



José Antonio Checa

Guest Teacher

SPRING
DANCE
INTENSIVE
2026



Artistic Director · Pedagogue · Dancer
Classical Dance Technique - Advanced Level

José Antonio Checa is a distinctive figure in today's dance landscape: an artist with a solid international career as a soloist who has successfully transferred his stage experience into pedagogy and artistic direction, accompanying young dancers at one of the most decisive stages of their training.

He holds a degree in Dance Pedagogy from the María de Ávila Higher Conservatory of Dance in Madrid and began his training at the Karen Taft School with Tatiana Stepanova. His artistic development was consolidated in highly demanding contexts, taking part over several summers with the Odessa National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Leonid Yacobson Ballet Theatre in Saint Petersburg. He later completed his studies with distinction at the prestigious Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet, in the class of Vitaly Afanaskov.

During his training years, he performed at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, dancing the Spanish Dance from The Nutcracker and the Pas de Deux from The Talisman. He was awarded the gold medal at the International Tanzolymp in Berlin and received a scholarship from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. As a student, he performed soloist roles with the Leonid Yacobson Choreographic Miniatures Company and the Hermitage Theatre, as well as principal roles with the Alicia Alonso Chair in Madrid.

His professional career led him to the Mikhailovsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, where he became the first foreign dancer to join a Russian company as a soloist. There, he performed

leading roles such as James (La Sylphide), Mercutio (Romeo and Juliet), the Peasant Pas de Deux in Giselle, Ali (Le Corsaire), and the Golden Idol (La Bayadère).

In 2010 he joined Tulsa Ballet (USA) as a soloist, working with internationally renowned choreographers including Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Wayne McGregor, Christopher Bruce, Yuri Possokhov, and Val Caniparoli, among others. In 2015 he became a member of Sarasota Ballet under the direction of Iain Webb, further developing his work in both classical and contemporary repertoire, including works by Sir Frederick Ashton. He has also been a guest dancer with Alvin Ailey Ballet in New York.

In 2020 he founded his own school and youth company, José Antonio Checa Ballet, conceived as a space for advanced training and transition into the professional world. Despite its recent creation, the project has already stood out for its technical rigor, pedagogical clarity, and respect for classical tradition, strongly rooted in the Russian school. Recent productions have been praised for their artistic maturity, clean movement, and coherent choreographic discourse, positioning the company as an emerging reference among youth ballet projects.

José Antonio Checa's presence at the advanced level of the intensive brings an experienced, demanding perspective closely connected to the professional reality of dance, offering high-value training at a decisive moment in the students' artistic paths.