



Francoism, Urban Displacement, and Nostalgia in Flamenco Dance from Seville

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Abstract

While it is often assumed that flamenco is strongly oriented towards the past, thus far, few scholars have explored the roles of flamenco in voicing memories of the Franco dictatorship (1939–75). During the second half of the dictatorship, a series of natural disasters, combined with new economic and political developments, led to the forced displacement of a number of flamenco artists and their wider communities in various Spanish cities. This article will explore how memories of this episode have impacted the flamenco dance repertoire associated with the Triana neighbourhood in Seville, focusing on three interrelated case studies: the performance and documentary film *Triana pura y pura*, and recent productions by the flamenco dancers Pastora Galván and Israel Galván. By analysing these performances alongside their historical, social, and institutional contexts, this article conceptualizes the intersections between dance, nostalgia, and festivity as a meaningful scenario of embodied memory in post-Franco Spain.

Introduction

Since the eighteenth century, travellers, artists, and intellectuals have offered picturesque descriptions of the dance spectacles and other forms of exotic entertainment they encountered across southern Spain. Alongside the iconic cave dwellings of the Sacromonte neighbourhood in Granada, a key location that has occupied this international imaginary is Triana, a neighbourhood located in the eastern part of the city of Seville, across the river Guadalquivir.¹ Historically, Triana was home to a multi-ethnic population of Afro-Iberians and Roma (known in Spanish as *Gitanos*), and it is also known as one of the cradles of flamenco, as it has shaped prominent varieties of festive flamenco styles that crystalized in the nineteenth century, such as *tangos* and *bulerías*, as well as local variations of *cante jondo* (deep song) styles such as *soleares*, *tonás*, and *martinetes*.² In the twentieth century, the built environment and sociocultural dynamics of Triana underwent profound changes as a consequence of repeated floods in the 1950s and 1960s and the subsequent implementation of new urban policies during the second half of Francisco Franco's dictatorship

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- 1 Lou Channon-Deutsch, 'Travels of the Imaginary Spanish Gypsy', in *Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spain: Theoretical Debates and Cultural Practice*, ed. Jo Labanyi (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 28.
- 2 On the multi-ethnic history of Triana, see José Manuel Caballero Bonald, *Sevilla en tiempos de Cervantes* (Barcelona: Planeta, 1991), 116–20.

(1939–75). Thus, while Triana is still commonly associated with flamenco festivity, today it has also become an object of nostalgic contemplation, especially for former inhabitants who have witnessed a progressive erosion of the area's communitarian bonds. As this article will argue, that nostalgia is not merely a generic symptom of periods of modernization and gentrification; nor does it reproduce the rather abstract and unproductive form of yearning for bygone times that some early critics have identified in flamenco.³ Drawing on case studies from a local repertoire of flamenco dance in Seville, I will examine how performances of nostalgia for Triana can be understood as embodied memories of experiences of forced displacement, systemic repression, and marginalization of Andalusian underclasses during the Franco dictatorship.

To date, there is limited scholarship on the ways in which flamenco, understood here as a multi-disciplinary repertoire of artistic practices that includes dance and song, has engaged with memories of the Franco dictatorship, an episode that still causes widespread struggles, debates, and political divisions in contemporary Spanish society.⁴ Pedro Ordóñez Eslava examines the work of contemporary flamenco artists such as Rocío Márquez, Niño de Elche, Andrés Marín, and Israel Galván, who have engaged critically with the legacies of dictatorial violence, often drawing on complex intersections between flamenco and conceptual and experimental art forms.⁵ Other scholars have examined the work of a previous generation of politically engaged flamenco artists, who denounced dictatorial violence in the lyrics of their songs and in theatricalized performances of flamenco dance during the final stages of the Franco dictatorship and Spain's transition to democracy (commonly demarcated as 1975–82).⁶ Using a different angle, I will focus here on performances of flamenco that are not overtly politicized and yet contain meaningful, and even critical, expressions of memories of dictatorial violence. Beyond previous scholarship on critical expressions of memory in politicized and experimental forms of flamenco, then, I suggest that traditional flamenco dance is a meaningful source to address the understudied cultural impacts of urban developments that occurred during Franco's dictatorial rule.

By means of comparison, the sentimentalized terms in which Triana is often invoked in flamenco has strong similarities with the roles of nostalgia in musical genres such as fado

3 K. Meira Goldberg, *Sonidos Negros: On the Blackness of Flamenco* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), 98; for similar criticisms of fado, see Richard Elliott, *Fado and the Place of Longing: Loss, Memory and the City* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2010), 64; on tango, see Marta Savigliano, *Tango and the Political Economy of Passion* (Boulder, CO: Westfield Press, 1995), 12.

4 While the field of memory scholarship in the context of post-Franco Spain is too vast to acknowledge here, the following are noteworthy works that have explored the roles of music and dance in articulating personal and collective memories of Francoism: José Colmeiro, 'Canciones con historia: Cultural identity, historical memory, and popular songs', *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 4/1 (2003); Gemma Pérez-Zalduondo and Iván Iglesias, eds., *Music and the Spanish Civil War* (Bern: Peter Lang, 2022).

5 Pedro Ordóñez Eslava, *Apología de lo impuro. Contramemoria y [f]ricción en el Flamenco contemporáneo* (Ciudad Real: CIOFF España, 2020).

6 Génesis García Gómez, *José Menese: La voz de la cultura jonda en la transición española* (Córdoba: Almuzara, 2017); Alfredo Grimaldos, *Historia social del flamenco* (Barcelona: Península, 2010); Juan Pinilla, *Las voces que no callaron: flamenco y revolución* (Guillena: Atrapasueños, 2012).

and Argentinean tango. Musicologists working on fado have argued that nostalgia, or *saudade*, is a complex sentimental structure that, over time, has accumulated a variety of meanings, depending on the personal background of artists and listeners, as well as on the wider historical, social, and institutional contexts in which this music is performed. As Lila Ellen Gray observes, *saudade* should be understood as a ‘temporally and emotionally multivalent force’ that may evoke state-sanctioned nostalgia for tradition during Portugal’s Estado Novo dictatorship (1933–74), as well as ongoing forms of fetishization of traditional spaces in the era of mass tourism, and even nostalgia for the dictatorship itself.⁷ From a different perspective, Richard Elliott argues that *saudade* can be a meaningful emotional framework to help musicians and listeners engage critically with the impact of urban and economic policies of the Estado Novo on the city of Lisbon. Indeed, as Elliott observes, certain expressions of *saudade* in the fado repertoire can be seen as attempts ‘to trace the remembered and imagined city of the past via a poetics of haunting’.⁸ In this regard, Elliott examines several relevant examples of what he calls ‘critical nostalgia’ in fado; for example, songs that thematize the demolition of key areas of Lisbon and articulate subtle critiques of state planning under dictator António de Oliveira Salazar.⁹

