

A talented artist in movement

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

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 © Ali Mahdavi 2013

Blanca Li Dance Company

She settles in Paris in 1993 to install her own contemporary dance company, with 14 major pieces at her repertory since. She opens up her own dance studios in Paris in 1998. Fusion between disciplines and a very latin sense of humor are present in most of her creations ([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 celebrates her 20th anniversary with four shows on tour for more than a 100 performances :

[Macadam Macadam](#) still goes on with a spanish- french team of hip hop dancers, [Garden of Earthly Delights](#), an dreamlike fantasy inspired from the painting by Hieronymus Bosch,

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

[Robot!](#) in collaboration with japanese artists Maywa Denki and NAO robots from Aldebaran, premieres at Montpellier Danse 2013 Festival and ends the 2013 year at prestigious Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris for a sold out series. This show is universally acclaimed by the press for opening new horizons on the use of robots on stage.

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.

Blanca Li choreographs [Quel Cirque !](#) (What a circus!) in January 2010, a short piece (25 mn) for the Collective Jeu de Jambes, pioneer of jazz-rock in France, commissioned by Festival Suresnes Cités Danse.

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 and Odyssud in Toulouse in 2013.

She stages numerous fashion shows and events for [Stella Mc Cartney](#), Hermès, [Jean Paul Gaultier](#), H&M, Target, Just One Eye and many others in Paris, London, New York, Los Angeles or Shanghai.

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'Ecume des Jours](#) (Michel Gondry), [Los Amantes Pasajeros](#) (Pedro Almodovar), to advertising (Perrier, Gap, Jean Paul Gaultier, [Prada](#), Lancôme, [Longchamp](#), [Beyoncé](#), [H&M](#), Kookai, Beyonce, Kenzo) or to music videos ([Daft Punk](#), [Blur](#), [Rita Mitsouko](#), [Goldfrapp](#), [Kanye West](#), [Paul McCartney](#)...) 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.

In 2009, she confirms her presence on the screen with one of the main roles of the film by Danièle Thompson, [The Code has changed](#) (Le Code a changé). Also in 2009, she directs [For Her](#) (Pour Elle), a short film with Victoria Abril for the series "X-Women" (Season 2), broadcast by Canal Plus (June 2009). 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 2nd 2015.

Her fifth feature film as a director, Elektro Mathematrix, a musical adapted from her show Elektro Kif is shot in a Paris high school in 2014.

Among her future projects, is Cabaret Latino, a musical for the stage and the screen with Victoria Abril and Rossy de Palma.

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. She creates a hip hop section and a program about Escuela Bolera, a unique traditional genre almost disappearing at that time in Spain.

She receives the distinctions of Officer de la Légion d'Honneur from the French president François Hollande in 2014, Officer 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.

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.

And in 2013 she gets her entry in the popular french dictionary Petit Larousse!