Madrid, 14 June 2024

Madrid's mayor presented the festival's programme, which will run from 9 July to 25 August and will feature over 270 activities across eight different districts

Almeida encourages us to "make the most of Veranos de la Villa" as it marks its 40th edition "in top form and as enthusiastically as ever"

- The cultural event will begin with a grand symphonic tribute concert to Nino Bravo by the RTVE Orchestra and Choir and singer Serafín Zubiri, in Enrique Tierno Galván Park
- Japan will be the guest country as the festival showcases the work of a large group of Asian artists
- Carla Bruni, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Teatro de la Zarzuela, Camela, Manuel Galiana, Andrés Suárez, Pilar Jurado, Luísa Sobral and Paco Soto are just some of the renowned names featured in the line-up
- A broad parallel programme of activities called *Escuela de Veranos* will focus in particular on young festivalgoers
- More than 77% of the activities, including music, performing arts, circus, film and art, will be free and they will be held across 17 different venues
- The programme will include creators from Japan, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and China
- Choreographer and dancer Sol Picó will close the festival this year with a large-scale street show that we will be able to enjoy at Matadero Madrid

One of the most eagerly awaited events of the summer, the Veranos de la Villa festival organised by Madrid City Council, is just around the corner. Madrid's mayor, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, presented an overview of the festival's 40th edition today. Starting on 9 July and ending on 25 August, it will feature a broad programme with 74 different offerings by national and international artists and creators. The presentation included performances by Vicente Navarro, one of the neo-folk scene's most popular artists, and B-Boy Grazy and B-Boy Clav from the breakdancing company Ntamo Performance.

Almeida encouraged the audience to "make the most of Veranos de la Villa", which will mark its 40th anniversary this year "in top form and as enthusiastically as ever", and to "enjoy the extremely comprehensive cultural programme" which will be the main summer attraction in Madrid once again this year. According to Almeida, the city "is as vibrant and has the same energy" as it did in 1985, and this year, as in

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years gone by, *Madrileños* "are eager for the programme, which was lovingly designed for each venue, to start as soon as possible".

He went on to say that "the greatest possible refuge in the city is culture", calling Veranos de la Villa a "hallmark" of Madrid and adding that the festival becomes "a summer refuge for those of us who live in Madrid as well as for those who visit the capital".

Over 48 days, 17 different venues will host 270 offerings including music, dance, theatre, circus, film and art, among other disciplines. Over 77% of them will be free of charge and festival events are to be held across eight of the city's districts: Arganzuela, Centro, Chamartín, Moncloa-Aravaca, Salamanca, Usera, Puente de Vallecas and Retiro.

A journey through time from the beginning to the end

A symphonic tribute to Nino Bravo by the RTVE Orchestra and Choir, featuring collaborating artists like singer Serafín Zubiri, will kick off the festival in Enrique Tierno Galván Park on 9 July. On 25 August at Matadero Madrid, choreographer Sol Picó will close the 40th edition of the festival with her large-scale piece *Carrer 024*, a celebration of her 30-year-long career.

This year's poster was created by the municipal company Madrid Destino and it features the recently refurbished Puerta de Alcalá gate, which, just like Veranos de la Villa—now in its 40th year—, is an iconic symbol of the city.

Welcome, Japan

This 2024 edition will showcase Japan as its guest country, in collaboration with co-organisers The Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan in Spain. Together, they will present Hiroaki Umeda and his two latest choreographic pieces, *assimilating* and *Moving State* 1; the company ARTE Y SOLERA (Flamenco Dance by Mayumi Kagita and Hiroki Sato) with *Arte, pasión y solera*; and *E[mé]*, a collective project which will turn the city of Madrid into a stage.

With the overarching aim of celebrating diversity and the fusion of traditions, further offerings this year will range from exhibitions devoted to Japanese cultural treasures like folding screens, fans, sliding doors, kimonos, manga, anime and video games to dance and flamenco, not forgetting talks and workshops for all ages. Theatre will also have a place at this edition, with *Kamishibai*, a family show by Magda Labarga which combines graphic art with stories, legends and Japanese traditions.

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Conde Duque, a major hub

Once again, Conde Duque Cultural Centre will be one of the festival's main hubs this year, featuring dance, flamenco, circus, performance art and concerts. Its central courtyard will host performances by Compañía Nacional de Danza, the Madrid Municipal Symphonic Band (BSMM), Teatro de la Zarzuela, Úrsula López's flamenco company and Puccini Dance Circus Opera, as well as concerts by Carla Bruni, Andrés Suárez, Pilar Jurado, Luísa Sobral, María Reis, Pepitos Brothers (José Corbacho and Ramon Gener), Alba Reche, Camela, Jimena Amarillo and Irenegarry. In the south courtyard, we'll be able to see *Into Thin Air*, by Panama Pictures; *Pièce de Poche*, by (La) Rue Serendip; and *A String Section*, by Reckless Sleepers. The eagerly awaited surprise concert, *Algo inesperado*, will be held on the night of 18 August.