In a way similar to nostalgic discourses about Lisbon, Triana is a densely layered point of reference in flamenco, where it denotes discourses of authenticity, communitarian lifestyles, and an urban location that has been progressively eroded of its former cultural significance. Through a contextualized reading of invocations of Triana in three flamenco dance performances, I will show that this area is also a meaningful reference in a web of memories of systemic violence with local and transnational ramifications. In what follows, I will start by giving an overview of the profound changes that Triana, alongside other urban locations across Spain, underwent since the second half of the Franco dictatorship. In the next section, I will develop the theoretical framework for my analysis. Drawing on Svetlana Boym’s distinction between ‘restorative’ and ‘reflective’ types of nostalgia, I will explore how festive practices of flamenco dance that are often considered as traditional and folkloric acquire deeper significance as embodied expressions of nostalgic memories. Thereafter, I will analyse three inter-related case studies from a repertoire of dance practices in Seville. First, I will provide a close reading of the documentary film *Triana pura y pura*, which is based on an eponymous performance of flamenco dance and song from 1983. Building on my analysis of *Triana pura y pura*, I will then examine recent work by Pastora Galván and Israel Galván, who belong to a younger generation of dancers from Seville who did not undergo experiences of forced displacement under Franco, but whose artistic practices are intimately and critically entangled with collective memories of that episode. Departing from these case studies, this article

7 Lila Ellen Gray, *Fado Resounding: Affective Politics and Urban Life* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013), 90, 105–38.

8 Elliott, *Fado and the Place of Longing*, 65.

9 Elliott, *Fado and the Place of Longing*, 69; cf. Gray, *Fado Resounding*, 89, 258n33. For a similar discussion of nostalgia and memory in tango in the context of post-dictatorial Argentina, see Matt Karush, *Musicians in Transit: Argentina and the Globalization of Popular Music* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2017), 72, 105–6; Savigliano, *Tango and the Political Economy of Passion*, 12.

sets out to establish new conceptual links between flamenco, nostalgia, urban history, and post-dictatorial memory.

Triana in the twentieth century: from natural disasters to urban transformations

Triana was one of the most-affected areas when, in the early 1960s, neighbourhoods throughout southern Spain were destroyed by heavy rainfalls. In November 1961, following repeated floods in earlier decades, a tributary of the Guadalquivir river burst through a retaining wall and inundated large parts of Seville.¹⁰ Owing to the poor construction quality of many multi-family homes in Triana, known as *corrales de vecinos*, this natural disaster posed an immediate threat for the livelihood of the area's inhabitants. These circumstances led Francisco Franco's dictatorial regime to accelerate a process of segregated urban planning. In the aftermath of 1961, highly valuable territories in Triana were expropriated and many of its inhabitants relocated, first to temporary shelters, and subsequently to new areas of sponsored housing, known as *polígonos de viviendas*, on the fringes of the city.¹¹

This experience of forced displacement radically changed the lives of the community from Triana. Former neighbours were now living far apart in remote areas of Seville, unable to see each other for months, sometimes years. After their relocation to the newly built *polígonos*, families had to intermingle with communities from other regions of the country, which aggravated feelings of isolation and homesickness for those who were used to strong local and communitarian lifestyles.¹² In particular, the displacement of a community of artists from Triana impeded them from continuing to practice flamenco as part of everyday life. While the patios in Triana had been accessible fora for spontaneous musical gatherings, in the inhospitable context of the *polígonos* there were much fewer chances for the community to share their musical culture.¹³

Testimonies of this impactful episode, as documented by historians, journalists, and filmmakers, foreground a widespread feeling of nostalgia among the displaced community from

10 Miguel Castillo Guerrero, 'Sevilla y El Tamarguillo: Las medidas urbanísticas de urgencia cincuenta años después', *Espacio y Tiempo: Revista de Ciencias Humanas* 27 (2013); Comité René Cassin, 'Las Tres Mil. Análisis social y urbanístico de un territorio excluido: Polígono Sur', *Arteycompromiso.com*, November 2015, www.arteycompromiso.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/1_Comite_Rene_Cassin_2015_Las_tres_mil_analisis_social_y_urbanistico_de_un_territorio_excluido_Poligono_Sur.pdf.

11 Pedro G. Romero, 'Los poligoneros poligonales', in *Wittgenstein, los gitanos y los flamencos* (Barcelona: Arcadia, 2020), 183–6; Carlos van Tongeren, 'Distinctive Culture: Framing Flamenco Artistry in *Polígono Sur: El arte de Las Tres Mil* by Dominique Abel', *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 18/2 (2017), 170–1. For more information on a similar intervention that occurred in Granada following heavy rainfalls in that city during the winter of 1962–63, see Tomás Andreo Sánchez, 'La Virgencica. Una intervención de urgencia para un urbanismo vivo' (DPhil diss., Universidad de Granada, 2015); María García Ruiz, 'La Virgencica', paper presented at the conference *Tras rito y geografía del flamenco: territorios, redes y trasmisión – La ciudad de los gitanos / Casa puerta*, Seville, Spain, 2017, <http://archivo.pieflamenco.com/caso-de-estudio-la-virgencica-granada/>.

12 Montserrat Rosa, 'Entre la emancipación y la dependencia. Polígono Sur', paper presented at the conference *A la calle me salí: teatro urbano, corrales de vecinos y polígonos de vivienda*, Seville, Spain, December 2014, <http://archivo.pieflamenco.com/entre-la-emancipacion-y-la-dependencia-poligono-sur-iiii-a-la-calle-me-sali/>.

13 Van Tongeren, 'Distinctive Culture', 179.

Triana. For instance, the historiography *Triana. La otra orilla del flamenco (1931–1970)* by Ángel Vela Nieto and the documentary film *An Andalusian Journey* by Jana Bokova give insight into the trajectories of some of the flamenco artists who were forced to leave their homes during this period, such as Pepa la Calzona, El Juani, El Coneja, Carmen la del Titi, and Tragapanes, showing that these individuals continued to mourn their separation from Triana long after they moved to the city's peripheries.¹⁴ The source that has perhaps gained most visibility in this debate is the documentary *Triana pura y pura*, by the filmmaker and music producer Ricardo Pachón.¹⁵ Since the 1980s, Pachón has made frequent media interventions about the recent history of Triana, including a television mini-series about flamenco that he directed for Spanish national television in 1984.¹⁶ As a consequence, his work has dominated the cultural outputs about the recent history of this area, with crucial impacts on the ways in which musicians, aficionados, and scholars have come to think about the impact of experiences of forced displacement on Seville's flamenco tradition.

