

## A talented artist in movement

Blanca Li is a choreographer, a dancer and a filmmaker.

She is elected as a member of the new choreography section of French Academy of Fine Arts in April 2019.

She is the artistic director of the Teatros del Canal in Madrid since November 2019.

Whether for her own company, for events, opera, feature films or museum installations, she initiates and creates many different projects: "I love to give life to everything that goes through my imagination". Always hungry for novelty, she combines cultures, and constantly renews her inspiration from a wide range of expressions, from flamenco to classical ballet, without forgetting street dance and hip-hop. With Blanca Li everything begins and ends in the energy of movement and dance.

Born in Granada (Spain), Blanca Li is already competing with the Spanish national team for rhythmic gymnastics by the age of 12. At 17 she sets out for New York to study with Martha Graham for five years. She also studies extensively with Paul Sanasardo and Alvin Ailey. Living in Spanish Harlem, she is witness to the birth of hip-hop, and creates a Flamenco Rap band. Back in Madrid, she sets up her first company of dance with a commission for the world exhibition in Seville in 1992.



Blanca Li © Nico Bustos

### Blanca Li Dance Company

She settles in Paris in 1993 to install her own contemporary dance company, with 17 major pieces at her repertory since. Most of her creations show fusion between disciplines and styles and a very latin sense of humor ([Alarme](#), [Stress](#), [Salomé](#)). [Macadam Macadam](#), a hip-hop piece commissioned by Suresnes Cite Danse Festival in 1999, becomes the reference of the genre, while touring worldwide, from Avignon Festival to Arts and Ideas Festival in Newhaven. In 2006, in a series performed at the Théâtre Mogador of Paris, [Macadam Macadam](#) receives the Globe de Cristal award for best Choreography Opera / Dance. She creates her first one-woman show [Zap! Zap! Zap!](#), which is successfully performed at Chaillot Theater in Paris and at the Kitchen in New York for the France Moves Festival (2001).

She draws inspiration from various sources, from Gnawa trance ceremonies in Morocco for [Nana et Lila](#) or Ancient Greek art for [Le Songe du Minotaure](#). She stages the madness of our contemporary world in the wake of September 11th NY attacks in collaboration with plastic artists Jorge and Lucy Orta for [Borderline](#) (2002). [Corazón Loco](#), playing with love fusion and disintegration, combines dancers with lyrical singers of the vocal ensemble Sequenza 9.3, directed by Catherine Simonpietri on a contemporary score by Edith Canat de Chizy; [Poet in New York](#), inspired by the poems of Federico García Lorca in New York and commissioned by Andalusia's Ministry of Culture, has gathered nearly 150 000 spectators during its performances at the summer festival in Granada, (two seasons), Chaillot Theater in Paris, and Teatros del Canal in Madrid.

In 2013, Blanca Li Dance Company celebrated its 20th anniversary with four shows on tour for more than a 100 performances :

[Macadam Macadam](#), with a Spanish-French cast of hip-hop dancers,

[Garden of Earthly Delights](#), a dreamlike fantasy inspired from the painting by Hieronymus Bosch,

[Elektro Kif](#), putting on stage for the first time the new “electro” street dance style (first dance style invented in France since “French Can Can”) for a long series at la Cigale Theatre in Paris after a successful world tour in Great Britain, Japan, China, Philippines, Indonesia and France.

[OBROT](#) in collaboration with Japanese artists from the collective Maywa Denki and NAO robots from Aldebaran, created at Montpellier Danse 2013 Festival and presented at the prestigious Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris for a sold out series in December 2013. This show is universally acclaimed by the press for opening new horizons on the use of robots on stage, and has been performed in New-York at the BAM Opera House in 2015 and is now touring in Europe, Mexico, Hong-Kong... It received the “Lunas del Auditorio” Award for best modern dance show in Mexico in 2016.

