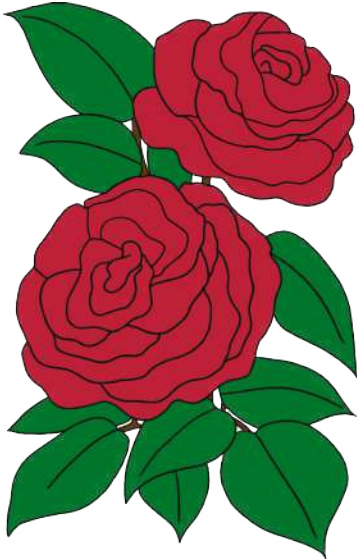




The Bull and the Moon

**The Bull and the Moon
DeNada Dance Theatre
Dossier**



The Bull and The Moon

A dance theatre production for families

Recommended age: 3 +

Length: 40 minutes

Directed and choreographed by Carlos Pons Guerra for DeNada Dance Theatre
Produced by Spin Arts

Available for outdoor/unconventional spaces and indoor theatres

Commissioned by: Bradford Producer's Hub, DanceXchange, the Canarian Institute for
Cultural Development

With further support from Arts Council England

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The Bull and the Moon

Lolo is a little Spanish bull that has a little secret. He doesn't feel like he fits in with the other bulls in the farm. He doesn't like the big loud bull fights, and he *really* doesn't enjoy cowboy rodeos either. Dragging heavy carts of hay, or being the leader of his herd- Lolo doesn't enjoy any of that!

Instead, every night, he secretly learns how to dance with the shimmering Moon, and dreams of becoming Lola, a famous flamenco dancing cow.

Will you come dance with Lolo and help make their dreams come true?



The Bull and the Moon is brand-new family friendly production that celebrates anyone who dances to their own tune. A fun, fiery and magical outdoor dance performance that blends contemporary dance, flamenco and theatre, this is a heart-warming story about the importance of being oneself, family and LGBTQ+ inclusivity.

Directed by Carlos Pons Guerra for DeNada Dance Theatre, the work has been co-choreographed by Pons Guerra and flamenco artist Ana García. Danced to a fun and eclectic score of Spanish and Latin music and sounds, arranged by Luke Wilson, the production has been designed by Ryan Laight and produced by Spin Arts.

At the heart of the work is the idea of celebrating individual gender identity, and allowing the beauty of each individual to shine, regardless of gender expectations. Subtly introducing ideas of gender fluidity and non- binarism, it also tackles bullying, whilst encouraging tolerance, engagement with the arts and sensitivity.



Families of all types are encouraged to watch; the production has been created for audience members 3+. We want the production to reach as many young and older audience members as possible, and are keen on presenting the work to groups who perhaps have more traditional views on gender roles and expectations, as it is a sweet and subtle way of starting a conversation on the topic of children and gender.

In our hearts, we would love for the production to be seen by any child or adult who has ever felt that the expectations on their gender stopped them from doing anything or becoming who they really wanted to be.

What we want all audience members to take away is that any kid can be whatever they dream themselves of being, regardless of how people envision their gender to be.

Hispanic and Latinx Culture

The production is also a cultural offering: it is a full Hispanic experience. In working with the choreographic language, music and aesthetic of Spanish flamenco, there is a strong element of audience participation where clapping rhythms, percussion and words are organically taught to audience members. It is a colourful and dynamic introduction to a different culture for younger people, a relevant intro as there is a growing Hispanic and Latinx community throughout the UK. Flamenco culture is particularly interesting as it shares a history with and many aesthetic aspects of South Asian art forms that may be familiar to UK audiences.

Flamenco is an art form that was born in the streets. It was created so that working class people could unite, narrate their stories, share their joy and protest through dance, song and music out in the streets, particularly during difficult times. This history inspired us to create a communal experience of physical storytelling, where people can gather safely and reflect on an important subject as is gender identity.





Target Audiences

At the heart of *The Bull and the Moon* is the idea of breaking down gender stereotypes: it's ok for girls to like football, and for boys to like playing with dolls. And it's great for them to like both!