While *Triana pura y pura* has received considerable national and international acclaim, critics have also pointed to important inaccuracies in Pachón's work.¹⁷ As the journalist and flamenco scholar Manuel Bohórquez notes, Pachón is incorrect in suggesting that all families were evicted from Triana against their will. In fact, many of them welcomed the prospect of moving to new apartments with better sanitary conditions.¹⁸ Similarly, scholars have noted that the corrales de vecinos in Triana were unhealthy and overcrowded spaces, and not the idealized artistic environments that some speakers in *Triana pura y pura* have referred to.¹⁹ Nevertheless, Pachón's work deserves credit for pointing to the important relations between the evictions that occurred in Triana and the wider modernization project that was initiated by Franco's dictatorial regime during the same period. Scholarship in areas such as urbanism, geography, and history has revealed that, in response to the dramatic flood of 1961 and similar natural disasters in other parts of the country, the Franco regime's new housing policies led to widespread speculation practices, as well as to the increased marginalization of Spain's underclasses.²⁰ Landlords in Triana, for instance, were able to take advantage of the Ley de Arrendamientos Urbanos (Law of Urban Lettings), dating from 1946, that allowed them to evict tenants from properties that were deemed uninhabitable without a need to offer a detailed justification or monetary compensation to such tenants. The liberalization of the construction sector during these years, moreover, spawned an

14 Ángel Vela Nieto, *Triana. La otra orilla del flamenco (1931–1970)* (Seville: Giralda, 2014), 69, 114–15; Jana Bokova, dir., *An Andalusian Journey: Gypsies and Flamenco*, BBC Arena, 1988, YouTube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueV11Zt6hGY&t=1009s. For brevity, in this article I will refer to all artists by using the nicknames by which they are commonly known in social and artistic contexts.

15 Ricardo Pachón, dir., *Triana pura y pura*, DVD, Universal Music Spain, Flamenco Vivo & La Zancoña, 2014.

16 Ricardo Pachón, dir., *El Ángel: Musical Flamenco*, DVD (6 vols.), Flamenco Vivo Records S.L., 2006. See especially the first and fifth episodes from the series.

17 *Triana pura y pura* took two prizes at film festivals in Barcelona (Inedit) and Seville (Imagenera), and it received a nomination for Best Long Form Music Video at the Latin Grammy Awards in 2014.

18 Manuel Bohórquez, 'La noche de los cristales rotos', *El Correo de Andalucía*, 7 April 2017.

19 Castillo Guerrero, 'Sevilla y El Tamarguillo', 56; Romero, 'Los poligoneros poligonales', 192–5.

20 Horacio Capel, *Capitalismo y morfología urbana en España* (Barcelona: Los libros de la frontera, 1983), 55–65.

overproduction of housing stock aimed at the middle classes, and therefore did not resolve the scarcity of accessible dwellings for excluded communities with limited economic means.²¹ Furthermore, while the unifamilial apartments in the polígonos were meant to facilitate genuine improvements for those communities, the sanitary and cultural facilities in these new locations were often substandard.²²

For these reasons, scholars have noted that the incorporation of families from Triana into a stock of newly built apartments was not only motivated by humanitarian concerns, but also by the dictatorship's interest in disciplining and domesticating what it considered to be 'nomadic' tendencies in society.²³ Justin Crumbaugh, commenting on Spain's tourism industry, explains how the dramatic expansion of this sector during the 1960s helped the Franco dictatorship reinvent an undemocratic model of governance under the umbrella of a discourse of modernization.²⁴ The relocation of the community from Triana to the polígonos can be understood as an equally ambivalent intervention, with which the regime strengthened its grip over marginalized areas of Spain's urban population by bringing their lifestyles more in line with the standards of a modern consumerist society. Departing from these intersections between local experiences of forced displacement and the wider social, economic, and political changes that occurred during the second half of the Franco dictatorship, I will here further investigate how this episode has shaped a series of flamenco dance performances from Seville.

Nostalgia, musical festivity, and memory

For the theoretical framework of my analysis, I will draw on Svetlana Boym's seminal work *The Future of Nostalgia*, which explores different types of nostalgia in a variety of urban settings, works of popular culture, and literature. Following Boym, nostalgia can be broadly defined as 'the mourning of displacement and temporal irreversibility'.²⁵ As she explains, displacement from a location (one's home) or a different time (for instance, one's childhood) leads the nostalgic subject to cling to an experience that is considered, and often actively constructed, as irrecoverable. The specific ways in which nostalgia establishes a relation with a lost object can nonetheless be varied. By means of systematizing its different varieties and tendencies, Boym has offered an influential distinction between a 'restorative' type of nostalgia, which aims to reconstruct a lost point of origin, such as a stable sense of homeland, and a 'reflective' form that points to more subtle and artistic ways of 'inhabiting many places at once and imagining different time zones'.²⁶ In that sense, nostalgia, like melancholia and other common tropes of memory, reflects a certain relation not only with the past, but also with the present. While restorative nostalgia understands the past as a point of origin that

21 Comité René Cassin, 'Las Tres Mil', 7–8.

22 Capel, *Capitalismo y morfología urbana en España*, 62; Castillo Guerrero, 'Sevilla y El Tamarguillo', 53, 56.

23 García Ruiz, 'La Virgencica'; Romero, 'Los poligoneros poligonales', 186–91.

24 Justin Crumbaugh, *Destination Dictatorship: The Spectacle of Spain's Tourism Boom and the Reinvention of Difference* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2009).

25 Svetlana Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia* (New York: Basic Books, 2001), xvi.

26 Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia*, xviii.

needs to be rescued to prevent a radical emptying of meaning of the present, reflective nostalgia, by contrast, sees the past as a field of potentialities that continues to pose ethical and creative challenges for the present and future. Accordingly, Boym suggests that the latter, reflective form of nostalgia can be thought of as a combination of apparently contradictory emotional states: one of ‘deep mourning’ and one of ‘play’.²⁷

This article will explore further how Boym’s theoretical discussion of nostalgia can be applied to festive and playful forms of musical performance. I argue that, in flamenco, a meaningful setting for the circulation of nostalgia is the festive musical gathering, or *fiesta*. Different flamenco scholars have conceptualized the *fiesta* as a forum for entertainment and distraction, as a framework that facilitates the ritual affirmation of social values, and as a setting that encourages subtle ways of questioning authority through derisive musical practices. Gerhard Steingress, for example, sees the *fiesta* as a transformative space that enables the active construction of social meaning and identity.²⁸ Similarly, Clara Chinoy, in a discussion of the specific meanings of flamenco for the Gitano community, observes that ‘a *fiesta* (party) is an assertion of tradition, memory and identity’.²⁹ Cristina Cruces Roldán, commenting on a series of festive flamenco practices from Seville, notes that the bodily vocabulary of rhythmic styles such as the tango and the bulería contains an array of subtle acts of provocation and mockery, which, in her view, help the participating artists perform an ‘enveloping communal ritual and symbolic communion’.³⁰ The dance historian K. Meira Goldberg, in her work on the silenced genealogies of Blackness in flamenco, has suggested along similar lines that there are a variety of meanings at play in the derisive gestures of the bulería, which hover between the mockery of privilege and the affirmation of a number of spiritual and social values.³¹ Both scholars, moreover, have pointed to the broader historical significance of the jocular varieties of bulerías and tangos originating in Triana, as these may well preserve, they suggest, the traces of fifteenth-century Afro-Iberian dances that have often lacked visibility, and even been actively repressed, in institutional and popular understandings of flamenco.³²

27 Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia*, 55.