[Goddesses & Demonesses](#), a dramatic dance duet for Maria Alexandrova, principal dancer at Bolshoi Ballet and Blanca Li, inspired by primitive and ancient mythologies. Since its opening at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris in December 2015 with a 12 show series, the piece has been touring internationally, including a series at New York City Center in March 2017.

In June 2017, she begins rehearsing [Solstice](#), a new company show dedicated to environmental issues which premieres at Theatre National de Chaillot in September 2017 and sells out in a series of 17 performances, touring since around the world.

In december 2017, she creates a new electro dance show, [Elektrik](#), full of energy and virtuosity.

### **Opera, theater, events, installations...**

Outside her company, Blanca Li has choreographed and produced a great number of projects for major institutions.

In 1997, she’s commissioned by the Nancy Opera to direct and choreograph two operas, [La Vida breve](#) and [El Amor Brujo](#), and, in 1999, the world premiere of [Un Tango Pour Monsieur Lautrec](#). In 1999, the Paris Opera asks her for a contemporary choreography for the Baroque opera [Les Indes Galantes](#) conducted by William Christie and produced by Andrei Serban. (Rameau’s ballet opera, now part of the Opéra’s repertoire, was released in DVD in 2005). For the turn of the millennium Blanca Li creates, together with trapeze artists, the air ballet Univers Unique. Monique Loudières, Danseuse Etoile of the Paris Opera Ballet company, asks Li to create a solo for her: Silhouette, to be performed at the Avignon Festival in 2000.

Highest honors in the dance world in 2001: the famous Paris Opera Ballet invites Li to create a new ballet on [Sheherazade](#) by Rimski Korsakov, together with Christian Lacroix as costume designer.

In 2001, Blanca Li is nominated director and choreographer of the Berlin Ballet at the Komische Oper in Germany, a company of 24 dancers, for whom she creates a new version of Le Songe du Minotaure, which is also performed at the Merida Festival in Spain. [Borderline](#) is produced as world premiere by the Berlin Ballett in June 2002.

In March 2003, Blanca Li creates at the Paris Opera Bastille a choreography for [Guillaume Tell](#), produced by Francesca Zambello. [Al Andalus](#), featuring El Amor Brujo by Manuel de Falla is premiered at the Massy Opera before being performed at the Alhambra Palace for the International Festival of Music and Dance of Granada in June 2004. In March 2004, Blanca Li is invited as choreographer for the new [Don Giovanni](#) production at the Metropolitan Opera in NYC produced by Marthe Keller. In 2005 she creates the choreography for the musical comedy [Bagdad Café](#) together with Bob Telson and Percy Adlon. In october 2008, she creates Enamorados Anonimos, a musical played for seven months at the Movistar Theatre, in the Gran Via in Madrid.

In March 2010, she directs and choreographs the opera [Treemonisha](#) (by Scott Joplin) at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. In June 2010, she stages in Spain two operas of the contemporary composer Luis de Pablo, [Very Gentle y Un parque](#) (Teatros del Canal, Madrid).

In the field of visual arts and multimedia, Blanca Li is invited by the [MUSAC](#), Contemporary Art Museum of Castilla y Leon, for her first exhibition [Te voy a enseñar a bailar](#) (I’ll teach you how to dance) (from January 26 to May 4 2008).

As part of the Noche en Blanco (White Night) to Madrid, in september 2009, Blanca Li designs [Ven a bailar conmigo](#) (Come dance with me), an audiovisual and interactive installation, with tens of thousand people dancing in the streets of the Spanish capital. The french edition of [la Fete de la Danse de Blanca Li](#) (The Dance Fest) becomes a major popular event at The Grand Palais in Paris, in september 2011 with more than 15 000 participants, and is commissioned by Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao in 2012, Odyssud in Toulouse in 2013 and Fondazione Teatro A Corte in Torino in 2017.

Her cabaret show “C'est Rouge” for the Saxony Theater at Faena Hotel in Miami Beach, opens in June 2016 and performs 5 times weekly for nearly a year.

