



Mário Franco

CNB Dancer

Mário Franco is a Principal Dancer with the Portuguese National Ballet (Companhia Nacional de Bailado), which he joined in 1986 and where he was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1995.

He began his dance training at the age of eight with Carlota Franco, continuing his studies with Anna Mascolo, Lynn Wallis, Michel Renault and, in Paris, with Solange Golovine. In 1980, he received an Honourable Mention at the International Competition of Saint Quentin en Yvelines, Paris.

Throughout his career with the Portuguese National Ballet, he has developed an artistic journey marked by the interpretation of an extensive classical, neoclassical and contemporary repertoire, working with some of the most renowned national and international choreographers.

As a Principal Dancer and Soloist, he performed leading and featured roles in works by choreographers such as Kenneth MacMillan, George Balanchine, August Bournonville, John Cranko, Mauro Bigonzetti, Olga Roriz, Paulo Ribeiro, Rui Horta and many others, taking part in productions presented across Europe, Asia and South America.

Alongside his performing career, he has developed a

strong connection with artistic creation. As a choreographer, musician and composer, he has collaborated in dance, theatre and film projects, building bridges between different languages within the performing arts.

At the Portuguese National Ballet, he created works such as A Fada Oriana and Kamiyo do Rio and participated in multidisciplinary projects combining dance with musical composition and performance.

As a musician, he has participated in more than 50 phonographic editions and collaborated with numerous national and international artists and creators.

His experience brings together decades of stage performance, creation and artistic research, reflecting a broad vision of dance as a form of expression, communication and artistic development.

At the Summer Dance Intensive 2026, Mário Franco will be responsible for the Artistic Guidance programme for the Intermediate and Advanced Levels, sharing with students a perspective built over decades of experience as a performer, creator and musician, exploring dance as a form of expression that goes beyond technique and movement.