28 Gerhard Steingress, ‘El caos creativo: fiesta y música como objetos de deconstrucción y hermenéutica profunda. Una propuesta sociológica’, *Andulí: Revista Andaluza de Ciencias Sociales* 6 (2006), 48–9.

29 Clara Chinoy, ‘Flamenco is Gitano: Reflections on the Expression of Gitano Identity in the Flamenco Fiesta’, in *Celebrating Flamenco’s Tangled Roots: The Body Questions*, ed. K. Meira Goldberg and Antoni Pizà (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2022), 322.

30 Cristina Cruces Roldán, ‘Normative Aesthetics and Cultural Constructions in Flamenco Dance. Female and Gitano Bodies as Legitimizers of Tradition’, in *Flamenco on the Global Stage: Historical, Critical and Theoretical Perspectives*, ed. K. Meira Goldberg, Ninotchka Bennahum, and Michelle Heffner Hayes (Jefferson, MI: McFarland, 2015), 220.

31 K. Meira Goldberg, ‘Sonidos Negros: On the Blackness of Flamenco’, *Dance Chronicle* 37/1 (2014), 102–4.

32 Goldberg, ‘Sonidos Negros’, 103. Goldberg has identified the explosive personal style of the acclaimed dancer Farruco, who came on stage at the end of *Triana pura y pura*, as a possible inheritor of a dance style that was already cultivated a century earlier by a performer of mixed race, namely, the flamenco dancer, bullfighter, and circus artist Jacinto Padilla. Following Goldberg’s argument, this similarity suggests that Blackness may, in fact, be at the heart of the dance style of Farruco and his family; and indeed, of the entire repertoire of dance practices from Triana. See Goldberg, *Sonidos Negros: On the Blackness of Flamenco*, 148. For similar remarks, see Cruces Roldán, ‘Normative Aesthetics and Cultural Constructions in Flamenco Dance’, 220.

While these scholars do distinguish between a variety of festive settings – acknowledging, for instance, that there are significant differences between a staged party and an informal family gathering³³ – I aim to offer an even more specific reading of the meanings that the flamenco fiesta acquires in specific material, social, and historical contexts. I contend that, in the aftermath of experiences of urban displacement that occurred in Seville during the Franco dictatorship, the festive gathering has become a musical framework that facilitates the circulation of nostalgic memories of a lost home and a partially idealized past. In other words, in performances of flamenco in post-Franco Spain, nostalgic longing and festive musical practice can be seen as mutually constitutive – a dialectic that I will call ‘nostalgic festivity’.

My understanding of the intersections between nostalgia and festivity in flamenco builds upon the work of scholar Paul Connerton, who has conceptualized the various ‘acts of transfer’ that enable the transmission of embodied memory. Connerton dedicates a key section of his landmark study *How Societies Remember* to the analysis of a variety of ‘commemorative ceremonies’.³⁴ As he states, ceremonies and rituals operate as mnemonic devices because they ‘explicitly refer to prototypical persons and events’.³⁵ Connerton’s study has inspired later work by performance scholars such as Joseph Roach, who has coined the concept of the ‘behavioral vortex’ to examine how embodied memory is channelled through specific physical and social contexts,³⁶ and Diana Taylor, who explores how the transmission of cultural memory occurs through a ‘repertoire’ of embodied practices.³⁷ In Taylor’s work, one specific framework for the transmission of embodied memory is what she dubs the ‘scenario’: a codified environment wherein individuals and communities can re-stage a past situation. Importantly, such scenarios are enacted but also re-enacted; they are a generative force that enables the circulation of memory in the present, but as part of an existing repertoire, they are also objects of commemoration.³⁸

In accordance with Connerton’s and Taylor’s terminology, I propose that the flamenco fiesta is one specific ‘commemorative ceremony’ or ‘scenario’ where forms of apparently spontaneous and improvised behaviour in the present acquire deeper meaning as acts of remembrance. Even if expressions of nostalgic festivity in flamenco are not always as rigorously coded as the commemorative events analysed by Connerton, the fiesta can still have a decidedly ‘backward-looking’ character.³⁹ Similar to Connerton’s concept, performances of nostalgic festivity in flamenco often build on localized dance vocabularies, as well as on a long-standing repertoire of popular lyrics containing romantic descriptions of Triana and other locations. However, even if nostalgia has been a stock sentiment in ways of navigating the city of Seville and its associated musical practices, then that does not preclude artists

33 Steingress, ‘El caos creativo’, 58.

34 Paul Connerton, *How Societies Remember* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), 7.

35 Connerton, *How Societies Remember*, 61.

36 Joseph Roach, *Cities of the Dead. Circum-Atlantic Performance* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996), 26, 86.

37 Diana Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003).

38 Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire*, 28–33.

39 Connerton, *How Societies Remember*, 45.

from attaching new memories to such pre-existing nostalgic enactments. As Richard Elliott notes about fado, depending on the specific context of a performance, the ‘seeming passivity and reversion to fate’ voiced through this music can turn into an act of ‘stubborn refusal’.⁴⁰ By highlighting the critical potentials of saudade, Elliott provides meaningful building blocks ‘to imagine a progressive, agency-oriented programme that deliberately and explicitly uses nostalgia at its base’.⁴¹

Elliott’s proposal finds an echo in the work of several scholars of popular culture in Francoist Spain, who have explored how music, film, and other cultural forms that circulated during the dictatorship could have become vehicles for the expression of memories and feelings that were not sanctioned by the state. For instance, Eva Woods Peiró observes that while Francoist musicals are often written off as ‘product[s] of Fascist ideology’, these films may also have mediated non-hegemonic senses of nostalgia for thousands of Spaniards who underwent experiences of loss and displacement during the Spanish Civil War and post-war years.⁴² Similarly, Stephanie Sieburth has explored how singing along to the songs of the famous *copla* singer Conchita Piquer may have served as a therapeutic practice for the vanquished of the civil war in the absence of other institutional or social structures where they could work through traumatic experiences of violence, fear, and persecution.⁴³ The work of these scholars provides important tools to examine how enactments of nostalgia for Triana in the flamenco repertoire may have had a very similar role in voicing an as-yet underexplored set of memories of forced displacement. While this article will analyse a series of festive gatherings that were staged in front of cameras and audiences, a careful reading of these sources will enable me to hypothesize how, in the aftermath of the 1960s, similar fiestas that were not captured on film may have been equally productive in helping artistic communities deal with the emotional aftermath of their hardships.

