

Spain Semi-Finals Judges



Olivier Wecxsteen

Artistic Director

European School of Ballet Jean Yves Esquerre

Born in France, Olivier Wecxsteen graduated from Princess Grace Academy of Monaco directed by Marika Besobrasova.

In 1987, he joined Les Ballets de Monte Carlo directed by Jean Yves Esquerre where he danced leading roles in ballets from Pierre Lacotte, George Balanchine, Leonid Massine, Anthony Tudor, John Neumeier, Jiri Kylian, William Forsythe and Roland Petit.

In 1993, Olivier Wecxsteen joined the Boston Ballet. As Principal Dancer of the company, he danced all the leads of the repertoire. He was notably coached for Marius Petipa's full-length ballets by Kirov (Mariinsky) ballet masters Natalia Dudinskaya, Sergei Berejnoi and Tatiana Terekhova. In 1998, he joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens where he extended his repertoire of choreographies from George Balanchine, Jiri Kylian and William Forsythe as well as creations from contemporary choreographers.

In 2003, Olivier Wecxsteen appeared as Principal Guest Artist with the San Francisco Ballet. Throughout the years, he has participated in many international galas, such as An Evening with Ballets Stars or Diamonds of World Ballet in Moscow. He has also been featured in several books such as Alberto Moretti's *L'Architettura de la Danza* and eminent photographer Helmut Newton's various publications. An acknowledged dance photographer himself, Olivier Wecxsteen is one of WearMoi's main photographers.

In 2009, Olivier Wecxsteen joined the faculty of the San Francisco Ballet School. In 2013 he joined the English National Ballet School, where he taught for two years. Between 2015 and 2017, he taught and coached the Dutch National Trainee Program.

In 2018, Olivier Wecxsteen was appointed Associate Artistic Director of European School of Ballet (ESB) founded by Jean Yves Esquerre and, in 2021, took over the position of Artistic Director. Besides leading ESB's Classical Trainee Program, he is in charge of the classical repertoire of the school for which he has choreographed several signature pieces.

Lorena Jiménez Sánchez

Director of the Classical Dance Department & Head of Studies
Nacho Duato Academy – Madrid, Spain



Lorena Jiménez Sánchez received her early dance education at the Professional Conservatory of Dance in Madrid and the María de Ávila Dance School in Zaragoza. She was later awarded a scholarship to the San Francisco Ballet School (USA), where she continued her training under the direction of Lola de Ávila and performed in several productions with the San Francisco Ballet.

Following her studies, she joined Alberta Ballet (Canada) under the direction of Mikko Nissinen, performing in works by renowned choreographers such as Rudi van Dantzig, Christopher Wheeldon, and Helgi Tomasson, among others.

After four seasons with Alberta Ballet, she moved to Florida (USA) to join Ballet Florida as a Principal Dancer under the artistic direction of Marie Hale. During her tenure, she performed leading roles in a wide range of classical and contemporary ballets by Val Caniparoli, Lar Lubovitch, George Balanchine, Ben Stevenson, John Butler, Marius Petipa, Twyla Tharp, Peter Martins, and many others.

In 2014, Lorena obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a specialization in Choreography and Performance, as well as a Master's Degree in Performing Arts. She began her teaching career at the Conservatorio Carmen Roche in Madrid, where she also served as Head of Studies.

Currently, she is the Director of the Classical Dance Department and Head of Studies at Nacho Duato Academy (Madrid, Spain), where she continues to share her vast international experience and passion for excellence in classical ballet training with the next generation of dancers.



Stanislav Belyaevsky
Ballet Master - Hungarian National Ballet
Interational Choreographer - AfterPetipa

Stanislav Belyaevsky is a prominent ballet dancer, choreographer, and teacher known for his work with major international companies and his unique expertise in restoring classical ballets from historical dance notations. His distinguished career includes principal roles at the Mariinsky Theatre, Staatsoper Berlin, and Finnish National Ballet, and he

has taught and choreographed extensively around the world. He is also the co-founder of the After Petipa Project, dedicated to preserving and reviving the heritage of classical ballet through research, education, and performance.

A member of the Hungarian State Opera since 2024, Belyaevsky received his training at the renowned Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, where he graduated as a ballet dancer (1982–1991) and later specialized in Ballet Pedagogy and Choreographic Arts (2009–2012). His artistry reflects the depth and precision of the Russian classical tradition.

Throughout his career, he has been recognized with multiple prestigious awards, including:

- Grand Prix for Contemporary Choreography, *Speaking in Tongues* – Finnish National Ballet Competition (2014)
- Prix for Contemporary Choreography, *Chella Ila* – Finnish National Ballet Competition (2010)
- Prix for Contemporary Choreography, *Tango de Roxanne* – Prague International Ballet Competition (2002)
- Pro Dance Award (2002)

His repertoire encompasses an extensive range of classical and neoclassical roles, among them Albrecht in *Giselle*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, Prince Désiré in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Basilio in *Don Quixote*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Jean de Brienne in *Raymonda*, and the Prodigal Son in *Balanchine's* masterpiece of the same name.

As a guest principal dancer, he appeared with the Universal Ballet Company (Seoul, 2002) and Ballet West (Salt Lake City, 2003).

Transitioning naturally into teaching and choreography, Belyaevsky became an internationally respected ballet master and pedagogue, collaborating with institutions such as the Finnish National Ballet School, Helsinki Dance Institute, Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Kirov Ballet Academy (Washington D.C.), and the Ballet Nacional de Costa Rica, among others.

