

PACO DEL POZO

Flamenco Singing: Paco del Pozo
Guitar: Antonio Carrión

Song

MADRID

TEATRO DEL INSTITUT FRANÇAIS (THE THEATER AT THE INSTITUT FRANÇAIS)

FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH AT 20:00

PACO DEL POZO in concert

This *cantaor* (flamenco singer) is not a gypsy, nor was he raised in a tight-knit gypsy community. In fact, he was born in a town (San Sebastián de los Reyes) that has very little flamenco tradition at all. Yet, none of this was an obstacle for him. Paco del Pozo has learned to master rhythm and feel completely at ease singing *bulerías* in the real-life school of *tablaos* (venues specialized in flamenco shows). He has created his own style through listening to the works of Tomás Pavón, La Niña de los Peines and Manuel Torres.

He's a young man with an old-timer's flair, an accomplished and orthodox *cantaor* (flamenco singer) who is open to new trends and styles. Paco del Pozo is, in the words of poet Félix Grande, a *cantaor* who, "sings with the power of his youth and with the wisdom of an old man."

Paco del Pozo. Francisco del Pozo Carpintero, Paco del Pozo (Madrid, 1975), was destined to become one of the 21st Century's great *cantaores* (flamenco singers), as is evidenced by his triumph at the 37th edition of the Festival Internacional del Cante de las Minas de la Unión (La Union's International Mine Song Festival), where he won the much-coveted Lámpara Minera Award, the competition's most prestigious prize which is granted to only a few.

Paco del Pozo is a *payo* (non-gypsy) and there are no flamenco artists in his family. His love of *cante* (flamenco singing) grew out of his "interest in and special relationship with flamenco." He began learning *cante* (flamenco singing) when he was just eight years old alongside master guitarist Paco Antequera, with whom he recorded his first album two years later. At age eleven, he was honored as the Best New *Cantaor* (Flamenco Singer) in Madrid. He continued his training singing at flamenco *peñas* (folk clubs) around Madrid, under the wing of Manolo Molina, who accompanied him on guitar.

When he was 17, Paco joined the flamenco troupe at the El Corral de la Morería *tablaos* in Madrid. That is when he started traveling all over the world to countries such as Luxemburg, Holland, Morocco, Ecuador, Mexico, the US, and Thailand. He toured with different companies and shared the stage with prestigious *baillores* (flamenco dancers) such as Lola Greco, Antonio Reyes and Carmen Ledesma. With all this experience Paco del Pozo became an accomplished *cantaor* (flamenco singer), capable of handling both *cante libre* (freestyle flamenco singing) and *cante al compás* (sung to a strict beat). During that time, del Pozo continued to study with Pepe "Pucherete", a well-known guitarist from Linares.

In 2003, he recorded his second album, *Vestido de luces* (Bullfighting Costume), dedicated entirely to the world of bullfighting and, especially, to the Ordoñez, Rivera and Dominguín dynasties. The album includes adaptations of poems by writers such as Gerardo Diego, Antonio Murciano and, even one by *rejoneador* (mounted bullfighter) Ángel Peralta. Musicians such as Jorge Pardo, Carles Benavent, Jerónimo Maya, Rafael Esteve, Cocha Jareño and Lucky Losada participated in the recording.

Paco del Pozo is an orthodox *cantaor* (flamenco singer) with a very wide range. As an artist, he is open to new musical trends and styles. That is why he worked with the Spanish group Jazz Hondo for over six years and even recorded a live album with them (also called *Jazz Hondo*). Paco has also worked alongside classical guitarist José María Gallardo del Rey to develop an original and varied repertoire that includes *tangos*, *boleros* and classical pieces. All this without ever giving up singing at dance performances, such as, for instance, the premier of *Canciones antes de una guerra* (Pre-War Songs) with María Pagés' company.

Another of Paco del Pozo's outstanding facets is his work as a teacher. In addition to illustrating Félix Grande's conferences with his *cante* (singing), del Pozo also teaches practical *cante* lessons at both public and private institutions.

Paco del Pozo is a frequent participant in national and international competitions such as Granada's International Music and Dance Festival, Flamenco Viene del Sur, Madrid por Tarantos, the Caja Madrid Flamenco Festival... In fact, del Pozo was the musician in charge of inaugurating the Sala Polivalente (Multi-Purpose Hall) at the Teatros del Canal Theater during Caja Madrid's Flamenco Festival in 2009.

At the moment, del Pozo is busy recording the soundtrack for Emilio Ruiz Borrachina's film *El Discípulo* (The Disciple) and he's also preparing a new album due to come out this spring (2010).