The work is targeted at all families with children aged 3+, regardless of background. It is an easy-to-follow narrative work that doesn't require previous dance or theatre knowledge; it is fully non-verbal and accessible. All themes surrounding gender are dealt with sensitively and with care, understanding that although these are important subjects that must be discussed with young people, for some audience groups these discussions are more delicate. We have worked with dramaturges and specialists to ensure the production is a dynamic, fun and inclusive celebration of diversity.

More specifically, the production targets children and young people ages 5+ who may identify as non-binary, trans, or other gender denominations, as well as their families, carers and educators. The production was born out of recognising the lack of onstage representation for these vulnerable groups, and it is our intent for them to see themselves positively reflected in the work.

The production was created in collaboration with multiple international charities that offer support to trans families, whose members shared their experiences and helped us ensure honest and sensitive representation.





DeNada Dance Theatre

DeNada Dance Theatre is a UK-based dance company that explores, reimagines and shares Hispanic and Latinx culture in Britain and beyond, presenting dynamic and accessible narrative work that also explores gender equality and diversity. Founded in 2012 by choreographer Carlos Pons Guerra, the company has created and performed multiple internationally-touring productions.

Presenting work for all kinds of audiences- both for adults and children- DeNada has taken a unique place in the UK dance scene as a colourfully Hispanic, extravagantly dramatic and purely fun company exploring important messages of inclusion and diversity.



DeNada has toured extensively to a variety of venues across the UK and internationally. It was nominated for the 2016 UK Critic's Circle National Dance Awards in the category of Best Independent Company, and featured in the BBC Four documentary on Carlos Pons Guerra's work, *Prejudice and Passion*.

As well as its exciting and adventurous stage work, DeNada also designs and delivers an innovative outreach and education programme alongside each production, reaching out to local communities and participants to continue exploring its message of diversity through dance, creativity, conversations and a lot of fiery, Latinx culture.

"Dazzling
imagery"
Financial
Times

"Dynamite
dancing"
The Guardian

"Olé"
Financial Times

"Highly
entertaining"
Dance Europe

"Small, bold
outfits like DeNada
are delivering with an
urgency that larger
ensembles are not"
The Observer

"Riotously
funny"
The Stage

Carlos Pons Guerra

Carlos Pons Guerra is originally from Spain. Nicknamed "the Pedro Almodóvar of dance" by the BBC, he is one of the UK's leading emerging queer voices in dance.

Carlos has choreographed for Ballet Hispanico of New York, Rambert, Northern Ballet, Nashville Ballet, the National Dominican Ballet, Sadler's Wells, Cahoots Northern Ireland and Birmingham Repertory Theatre, amongst others. His work has been presented across the globe at key international dance venues and festivals, including The Joyce Theatre, Sadler's Wells, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, the Chennai Music Academy, the Palace of Fine Art in Santo Domingo, Brighton International Festival, Gender Bender Festival, and more. His dance work, for both adults and children, has toured across the USA, Europe, India and the Caribbean.

In 2015 he received a UK Critic's Circle National Dance Awards nomination in the category of Best Emerging Artist, and in May 2018 Pons Guerra featured in *Prejudice and Passion*, a BBC Four documentary that portrayed his journey as an emerging independent choreographer creating LGBTQ work.

He has choreographed several children's productions with children's theatre director Paul McEaney, including the story of two male penguins who fall in love- *Penguins*, which has toured across the USA and the UK; *Milo's Hat Trick*, and the musical *Under the Hawthorn Tree*, which ran in Belfast's Mac Theatre. *Penguins* formed part of the Royal Opera House's first ever celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride

Carlos loves creating unique, colourful and kitschy worlds onstage. Many of the stories he tells are inspired by his experiences of feeling "different" growing up gay in a less tolerant environment. Having develop a wild and fun imagination to escape bullying as a child, he uses dance to make audience members- children and adults alike- feel special for who they are. He loves using magic, surrealism and a tiny bit of drama to make going to the theatre an enriching and transformative experience.

Raised in Gran Canaria, Carlos trained at the Royal Conservatoire for Dance of Madrid and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.