With this wider purpose in mind, my methodology is inspired not only by a consideration of the subtle critical meanings that can emerge from flamenco dance and song, but also by attention to the interactions between musical performances and their wider material, social, and institutional contexts. As Georgina Born and David Hesmondhalgh observe, to understand how producers and consumers of music establish and negotiate a variety of musical identifications, it is fruitful to consider not only the ‘microsociality’ of musical practices, but also the larger ‘discursive, ideological, social and generic forces’ that shape them.⁴⁴ In my analysis of three different performances of nostalgia for Triana, I will examine how the

40 Elliott, *Fado and the Place of Longing*, 64. On earlier pages, after giving an overview of the similarities and differences of saudade with related ‘grammars of nostalgia’ from other cultural traditions, Elliott asks pertinent questions about the extent to which, even within fado and Portuguese culture, saudade always has the same meaning (29–30).

41 Elliott, *Fado and the Place of Longing*, 75.

42 Eva Woods Peiró, *White Gypsies: Race and Stardom in Spanish Musical* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2012), 211, 218.

43 Stephanie Sieburth, *Survival Songs: Conchita Piquer’s Coplas and Franco’s Regime of Terror* (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2014).

44 Georgina Born and David Hesmondhalgh, ‘Introduction: On Difference, Representation, and Appropriation in Music’, in *Western Music and Its Others: Difference, Representation, and Appropriation in Music*, ed. Georgina Born and David Hesmondhalgh (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2000), 33.

meanings and potentials of embodied musical practices are mediated by such wider discursive and institutional factors.

Triana pura y pura

Nostalgia and finality (an empty present)

On 23 February 1983, the prestigious Teatro Lope de Vega in Seville opened its doors to a group of displaced artists from Triana for a festive performance of flamenco, entitled *Triana pura y pura*. The initiative to reunite the disintegrated community was taken by Gloria Moreno Filigrana, member of a prominent local Gitano family, with support from the flamenco producer Ricardo Pachón. In the eponymous film about the performance, released three decades later, it is also Pachón who provides a historical and narrative framework for the original event. According to Pedro G. Romero, Pachón's film presents a melancholic narrative about 'la Triana perdida' ('a lost Triana') that bypasses the multi-ethnic realities not only of life in Seville's polígonos, but also of flamenco itself.⁴⁵ On the other hand, Romero acknowledges Pachón as a crucial contributor to flamenco in the post-Franco era, due to his production work for a series of albums that went on to achieve revolutionary status, such as *Nuevo día* (1975) by the flamenco duo Lole y Manuel and the fusion album *La leyenda del tiempo* (1979) by one of the most iconic flamenco singers of all time, Camarón.

Here, it is not my intention to evaluate the credibility of the narrative presented in *Triana pura y pura*, but rather to further examine a variety of contrasting expressions of nostalgia in the film. Given Pachón's complex profile as a member of progressive countercultures that imagined new directions for flamenco in post-Franco Spain, as well as a disputed spokesperson for Gitanos and their role in shaping flamenco in Seville, I find it instructive to situate his work within a wider constellation of institutionalized forms of nostalgia in flamenco. Doing so will allow me to rethink *Triana pura y pura* as a complex multi-media project spanning several decades, in which a clear distinction should be made between, on the one hand, Pachón's retrospective idealization of the artistic practices of an elderly generation of flamenco dancers and musicians and, on the other, the role that those same artistic practices may have for the community in performing memories of urban displacement.

In the film version of *Triana pura y pura*, Pachón explains that the main purpose of the 1983 performance was to provide the displaced community from Triana with one last opportunity to salute their old neighbourhood, as it was very unlikely, notes Pachón, that they would have a chance to meet again after this ceremonial reunion. Accordingly, the film labels the concert as 'La última gran fiesta de Triana' ('The last great celebration of Triana'). In another interview included in the film, the acclaimed flamenco dancer and teacher Matilde Coral, who is from Triana but did not leave the area in the 1960s,⁴⁶ shares in this mournful discourse when stating that with the forced displacement of other members of her

⁴⁵ Romero, 'Los poligoneros poligonales', 192–5.

⁴⁶ Vela Nieto, *Triana*, 183.

community, ‘se perdió una historia viva de Triana. Viva, viva, que no ha resucitado, que no ha resucitado’ (‘a living history was lost in Triana. A living history that hasn’t come back’).⁴⁷

In retrospect, it is true that no full-scale repetition of the festive event in the Teatro Lope de Vega has occurred. The large number of performers present on stage and the excellent atmosphere in the audience⁴⁸ made the occasion stand out from later performances by these and other flamenco artists that continued to operate under different varieties of the name Triana Pura y Pura.⁴⁹ For instance, in the first episode from the documentary series *El Ángel*, filmed by Ricardo Pachón in the early months of 1984, a much smaller group of displaced artists can be seen performing in the patio of Seville’s monumental medieval palace, the Real Alcázar. Strikingly, despite the absence of several prominent artists who did participate in the earlier show, the narrator of the television episode states that the performers are there to provide the viewers with ‘la última lección magistral de cómo se bailaba en Triana’ (‘the last master class of how people used to dance in Triana’). This example illustrates that the emphasis on the finality of the community’s way of practising flamenco already was a relevant motive in Pachón’s earlier audiovisual outputs. In 1985, moreover, some of the displaced performers from Triana went on to form the flamenco group Los últimos de la fiesta (‘The last at the party’), a name that, while not invented by Pachón, encapsulates the connection between festivity and finality even more clearly.⁵⁰

On one level, this insistence on finality can be considered as an expression of respect for the inevitably finite lives of a group of displaced artists and the musical knowledge that they embody. More broadly, this concept reflects a wider current in post-Franco society. As the film scholar Rob Stone notes with reference to Carlos Saura’s 1985 film *El amor brujo*, which contains a short flamenco performance by a group of elderly Gitano dancers from Granada, by the mid-1980s, flamenco ‘was commonly perceived as a quaint style of folkdance or, at worst, a reductive legacy of an embarrassing past’.⁵¹ Accordingly, Stone argues that *El amor brujo* marks the irreversible demise of a series of traditional flamenco practices, which were considered as undesirable tokens of backwardness by audiences that, at the time, felt

47 All translations from the Spanish are mine.

48 Prominent flamenco artists such as Carmelilla Monotoya, Bobote, El Eléctrico, and the famous dancer Farruco were present in the audience that day. Some of them came on stage at the end of the show and took the energy to an even higher level.

49 On 17 June 1983, as part of a flamenco festival organized in the Betis football stadium in Seville, artists such as Manuela Carrasco, Pepa Montes, and José Cortés protagonized a performance entitled *Triana pura, pura, pura. Baile y cantes*. Later that year, on 2 December, another performance was staged under the name *Triana pura y pura. Fiesta de Arte y Compás Gitano*. In subsequent years, other musicians from Seville created the band Triana Pura, which became highly successful and scored a hit with their song ‘El probe Migué’. The group consisted, among others, of the singer Esperanza la del Maera and the guitarist Antonio Moya, both of whom were not present at the 1983 performance in the Teatro Lope de Vega.