She stages numerous fashion shows and events for [Stella Mc Cartney](#), Hermès, [Jean Paul Gaultier](#), H&M, Target, Just One Eye, [Cartier](#), Rabih Kayrouz, and many others in Paris, London, New York, Los Angeles or Shanghai, including the [opening of La Perla flagship](#) store in Hong Kong in October 2015. In 2020, Jean-Paul Gaultier asks her to help him stage his last Haute Couture show in Paris, with more than 300 models and guests stars at Theatre du Chatelet.

She creates “[El Quijote del Plata](#)” a full length ballet for the national ballet SODRE of Uruguay in 2018, and “Pulcinella” for the National Ballet of Spain in 2020.

### **Film, advertising, and music videos**

From the beginning, she extends her activity by participating as a choreographer to the movie industry ([Gazon Maudit](#), [Nettoyage à Sec](#), [L'Écume des Jours](#) (Michel Gondry), [Los Amantes Pasajeros](#) (Pedro Almodovar), to advertising (Perrier, Gap, Jean Paul Gaultier, [Prada](#), Lancôme, [Longchamp](#), [Beyoncé](#), [H&M](#), Kookai, Kenzo, [Christian Louboutin](#), [Gucci](#), [Old Navy](#)) or to music videos ([Daft Punk](#), [Blur](#), [Rita Mitsouko](#), [Goldfrapp](#), [Kanye West](#), [Paul McCartney](#), [Coldplay](#), [Joakim](#),...) She writes a script and shoots her first short film: “[Angoisse](#)” (4 “Best Film” Awards). She directs numerous audiovisual works and humorous short films (And so on, la Paella, Un après-midi, Sandance, [Home Fitness](#)). She directs the adaptation of her choreographic work, [Al Andalus](#) for ARTE TV Channel in 2002.

Blanca Li's first feature film, [The Challenge](#) (Le Défi), a hip hop musical comedy with 150 hip hop dancers, is released in May 2002. Box office: 300 000 spectators in France and continued showing for 4 months (director, choreographer, dancer and actress: Blanca Li). In May 2004, this film is selected by the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Her second feature film as a director, [Step by Step](#) (Pas à Pas), is a documentary about the creative process of Corazon loco (film's release in France in January 2010).

She directs the TV filmings of her shows Elektro Kif and Robot in 2013 for France Television.

Her feature film “Robot director's cut” world premieres at the Lincoln Center “Dance on Camera Festival” in New York on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015.

She directs in 2014 [BlancaLi360](#), the first dance short film for virtual reality devices (Oculus Rift) which is presented in art and technology events such as Exit Festival in France or Future of Storytelling in New York, and released through French German TV channel ARTE.

Her fifth feature film as a director, [Elektro Mathematrix](#), a musical adapted from her show Elektro Kif is shot in a Paris high school and opens in French movie theaters in August 2016.

### **Awards and distinctions**

From September 2006 to 2010, Blanca Li was the artistic director of CAD (Andalusian Center of Dance), a government institute for professional dancers in Sevilla, where she opened a hip hop section and a program about Escuela Bolera.

She receives the distinctions of Officier de la Légion d'Honneur from the French president François Hollande in 2014, Officier in Ordre des Arts et Lettres (2007) from the French Ministry of Culture and Chevalier of the National Merit Order (2004) from the French Ministry of European affairs. She is elected at the prestigious

French Academie des Beaux Arts as a permanent member of the newly opened choreography section, on April 24 2019;

In Spain, she receives from the King of Spain the 2009 Gold Medal of Fine Arts, a distinction for 20 major figures in arts and culture. In 2004 the Manuel de Falla Prize is offered in recognition of her contribution to contemporary choreography and her professional career. In 2015 she receives the Honor Medal of the Fundation Rodriguez Acosta.

In 2017, she is part of the jury of the prestigious Princess of Asturias Awards in Spain.

In November 2019, she is nominated artistic director of the Teatros del Canal in Madrid

And since 2013 she gets her entry in the popular french dictionary Petit Larousse, followed by the prestigious Robert french dictionnary in 2018!