Technical Requirements

The Bull and the Moon can be performed outdoors, in unconventional spaces, and in studio/ small scale theatres. Here are the basic technical requirements for the production. For detailed technical riders, please contact info@spin-arts.com

Outdoors/ Unconventional Spaces

Performers: x 2

Technical team: x1, depending on performance, x2

Required technical support from venue: x1

Running time: 37 minutes

Required playing area: 4m x 4m (including the set), but can be adapted to smaller spaces. A minimum of 1.5m is necessary behind the set to allow performers' movement.

Floor: Can perform on concrete, wood, and other stable surfaces. Can perform on grass with flooring (company can provide wooden floor). Dance floor, when available, preferred but not necessary.

Get in: 40 mins (if performing on flat surfaces) 1.30 hours if performing on grass. x 1 venue technical team required for get-in.

Get out: 30-40 mins.

Set: can be moved with technical support from venue to allow other performances in festival contexts.

Sound: PA system required. Company provides computer and sound operator.

Can perform between 2-3 times per day

Includes audience participation (audience does not enter performance area)



Theatre Requirements

Performers: x 2

Technical team: x2

Required technical support from venue: x1

Running time: 45 minutes

Required playing area: 5m x 5m (including set), but can be adapted to smaller spaces. A minimum of 1.5m is necessary behind the set to allow performers' movement. No wing space needed.



Floor: Black (preferred); dance floor preferred but not essential. Dancers wear non-floor-damaging flamenco shoes.

Get-in: 4 hours (pre-rig), 5 hours (no pre-rig). Get-in day preferred but not essential.

Get-out: 1 hour

Sound: Pre-recorded, company provides operator.

Lighting: plans available from designer; uses cyc but can adapt design where needed.

Can perform between 2-3 times per day

Includes audience participation (audience does not enter performance area)

Media

Full length film: <https://vimeo.com/645764703/1d1fa56dc5>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi506pOx0ec>



Outreach, Education and Audience Engagement

DeNada offers an innovative and socially-committed programme of outreach, education and audience engagement opportunities for all kinds of age groups. As well as promoting involvement with art and culture, our mission is to promote gender and sexual diversity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and transcultural relations. These are some of the activities we offer alongside performances of *The Bull and the Moon*, which are delivered both by company members and by invited artists/specialists.

For a detailed programme of outreach and education activities, please contact Sarah Shead, producer: sarah@spin-arts.com

Activities for Young People

Post-show flamenco dance workshops

Drag queen story time

Spanish arts and crafts: make your own fan, rose or hair comb

Drag arts and crafts: make your own wig, makeup workshops

Drag dress-up

Behind-the-scenes experiences: close look at costumes, set, props

Spanish word games

Post-show kids parties

Resource Pack

As well as delivering outreach for venue participants, we offer a bespoke **resource pack** for school teachers, offering insights into how to prepare students for the performances, suggestions on how to explore gender diversity in the classroom, suggested reading, external resources and practical activities/games to carry out in schools.



Our resource pack has an intersectional approach, and describes how the production's different aspects can be explored in different subjects at school, such as music, modern languages, English, drama, geography/social studies, art, PE, and more.

The pack has been created in collaboration with multiple charities supporting LGBTQ+ youth and trans families, ensuring all information on gender identity and diversity is treated sensitively and in an accessible way.



Activities for Educators/Social Workers

DeNada can deliver practical workshops, lectures and discussions with local educators and social workers, to share insights into the creative process of the work, explore its messages in more detail, and offer practical resources through which to explore the work in schools and youth centres. Ideally, these sessions happen prior to performances, so that students and young people can have a more holistic experience of the performance, and can be delivered at schools or venues.



These sessions are delivered by choreographer Carlos Pons Guerra, company dancers and if requested, by charity workers who engage with the promotion of gender diversity, anti-bullying and trans youth.



Activities for Adults/Professionals

We also deliver educational and professional development opportunities for adults. Parents and carers are of course invited to participate in any activities for young people, and for professional artists, we offer:

Workshops in performing young people's work (dancers and actors)



Workshops in choreographing dance for young people

Workshops in directing work for young people

Repertory workshops

Dramaturgy for young people's dance: practical workshops





Contact

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