50 The project was directed by the flamenco scholar José Luis Ortiz Nuevo and consisted of a number of veteran singers and dancers from Granada, Seville, and other Andalusian cities. It led to a recording and a concert tour across Spain. See Curro Albaicín, *Zambras de Granada y flamencos del Sacromonte. Una historia flamenca en Granada* (Córdoba: Almuzara, 2011), 117.

51 Rob Stone, ‘Breaking the Spell: Carlos Saura’s *El amor brujo* and *el desencanto*’, *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 80/5 (2003), 573.

much more in tune with new manifestations of flamenco pop, known as *nuevo flamenco*. From this perspective, the suggestion in Pachón's filmic work that traditional flamenco practices from Triana would soon be unavailable could be seen as a nostalgic response to a generalized appetite for innovation in Spanish society.

The nostalgic framework of *Triana pura y pura* also has similarities with earlier discourses about the dynamics between tradition and innovation in flamenco. Specifically, between the 1950s and 1980s, flamenco culture was dominated by the written and artistic outputs of the 'revaluation' movement, which set out to safeguard the most profound and serious styles of flamenco song from their seemingly imminent demise. Protagonized by the Gitano singer Antonio Mairena (1909–83), this movement reinvigorated older preoccupations about the decline of the art form that had already motivated, for instance, the organization of the famous Concurso de Cante Jondo ('Deep Song Contest') in Granada in 1922 by the classical composer Manuel de Falla and the poet Federico García Lorca.⁵² In the context of the 1950s, the alleged loss of purity in flamenco was attributed, on the one hand, to the success of the flamenco operas popularized by singers such as Pepe Marchena, and on the other, to the propagandistic uses that flamenco and other aspects of Andalusian folklore had been subjected to by the Franco regime. As Francisco Aix Gracia notes, as the revaluation movement sought to counter the harmful impacts of co-optation and commercialization, it did so based on an understanding that, essentially, flamenco had already reached a state of completion.⁵³ The role of contemporary performers, then, was not to make further creative contributions to flamenco, but rather to effectively preserve a repertoire of existing artistic practices from the past.

While the revaluation movement, and Mairena's work in particular, has often been criticized for its oppressive and taxonomic focus on the fixity of existing flamenco styles, from a different perspective, critics have observed that Mairena displayed a strong fatefulness to the historical and ethnic underpinnings of the artistry of his forebearers.⁵⁴ In a similar vein, it can be argued that *Triana pura y pura* also vindicates a community of stigmatized outsiders of Francoist Spain. Crucially, it does so not only by resisting previous folkloric depictions of flamenco, but also by complicating the 'whitened' romantic fictions that circulated about the Gitano community during the dictatorship.⁵⁵

Nevertheless, what *Triana pura y pura* shares with earlier initiatives to save traditional flamenco is a distinct temporal logic, wherein present manifestations of this music are cordoned off from an allegedly purer past. Boym's concept of 'restorative' nostalgia proves useful here. She observes that this variety tends to manifest itself as a narrative about the recovery of lost

52 See, among other critics, Samuel Llano, *Discordant Notes: Marginality and Social Control in Madrid, 1850–1930* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 78–97; Lou Charnon-Deutsch, *The Spanish Gypsy: The History of a Spanish Obsession* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), 206–10; Timothy Mitchell, *Flamenco Deep Song* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1994), 160–77.

53 Francisco Aix Gracia, *Flamenco y poder: un estudio desde la sociología del arte* (Madrid: Fundación SGAE, 2014), 136–49, 298.

54 Aix Gracia, *Flamenco y poder*, 140; Peter Manuel, 'Composition, Authorship, and Ownership in Flamenco, Past and Present', *Ethnomusicology* 54/1 (2010), 114.

55 Woods Peiró, *White Gypsies*, 185–222; Charnon-Deutsch, *The Spanish Gypsy*, 208–10.

origins: as a story about the past that seeks to restore and protect an absolute sense of truth and tradition.⁵⁶ Similarly, both *Triana pura y pura* and earlier discourses on flamenco reflect a certain neglect for the ways in which present-day forms of creativity can give continuity to the art form. As Aix Gracia notes, one of the paradoxical operations of the revaluation movement was its tendency to disguise all types of creativity in flamenco performance with a rhetoric of preservationism.⁵⁷ It is, indeed, ironic, notes Peter Manuel, that Antonio Mairena, in his attempt to safeguard earlier varieties in the flamenco song repertoire, ended up giving a final shape to song styles that existed in much looser varieties before his interventions.⁵⁸

The complex questions over creativity and ownership that were already present in Mairena's artistic project are even more poignant in the case of Pachón, who, unlike Mairena, is not part of the artistic community that his work is dedicated to. Thus, as a rather detached spokesperson for the flamenco tradition in Triana, his discourse of fixity and finality raises wider questions over representation and self-representation. As the performance scholar Joseph Roach has discussed in a different context, numerous Anglo-white authors in the nineteenth century repeatedly staged the figure of the 'vanishing Indian' in their novels and plays, thereby depriving Native American communities of the ability to negotiate the legacies of historical violence in the present: 'The violence of this narration reinscribes the violence of laws such as those mandating Indian removal: the Native American disappears, at the stroke of the white man's pen, and only the aesthetic Indian remains behind, in memory, in representation, in effigy, and (very often) in fact'.⁵⁹ A crucial point from Roach's discussion is that such 'the last of' stories⁶⁰ create a mythicized representation of communities that have been subjected to systemic violence, while overlooking the latter's strategies of creative adaptation to the present. Similarly, the narrative framework of *Triana pura y pura*, as progressively constructed in a series of interviews with Pachón in the same film, fails to consider how the displaced community from Triana may have found creative means to negotiate their collective losses through flamenco.

An interview with the dancer Matilde Coral, also included in *Triana pura y pura*, illustrates how finality emerges from the film not only as a discursive concept, but also as a type of embodied practice. Throughout the film, Coral, Pachón, and other speakers comment passionately on the remarkable dance techniques that were used by some of the protagonists of the 1983 performance, such as the distinctive steps of El Pati, who grabs the collar of his own suit when marching off-stage in the last steps of the bulería, or the idiosyncratic backward jumps performed in the tangos by the artist El Herejía. Coral speaks in a particularly emotive tone about the dancer Carmen la del Titi, the daughter of a man known to be the creator of the local variety of tangos. Zooming in on one moment from the show where Carmen la del Titi shakes her shoulders as she walks backward to finish her steps and bring closure to the 12-beat bar of the bulería – a concept known in flamenco dance as *recogerse* – Coral explains that she

56 Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia*, xviii.

