



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THEATRE FLAMENCO PRESENTS THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF

AD LIBITUM

Or how I freed myself from my chains

Choreography & Direction **Andrés Marín**

Dancers **Andrés Marín, Carola Zertuche & Cristina Hall**

Singer **José Valencia**, Guitarist **Salvador Gutiérrez**, Percussionist **Daniel Suarez**



Andrés Marín and José Valencia. Photo: Klaus Handner.

November 20 - 22, 2015

Fri. - Sat. at 8:00 pm, Sun. at 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$40 - \$75

Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center

2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco

theatreflamenco.org

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 25, 2015 – Now in its 49th year, **Theatre Flamenco** is proud to announce the return of Spanish flamenco superstar **Andrés Marín** in the North American premiere of ***Ad Libitum: Or how I freed myself from my chains***. Choreographed and directed by Marín, *Ad Libitum* features Theatre Flamenco Artistic Director **Carola Zertuche** and frequent Theatre Flamenco guest dancer **Cristina Hall**. Featured musical guests from Spain include singer **José Valencia**, guitarist **Salvador Gutiérrez** and percussionist **Daniel Suarez**. *Ad Libitum* is a tour de force of contemporary flamenco

performed by several of the most significant living practitioners of the art. *Ad Libitum* runs for three nights only at the Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center, November 20 - 22, 2015. Shows on Friday and Saturday start at 8:00 pm, and on Sunday at 3:00 pm. Tickets range from \$40 to \$75 and may be purchased online at fortmason.org/boxoffice.

He's been called "the greatest flamenco dancer of his generation" (*L'Express*), the "Picasso of Flamenco" and "the original flamenco freedom fighter" (Dutch Flamenco Biennial): Andrés Marín is an artist whose reputation is currently soaring across Europe after a bumpy start in his home country of Spain. "Marín's story is one of early professional rejection in Spain," explains Zertuche. "As a young dancer in Seville, he was considered irreverent, a radical, too avant-garde. It was only after he began to travel in France and throughout Northern Europe, where he received a very warm reception, that his compatriots in Spain began to reappraise him with new eyes." Today Marín can boast two Giralddillo prizes from the Seville Bienal de Flamenco, and in one year the title of "Best Male Dancer" (*Diario de Sevilla*).

[Marín's] flamenco exists in that fragile interstice between the norm and its transgression... Marín has learnt to unlearn and has understood what Antonio Machado was saying when he wrote "Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar" (Traveller, there is no path, the path is made by walking). This is the concept behind his new show [Ad Libitum]: to construct before us a path on which he invites us to penetrate the depths of the *seguriya* or the rhythm of the *bulería*, offering us his dance as an act of freedom.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS CARCELEN

"He's been a mentor to me as well as to Cristina [Hall]," continues Zertuche. "He changed my way of dancing. He says you have to create your own style, but always respect the *cante*, the singing, the most important part of flamenco. And we are very lucky to have with us this fall José Valencia, currently considered the best flamenco singer in Spain."

Ad Libitum premiered as a solo for Marín in 2014 at the Théâtre Suresnes in France. However, in its presentation in San Francisco this November, Marín will adapt it for three dancers in order to perform with Zertuche and Hall. Hall, a "world class dancer" in her own right (*San Francisco Magazine*), was born and raised in San Francisco, but she has lived in Seville for more than 12 years. To prepare for November's concerts, Zertuche will spend one month this fall rehearsing with Marín and Hall in Seville.

Fans of flamenco will have a chance to meet Marín and all of the artists in *Ad Libitum* at a post-performance tapas and dance party on Saturday, November 21. The event, catered by San Francisco's popular Loló restaurant, will take place at the Firehouse at Fort Mason. Admission is \$50.

For more information about Theatre Flamenco's 49th home season, visit theatreflamenco.org.

Theatre Flamenco's presentation of Ad Libitum is generously supported by the Bernard Osher Foundation, Consulate General of Spain in San Francisco, Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

ABOUT THEATRE FLAMENCO

Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco is the second oldest dance company in the Bay Area (after San Francisco Ballet). Founded in 1966 by Adela Clara, Theatre Flamenco was conceived during a flowering of Latino cultural pride in the 1960s. Theatre Flamenco was the first American dance company to stage full productions of Spanish dance in the U.S., and is one of the oldest dance companies in California. Every year since its inception Theatre Flamenco has presented a home season of performances in San Francisco.

Over the years, Theatre Flamenco has served as a beacon of cultural pride, a reservoir for the diverse traditions of Spanish culture, and a vital source for artistic collaboration. The company is dedicated to the research, presentation and education of a full range of Spanish dance including classical, neo-classical, regional, folk and *escuela bolera*. In 2008, Theatre Flamenco's longtime artistic director, Miguel Santos was recognized for his substantial contributions to the Bay Area dance community with the Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Lifetime Achievement. Santos was also awarded for his restaging of *Misa Flamenco*. An additional Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed upon Santos by the World Arts West Ethnic Dace Festival.

Currently under the direction of Carola Zertuche, Theatre Flamenco produces an annual home season in addition to its annual touring schedule, and it presents quarterly a community outreach series.

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Choreography & Direction: **Andrés Marín**
Dancers: **Andrés Marín, Carola Zertuche, Cristina Hall**
Singer: **José Valencia**
Guitarist: **Salvador Gutiérrez**
Percussionist: **Daniel Suarez**
Lighting Designer: **Ivan Martín**

WHAT:

Theatre Flamenco presents the North American premiere of Andrés Marín's *Ad Libitum: Or how I freed myself from my chains*.

WHEN:

November 20 - 22, 2015
Friday at 8pm
Saturday at 8pm
Sunday at 3pm

WHERE:

Cowell Theater
Fort Mason Center
2 Marina Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94123

TICKETS:

\$40 - \$75

To purchase tickets online visit fortmason.org/boxoffice or by phone call **(415) 345-7575**, Tuesday and Thursday from noon - 4:00 pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

theatreflamenco.org

For all press inquiries contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.