

JOSELILLO ROMERO

José Maya Serrano, “Joselillo Romero” was born into a gypsy family of artists from the Rastro neighbourhood of Madrid. He is a descendant of the historic dancer Fernanda Romero, the painter Antonio Maya, the Gallina clan from Andujar, etc.

Studying under the great legends of flamenco dance at Madrid’s Amor de Dios academy, he showed clear signs of precocious talent from a very early age. At nine he appeared with artists such as Antonio Canales, Juan Ramírez, Joaquín Grilo, Enrique Morente etc at Madrid’s Teatro Albéniz, during the acclaimed benefit concert “*Flamenco por un Corazón*”.

In 1995, he danced at the Sala Revolver and entered the Telecinco TV talent competition Bravo Bravisimo, which he won outright in Spain and appeared as a finalist in the European edition held in Italy. Next, he appeared with La Tati’s company during the Madrid Summer Festival Veranos de la Villa. El Güito, Manolete, Juan Ramírez, Blanca del Rey and many other flamenco maestros were stunned by his participation with them at the Centro Cultural de la Villa de Madrid during the memorial show for El Tupé.

The following year he toured Holland and appeared again on Spanish television’s variety show Gente con Alma. He was then selected to perform in a production celebrating the life of Antonio el Bailarín.

After a season at Sala Caracol and appearances at various important Spanish theatres, Manolete invited him to join his company in Flamenco Soy which toured Spain during 1997 with rave reviews. He also danced at the “*Semana Flamenca de Palma del Río*” (Córdoba) in the edition dedicated to El Güito.

In 1998 he was awarded the Copa Pavón prize and then travelled to Austria to dance alongside Pepe Habichuela at the Salzburg Festival. Antonio Canales then featured him in his production “*Raíces*” and he appeared on the popular television programmes “Algo más que flamenco” and “Tirititrán”.

As invited artist in the productions “*Al son son cinco*” with Lola Greco, Rafael Amargo, María Vivó and José Serrano, “Racial” de Carmen Cortés, he toured Spain and Italy with special presentations at London’s South Bank and the National Concert Hall Dublin.,

His appearance in “Incógnito” with the juggler Francis Brunn caused a sensation at Frankfurt Opera. He was then selected as one of three soloists in the production; “Flamenco Al Andalus” , an ambitious, high profile show featuring also Torombo y Jairo Barrull which toured South America extensively.

Other special appearances include collaborations with Estrella Morente at the Patio de Conde Duque, Madrid; “Tiempo al tiempo” with Gerardo Núñez, Israel Galvan, Belen Maya and Carmen Cortes, at numerous venues across Germany and France and “Dos mundos” with Alfonso Losa. He then received the Best Dancer prize at the National Choreographic Competition held at the Teatro Albeniz in 2000.

The Fundación Autor has awarded him the prestigious Cátedra Alicia Alonso de Ballet Clásico grant which has given rise to his ongoing collaboration with the Ballet Joven de la Comunidad de Madrid.