

José Antonio Checa

José Antonio Checa is a Dance Pedagogy graduate from the María de Ávila Higher Conservatory of Dance in Madrid. He began his training at the Karen Taft School with Tatiana Stepanova and later worked with the National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater of Odessa and the Leonid Yacobson Ballet Theater in St. Petersburg. He completed his studies with honors at the Vaganova Academy, performing solo roles for various prestigious companies.

Checa was invited by the Suite Española Company to participate in "Carmen," leading to his joining the Mikhailovsky Theater in St. Petersburg as its first foreign principal dancer. In 2010, he became a soloist with the Tulsa Ballet, collaborating with renowned choreographers such as Jiri Kylian and William Forsythe.

In 2015, he joined the Sarasota Ballet as a soloist, working on classic and contemporary pieces and contributing to ballet education. He has taught in the U.S. and Spain, offering masterclasses and workshops in several countries.

José Antonio Checa founded the José Antonio Checa Ballet Academy and youth company in October 2017. Through this initiative, he has focused on providing high-quality dance training, where his students benefit from personalized attention and a rigorous curriculum. His teaching emphasizes not only technical skills but also artistic expression, fostering a deep understanding of dance as an art form.

Under his guidance, students have achieved significant success, gaining admission to prestigious dance academies worldwide, including the Royal Ballet School and English National Ballet School in London, the Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg, and the La Scala Academy in Milan, among others. Many of his students have secured positions in renowned companies such as the Paris Opera Ballet, Scottish Ballet, and the National Company of Greece.

Additionally, Checa's school is known for its strong community culture, encouraging collaboration and support among students. He often invites guest teachers and professional dancers to conduct workshops, enriching the educational experience and

exposing students to diverse styles and techniques. The school's performances showcase its students' talents and provide them with essential stage experience.

Checa's commitment to helping his students succeed extends beyond technical training; he provides mentorship and guidance on career development, preparing them for the competitive nature of the dance industry. His efforts have established the José Antonio Checa Ballet as a respected institution within the dance community, recognized for nurturing talent and fostering a love for dance.