57 Aix Gracia, *Flamenco y poder*, 139.

58 Manuel, 'Composition, Authorship, and Ownership', 112–13.

59 Roach, *Cities of the Dead*, 189.

60 Roach, *Cities of the Dead*, 188.

has observed and studied this movement intensively – even obsessively: ‘me he dejado la retina en eso’ (comparable to a memory being progressively ‘seared into one’s brain’). However, Coral adds that she does not want to perform these movements, out of a fear to soil or ruin them. Nonetheless, she concludes, such movements represent an invaluable legacy from an era that ended when Carmen la del Titi and other artists had to leave their old neighbourhood.⁶¹

Coral’s words indicate that there are elements from this humorous and playful dance vocabulary that she, for complex reasons, has not dared to reproduce in her own practices of flamenco. It appears that this vocabulary is deeply alive in Coral’s mind, even if it remains untouched by her body. Perhaps, precisely by not performing such movements, Coral seeks to maintain a strong emotional attachment to this tradition. Her testimony illustrates Jane Desmond’s assertion that movement styles are important social texts that signal ‘group filiation and group differences, whether consciously performed or not’.⁶² Desmond asserts that dance is a combination of embodied practices and wider attitudes towards the body that determine to what extent certain movements are morally and aesthetically acceptable. From this viewpoint, notes Desmond, it is as relevant to study those bodies that do dance as it is to ask: ‘who does not dance, in what ways, under what conditions and why? Why are some dances, some ways of moving the body, considered forbidden for members of certain social classes, “races”, sexes?’⁶³

These questions resonate with Matilde Coral’s decision not to perform the dance movements of Carmen la del Titi. While Coral has observed and studied them with great attention, she also obeys to an imperative that makes such movements forever inaccessible to her – and perhaps as well to the numerous other students and performers that she, as a major representative of a local school of flamenco dance, known as the Escuela Sevillana, has mentored. The fact that Coral herself did not leave Triana further indicates how this nostalgic framework, which makes her imagine some of the artistic practices from that neighbourhood as forbidden or otherwise inaccessible, operates with relative independence from her ongoing physical proximity to the area. This, then, is one illustration of how nostalgia for the spontaneous and everyday festivity of Triana has had consequences for the continuity of specific elements in the flamenco repertoire, which are here invested with a sense of finality that appears to make them inapt for transmission in the present – even, or perhaps especially, by those who comprehend and cherish them.

Nostalgia, festivity, and commemorative practices (a resonant present)

While I have started my reading of *Triana pura y pura* with an analysis of the interviews in the film, this section will take a closer look at the footage of the artistic performance on which Pachón’s work is based. The original show and related dance performances registered in other audiovisual sources from the same period provide evidence of how nostalgia manifested

61 Pachón, *Triana pura y pura*.

62 Jane Desmond, ‘Embodying Difference: Issues in Dance and Cultural Studies’, *Cultural Critique* 26 (1993–4), 36.

63 Desmond, ‘Embodying Difference’, 37.

itself ‘reflectively’ (Boym) in flamenco dance, that is, by engaging in playful ways with memories of the past.

Before illustrating this claim, a comment on the overall structure and scenery of the 1983 performance is in order. The show did not have a clear narrative framework and was mostly a succession of short and informal performances of two key festive styles: the bulerías and tangos.⁶⁴ The prominence of these two flamenco styles seems justified by the fact that locals consider them as typical dances from Triana, even if other important varieties and identitarian claims about their origins do exist in other parts of Andalusia.⁶⁵ The playful interactions between different artists throughout the show led to a number of humorous moments and subsequent outbursts of applause and *jaleos*, the ‘rhythmic-oral declamations’⁶⁶ with which members of the audience support the musicians on stage in performing musical explosions and conclusions (*remates*).⁶⁷ A solo performance of a tango by the dancer Pepa la Calzona, who is blind, aptly illustrates this vibrant communitarian atmosphere. Although Pepa la Calzona dances alone, certain movements of her hands and hips suggest that she is in fact mocking a crowd of invisible masculine admirers. A particularly comical moment arises when another artist, Manuel el Titi, approaches her to bring her to the centre of the stage. That invitation becomes unnecessary, however, when the dancer gets up by herself, daringly waving her skirt and stamping her feet, even if she appears to be unaware of the proximity of her male counterpart. This leads to laughter and applause from the other attendants, who are clearly delighted by this exquisite illustration of how the derisive dance movements of the bulería project rich comical meanings, with relative independence from the here-and-now interaction between two physical bodies.

In an article that briefly dwells on the figure of Pepa la Calzona, K. Meira Goldberg employs a critical vocabulary inspired by the field of Black performance studies – whose ‘terminologies and theoretical constructs’, she notes, can be applied productively to flamenco – to examine two interrelated aspects of the flamenco fiesta: its role in the affirmation of a sense of community, and its derisive humour.⁶⁸ In this context, Goldberg examines a scene from Ricardo Pachón’s television series *El Ángel*, during which Pepa la Calzona performed in the patio of Seville’s Real Alcázar, in the company of her son and other members of the displaced community from Triana. Goldberg argues that the interaction of this elderly dancer with other members of her community activates various positive energies, such as joy, *duende*, and sacredness.⁶⁹ While this staged performance by Pepa la Calzona certainly occurs in a convivial atmosphere, I would add that it should also be considered against the backdrop of these artists’ experiences of forced displacement. As I have indicated, in the 1980s, the decade in which both *Triana pura y pura* and *El Ángel* were recorded, the social and artistic bonds

64 The only non-festive flamenco styles were performed by one singer, Tragapanes. He began with two *a capella* styles, a *martinete* and a *toná*, and ended with a *siguiriya*, accompanied on guitar by Manuel Molina.

65 Vela Nieto, *Triana*, 114.

66 I borrow this term from Samuel A. Floyd quoted in Mark Abel, *Groove: An Aesthetic of Measured Time* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), 65.

67 Van Tongeren, ‘Distinctive Culture’, 184.

68 Goldberg, ‘Sonidos Negros’, 102–4.

69 Goldberg, ‘Sonidos Negros’, 103.

of Triana's community had deteriorated considerably. The material outlook of both performances, however, evokes an atmosphere that appears to be unharmed by those historical developments. As Diana Taylor notes, for the successful invocation of the past during an embodied performance, it is crucial that participants also recreate an associated physical location.⁷⁰ Indeed, the patio of the Real Alcázar where *El Ángel* was filmed evokes a monumental atmosphere largely unaffected by more recent urban developments under Franco's dictatorial rule. During the performance of *Triana pura y pura* the previous year, a similar, yet arguably rather simplistic, attempt was made to conjure up an idealized past through a series of props, such as a group of potted plants on stage and embroidered shawls (*mantones*) hanging on the wall. These components are all reminiscent of the patios in Triana's multi-family homes that, in the 1980s, had become inaccessible to these artists.