He also serves as Artistic Adviser and Guest Ballet Master for international organizations and festivals, including the Panamá Ballet Festival and the Danilova Ballet School.

As a choreographer, his notable reconstructions and works include *Les Ruses d'Amour* (Hermitage Theater, St. Petersburg, 2020) and *Coppélia* (DBS and Teatro Eugene O'Neill, San José, Costa Rica, 2021).

With over three decades of excellence on stage and in the studio, Stanislav Belyaevsky continues to be a leading figure in the global ballet community, admired for his artistry, historical insight, and dedication to the preservation of the classical ballet tradition.

Veronica Bagnolini Contemporary Choreographer

A young and versatile dance artist, Veronica Bagnolini has quickly established herself as both a talented performer and an innovative choreographer. Her artistic journey reflects a deep passion for creativity and collaboration, marked by numerous appearances and projects across Italy and abroad.

In just a few years, she has earned multiple prestigious national and international recognitions, including:

- “Outstanding Contemporary Choreographer” – Dance Open America, Miami (USA), May 2025
- “Best Pas de Deux” – Dance Open America, Miami (USA), April 2024
- Finalist – *Balayé pour Toujours en Hommage à Édith Piaf*, Amarcort Film Festival, November 2023
- Winner – *Balayé pour Toujours en Hommage à Édith Piaf*, Parma Music Film Festival, September 2023

Veronica currently serves as Resident Choreographer for the youth dance company Aulos, where she continues to develop her distinct choreographic voice. She also works as a freelance dancer and choreographer with Aulos Danza Rimini under the direction of Marilena Salvatore, and at Dance Studio Faenza directed by Luna Ronchi, Italy.

Her work is characterized by emotional depth, refined movement quality, and an ongoing exploration of the intersection between classical technique and contemporary expression.





Rodolfo Castellanos

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Artistic Director, Ballet Master and Choreographer

Former dancer at the National Ballet of Cuba, during his academic career he graduated a classical Ballet dancer and ballet master at the National Arts Schools of Havana, Cuba. Some of his ballet masters were Fernando Alonso, Joaquín Banegas, Josefina Méndez and Ramona de Súa.

He graduated at the Higher Institute of Art in 1993 and he has a degree in Dance Art with a specialization in ballet in the city of Havana, Cuba.

He also received the status of ballet master of the Higher Institute of Art in Havana (Cuba) and graduated from the Higher Conservatory of Dance of Institut de Teatre (Barcelona) of the Barcelona Provincial Council, specializing in Dance Pedagogy (2015).

His artistic career is brilliant: he made his debut as a professional in 1973 with the National Ballet of Cuba. From 1975 to 1977 he participated in the Ballet of Camagüey. In 1977 he moved back to the National Ballet of Cuba, with Alicia Alonso as a director, where he had an ascending professional career: First Artist 1977, Soloist 1982, First Soloist 1985 and Principal Dancer 1986.

His repertoire includes all the leading roles in the great romantic-classical tradition. He was invited to many dance companies as a principal dancer and he premiered throughout America the version of the Spartacus ballet by the Hungarian choreographer Lazlo Zeregi at the Ballet of Santiago de Chile.

He has shared a staged with stars like Julio Bocca, Marcia Haydee, Vladimir Vasiliev, Alicia Alonso and Paolo Bartolucci among others.

He worked with many contemporary choreographers like Michel Descombey, Jhon Wisman, José Antonio or Antonio Gades, and he performed all the work from Cuban choreographers like Alberto Mendes, Gustavo Herrera or Ivan Tenorio.

As a ballet master, we must underline that since 1982 he has combined being a dancer with his job as a ballet master at the Cuban National Ballet School of Havana, where he got excellent results with students, according to Carlos Acosta and Víctor Gili.

In 1992 he collaborated with Ben Stevenson in the production of The Snow Maiden in Santiago de Chile.

In 1994 and 1995 he worked as a ballet master and rehearsal director at the Euskadi Ballet, directed by Rafael Martí. He participated in the performance of Giselle, which is available at the Barakaldo Theatre in San Sebastián and the Fortuny Theatre in Reus.

In 1995 he was guest ballet master at the Ballet Theatre of Bordeaux, in France.

He was also invited to work as a ballet master and rehearsal director at the Ballet of Zaragoza, directed by Arantxa Argüelles.

Since 1999 he has worked as a ballet master in the young company IT Dansa, directed by Catherine Allard.

The academic years of 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 he worked as a ballet master at Scuola di Danza Fondazione Teatro dell'Opera, directed by Paula Jorio. In September 2002 he started working as a ballet master at the professional dance conservatory teaching classical technique, Pas de Deux and classical repertoire at Institut del Teatre of Barcelona.

The academic years 2004-2005 i 2005-2006 he was a guest ballet master at the prestigious dance school Rudra Béjart of Lausanne, Switzerland.

He was a guest ballet master at the Elmhurst Ballet School of Birmingham and the English National Ballet School, and he worked as ballet master at the Royal Ballet School during the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

In October 2019 he participated in the symposium at the Cuban Ballet School of New York, organized by the prestigious dancer Cynthia Harvey for the ABT, and in December he worked in Havana with the company directed by the prestigious dancer Carlos Acosta.

During 5 years has the High Performance Dance Programme artistic director, requested by Factoria Cultural de Terrassa.