Classic and contemporary offerings

Dance will take centre stage among the festival's more contemporary offerings, with *Mover montañas* by Alberto Velasco at Residencia de Estudiantes cultural centre. In parallel, once again this year we'll be able to enjoy Spanish literary classics, which will be given a voice by the likes of Arturo Querejeta, Ernesto Arias, Pepe Viyuela, Manuela Velasco and Silvia Marsó, in *Palabra dicha y dichosa*, a series directed by Ignacio García at the Juan March Foundation.

Flamenco sounds and other music

Flamenco will play a starring role, with several shows and a line-up featuring Vicente Navarro, Úrsula López's flamenco company, Rocío Guzmán, a surprising production by ARTE Y SOLERA which blends Kabuki with flamenco, Lucía Beltrán, Rafa del Calli, Paco Soto, María Terremoto and Pedro Ricardo Miño. The more daring audience members will also be able to dive into a covered pool to enjoy the immersive experience *Sonidos líquidos*, by Joel Cahen and Suso Saiz, and *Zarzuela en Danza* by Teatro de la Zarzuela.

Summer cinema

For the fourth year in a row, Veranos de la Villa will feature a new edition of the cinema series Cine Caliente, curated by La Juan Gallery. Held in La Bombilla Park, it's a delightfully original twist on traditional summer nights and outdoor cinema. Lalachus and Bertus, Lydia Lozano, Lorenzo Caprile, Samantha Ballentines, Mariona Terés and Secun de la Rosa, among others, will provide commentary and entertainment during the screenings.

Another year at San Isidro Secondary School

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Madrid's oldest secondary school will host several music performances by Artefactum and Manuel Galiana, Marcel Fabregat, Vicente Navarro and Rocío Guzmán. Theatre will also have a place, with an adaptation by Eduardo Galán of Rojas Zorilla's *Los bandos de Verona*, directed by Daniel Alonso de Santos, and a production of *Los enredos de Scapin* to mark the 400th anniversary of Molière's birth, while Ángel Ruiz will revisit cuplé, *chotis*, revue, zarzuela and pop music in *Madrid*, *del cuplé a Sabina*.

Escuela de Veranos

This section offering a broad programme of workshops and other activities aimed at curious citizens, in particular young audiences, is one of the biggest new features of this year's edition.

This summer school will organise workshops on dance, with Isaac Montllor (Compañía Nacional de Danza) and the company (La) Rue Serendip, on music, with the Madrid Municipal Symphonic Band (BSMM), and on breakdancing, fused with the rich cultural traditions of China and Spain. The outcome of the latter workshop will be used for the show *Uniendo pasos*, organised by the Samaranch Foundation and the Ningbo Foundation for the Development of Sport.

Japanese culture will be showcased in workshops at Casa Asia, such as *The Yokai Revolution*, which brings together creatures from Japanese and European folklore; *Childhood in Japan*, which will focus on the *kendama*, a Japanese toy; a participative experience with the *taiko*, the large Japanese drum; and sessions devoted to calligraphy, manga and tea traditions.

In addition, the Juan March Foundation will hold a number of sessions in which the audience will be able to listen to, read aloud and learn about the beauty of language with poetic texts and writings from the Spanish Golden Age, among others.

Festival Sponsor and Partners

The 40th edition of Veranos de la Villa is sponsored by Mitsubishi Electric and organised by the Department of Culture, Tourism and Sport through the municipal company Madrid Destino, in partnership with Nippon Gases.

Other partners include: The Japan Foundation, Embassy of Japan in Spain, Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Madrid - Ambasciata d'Italia Madrid, Juan March Foundation, Casa Asia, the Shiozaki Kamishibai Museum 一般社団法人塩崎おとぎ紙芝居博物館, Osaka Prefectural Central International Library, Kimono Club Valencia Association, Samaranch Foundation, Ningbo Foundation for the Development of Sport, Chinese

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Dance Sport Federation, Chinese Cultural Centre in Madrid, ProHelvetia / Embassy of Switzerland, Embassy of Portugal in Spain, Federation of Chefs and Confectioners of Spain, Society of Music Performers and Musicians (AIE), Consulate General of Japan in Barcelona, Escola Joso, Ficomic and Manga Barcelona, Digital Games Research Association, Flanders State of the Art, Arts Council England, Tatel Restaurant, Corral de la Morería, Residencia de Estudiantes cultural centre, IES San Isidro Secondary School and the Madrid Municipal Symphonic Band (BSMM). /

Find all of the festival's cultural offerings on the website: <u>https://www.veranosdelavilla.com/en</u>

Download press material and the official Veranos de la Villa 2024 poster: <u>https://www.veranosdelavilla.com/en/press</u>

More information and press material

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