performing uninterruptedly in each season of the NYCB at the Lincoln Center and on world tours, with a wide-ranging repertoire including his most emblematic roles. The roles created specifically for him include: *Slice to Sharp* by Jorma Elo; *Bal de Couture* and *Romeo & Juliet* by Peter Martins; *Outlier* by Wayne McGregor; *Year of the Rabbit* by Justin Peck; *Concerto DSCH* and *Odessa* by Alexei Ratmansky; and *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse* and *Shambards* by Wheeldon.

As a guest artist, he has performed at many different international companies, such as the Mediterranean Ballet, the Spanish National Dance Company, the San Francisco Ballet, the Stanislavsky Theater in Moscow, the Teatro Colón Ballet in Buenos Aires and the National Ballet of Cuba, among others.

His countless special performances include televised events and live shows in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Madrid and Rome, as well as festivals to the likes of Spoleto, Peralada, Santander, Madrid, Athens and Miami. He moreover represented Spain at the Lisbon Expo 98 and formed part of the *Kings of Dance* tour throughout Russia and the United States. In 2013, he debuted the leading role of the musical *On your Toes*, in New York.

Since 2013, he has been the artistic director of the Stars of the New York Ballet production. As a teacher, he shares his work as a choreographer, giving classes at the American Ballet School in New York, the JKO School, the American Ballet Theatre's Studio Company, the Marat Daukayev School of Ballet in Los Angeles and the Rock

School of Philadelphia, in addition to offering courses, workshops and master classes to ballet dancers from all around the world.

Finally, he has earned prestigious awards and honours including the Gold Medal of the Nureyev Ballet Competition in Bucharest (2006), the Benois Award (Moscow 2009), the Culture Award of the Community of Madrid (2010) and the National Dance Award of the Spanish Ministry of Culture (2016).