



## Course Descriptions

**Bata de Cola** - The *bata de cola* class is for intermediate students with at least three years of training and focuses on the techniques involved in working with the *bata* (dress with a train) as well as strengthening the specific parts of the body that are required for smooth maneuverability. Introduction of either a *mantón* or *abanico* solidifies the lines, balance, coordination, etc. A *bata de cola* is required for the class.

**Bulerías** – The *bulerías* occupy a special and supreme position in the world of flamenco, constantly undergoing change and wide open to spontaneity. The course focuses on dancing to the *cante*, finding an individual style and building confidence as well as mastering the cues to the guitarist for smooth transition into various segments of the dance with some improvisation.

**Castanets** – The castanets are a percussive instrument whose origins date back to the Phoenicians (1000 B.C.). The conservation and development of their use during the XVII century in Spain has made them an essential instrument for *Clásico Español*. Known as *palillos* in Andalucía, the castanet course is a pre-requisite for beginner Spanish Classical Dance.

**Clásico Español** - Spanish Classical Dance involves the use of castanets and is based upon principles of classical ballet imbued with the Iberian temperament making it unique to Spain. Positioning, balance and coordination are strongly emphasized. Spanish Classical Dance ranges from a very balletic style known as *escuela bolera* danced in soft shoe to a more contemporary style danced in flamenco shoes.

**Flamenco** - Flamenco term classes explore the basic techniques of footwork, arm and hand movements, as well as the *cante*, rhythm and structure for a choreography. A complete choreography is obtained to one *palo* (rhythm) before exploring another. The **Introduction** courses introduce several *palos* to give the student a sampling of flamenco's variety. Various sequences are introduced, but no complete choreography.

**Sevillanas** - Sevillanas is a well known dance with a set choreography, extremely popular in all of Andalucía, and danced with a partner. Level I introduces the four verses that comprise the dance and level II develops more intricate partnering patterns involving more dancers.

**Tangos** – The *tangos* course stresses dancing to the *cante*, options for resolving a sequence, finding an individual style and building confidence in *juerga* interactions.

**Technique** – Technique classes are ongoing and can be used as drop-in classes. Various techniques used in flamenco dance are examined and strengthened such as turns, footwork, *braceo* and *palmas*. Precision and clarity are emphasized.