



Carlos Pinillos

EDCN's Teacher

SPRING
DANCE
INTENSIVE
2026



Principal Dancer · Master Teacher · Intensive Program Coordinator
Artistic Guidance – Intermediate and Advanced Levels

Carlos Pinillos (Madrid, 1977) is a Principal Dancer of the Portuguese National Ballet (CNB) and a master teacher at the National Conservatory School of Dance in Lisbon. After more than three decades of stage experience, he is now dedicated to pedagogical work focused on transmitting artistic experience, professional criteria, and the work ethic that have defined his career.

He trained at the Víctor Ullate School, as a disciple of María de Ávila — a key reference in academic dance in Spain — and also received guidance from internationally renowned masters such as Alain Baldini and Attilio Labis (Paris Opera), José Manuel Carreño, Menia Martínez, and Aurora Bosch (National Ballet of Cuba). He joined the Ullate Ballet at the age of 16 and reached the rank of principal dancer at 21.

Since joining the Portuguese National Ballet in 2001, he has built a solid career as a performer in classical, neoclassical, and contemporary repertoire. His work includes creations and revivals by choreographers such as John Cranko, Uwe Scholz, George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Jirí Kylián, Hans van Manen, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Vasco Wellenkamp, Mauro Bigonzetti, and Olga Roriz, among others.

As a partner, he has danced with internationally renowned artists including Julie Diana, Christine Camillo, Tamara Rojo, Alina Cojocar, Daria Klimentová, and Filipa de Castro, with whom he represented the company in more than 80 cities across 25 countries. He has also appeared in prestigious galas and festivals such as the Gala des Étoiles in Montreal, the Havana Festival, the Nureyev Festival in Kazan, and World Stars on Tour, as well as in Stars of American Ballet under the artistic direction of Ángel Corella. He has been a guest artist with the Ballet Arena di Verona, the Prague State Opera, the Limoges Opera, and the Istanbul State Ballet.

His career has been recognized with numerous awards, including

First Prize at the Vienna International Competition (1998), being named one of the ten best dancers of the year by Dance Europe magazine (2006), the Léonide Massine Award for Best International Dance Couple together with Filipa de Castro (2016), and the Biloba Award (2021) for his artistic contribution to dance in Portugal. Critics have highlighted both the precision of his technique and his strong connection with audiences.

Since 2007, he has also pursued a continuous career as a choreographer. In 2023, he presented Nuestros Nombres, an original creation inspired by the work of José Saramago, as part of the official celebrations of the centenary of the Nobel Prize winner's birth.

In the pedagogical field, Carlos Pinillos has been the coordinator of the Conservatory's intensive programs since 2024, playing an active role in shaping their artistic and educational vision. Within this framework, he leads the Artistic Guidance discipline, aimed at intermediate and advanced students.

Artistic Guidance is conceived as a fundamental working space for the development of dancer autonomy. Building on the material addressed in the morning technical classes, students learn to analyze their own work and organize their practice consciously, both individually and in groups, using practical tools such as guided observation, video analysis, and structured use of the mirror. The goal is to identify priorities, apply corrections effectively, and establish responsible study habits, fostering autonomous technical and artistic progression.

At this stage of his career, Carlos Pinillos maintains a strong connection with the Portuguese National Ballet, which remains central to his professional identity, and brings the same level of rigor and commitment to his pedagogical mission. His presence in the intensive offers an experienced and coherent perspective, designed to support students at a decisive moment in the definition and growth of their artistic path.