Pepa la Calzona's interventions in *Triana pura y pura* and *El Ángel*, then, should be seen not only as 'statements of pleasure', to borrow Thomas DeFrantz's terminology that has also inspired Goldberg's analysis,⁷¹ but also as performances of 'reflective' nostalgia. Without subduing the 'honesty and eloquence'⁷² that these performances may convey, I would argue that their eloquence is enhanced, precisely, by the dynamic between joy and nostalgia that underpins them. In her work on the copla genre, Stephanie Sieburth has suggested that singing along to the songs of the popular singer Conchita Piquer may have had therapeutic value for the vanquished of the Civil War during the repressive climate of post-war Spain. Along similar lines, I contend that collective gatherings such as *Triana pura y pura* and *El Ángel*, where the same festive styles were performed over and over again, may have given Pepa la Calzona and other displaced artists some comfort in remembering their collective losses. Similar to Sieburth's interpretation of copla, I suggest that the pleasure of embodying the same flamenco styles and rhythms during such ceremonial gatherings may have operated for them as a compensatory mechanism in the absence of more quotidian environments where they could share and cultivate their musical practices.⁷³

To adduce further examples that support this interpretation, I wish to briefly turn to a section from Jana Bokova's documentary film *An Andalusian Journey*. Through a series of interviews with Carmen la del Titi, Tragapanes, and other artists that also performed as part of Ricardo Pachón's projects in earlier years, Bokova's film illustrates how these artists were unable to adapt to their new neighbourhoods, even several decades after their displacement from Triana. In one sequence, some of them are shown performing on the patio of a historic flamenco bar formerly located in the heart of Triana, named El Morapio.⁷⁴ As noted by the

70 Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire*, 29.

71 Thomas DeFrantz, 'The Black Beat Made Visible: Hip Hop Dance and Body Power', in *On the Presence of the Body. Essays on Dance and Performance Theory*, ed. André Lepecki (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2004, 79–80.

72 DeFrantz quoted in Goldberg, 'Sonidos Negros', 108.

73 Sieburth, *Survival Songs*, 7.

74 This venue existed between 1959 and 1989 and was formerly located in Calle Pelay Correa in Triana. It was the setting for a performance of tangos by Pepa la Calzona and Manuel el Titi in an episode from the acclaimed documentary series *Rito y geografía del cante*, aired on Spanish television between 1971 and 1973.

flamenco scholar José Luis Ortiz Nuevo, who operates as a spokesperson for the community in Bokova's film, former neighbours from Triana would gather on an annual basis at this location during Seville's famous Holy Week celebrations to stage a ceremonial commemoration of their past lives in Triana. Bokova captures a moment from one of these gatherings where the guitarist and singer Manuel Molina performs a *bulería*. His song invokes the perspective of a mournful subject who has been told to stay away from Triana: 'Lo que tú quieras / Di lo que a ti te dé la gana / Pero por Dios no me digas que no vaya por Triana' ('Whatever you want / Say whatever you want / But, for God's sake, don't tell me not to go to Triana').⁷⁵ Importantly, these lyrics are heard while we see images of the singer Tragapanes walking away from Triana. Moments later, Tragapanes explains that he is profoundly unhappy in his current home in the peripheral zone of Torreblanca and would sacrifice a limb to be able to return to his former neighbourhood. Thus, through a combination of music, dialogue, and image, Molina's song emerges from the sequence as a forceful musical testimony of experiences of forced displacement.

The lyrics of Molina's performance are reminiscent of other references in the flamenco repertoire to historical experiences of prohibition and persecution in the streets of Triana – which are particularly common in local varieties of deep song styles such as the *tonás* and *martinetes*. Owing to the compact character of flamenco poetry, such lyrics have the potential to invoke a variety of sentiments in those who sing and listen to them. Perhaps, the unidentified addressee in Molina's lyrics is a lover, whose roots do not lie in Triana and who therefore does not understand why the lyrical subject has a strong emotional attachment to the area. On a deeper level, however, since Molina performs this song during a ceremonial reunion at El Morapio, surrounded by older and younger members of the dislocated community from Triana, the lyrics may have allowed these participants to engage in a process of what Stephanie Sieburth calls 'projective identification',⁷⁶ whereby the adoption of a partially fictional role becomes a mechanism for artists and listeners to channel their own historical sentiments of prohibition, of expulsion by force – the feeling of being separated from Triana after having received orders from an unidentified Other that their presence in the area is somehow illicit and untimely. Crucially, the *bulería* is a decidedly festive style, often littered with satirical gestures from the dancers, as well as with ironic forms of understatement and disguise as a singer addresses themes such as longing, jealousy, and betrayal.⁷⁷ Thus, if Molina's performance of a *bulería* did function as a coping mechanism, it did so precisely by forging a space where painful memories could be kept at an ironic distance. Based on this significant moment in Bokova's film, not only the movements of these individuals through urban space, from the peripheries of Seville towards a now disappeared bar in Triana, but also the songs that they would sing there can be thought of as performances of reflective nostalgia, used by the artists to commemorate a painful past and negotiate feelings of displacement and isolation in the present.

⁷⁵ Bokova, *An Andalusian Journey*.

⁷⁶ Sieburth, *Survival Songs*, 40.

⁷⁷ Goldberg, 'Sonidos Negros', 103.

Nostalgia for Triana in contemporary flamenco dance

Pastora Galván, 'Homenaje a Triana Pura'

The siblings Pastora Galván and Israel Galván are two contemporary flamenco dancers from Seville, born respectively in 1980 and 1973, who have engaged in unique ways with a wider repertoire of nostalgic invocations of Triana. The style of the former dancer is often described as more traditional, whereas the latter's work is widely known as daringly experimental. In 2007, however, Pastora Galván released a dance production that was choreographed by her brother under the title *La Francesa*. This performance unravels the Carmen myth, based on Prosper Mérimée's 1845 novella that was subsequently converted into an opera by Georges Bizet, and other common stereotypes of the sensual female flamenco body that have determined representations of Spanish identity.⁷⁸ The fact that these dancers have operated as a 'brother-and-sister team'⁷⁹ for this production suggests that, despite their very different performance styles, there may be unexpected affinities between their ways of engaging critically with pre-existing imaginaries about flamenco.

In recent years, Pastora Galván has staged several danced tributes to the generation of artists displaced from Triana during the Franco dictatorship: first, in her solo show *Pastora*, which premiered at the Bienal de Flamenco in Seville in September 2010; and later that year, in her 'Homenaje a Triana Pura' ('Homage to Triana Pura'), performed during a televised gala on Andalusia's regional channel Canal Sur, to support the candidacy of flamenco for UNESCO's list of Intangible World Heritage. More recently, Galván has collaborated with a group of local producers and artists, in association with Seville's city council and other institutions, as part of a project called Zona Flamenca. Through a series of concerts and other cultural initiatives, this project aims to recover the memories of the displaced communities who lived in marginal areas of the city, to combat racism against the Gitanos community, and to stimulate their inclusion in the city's sociocultural infrastructure.⁸⁰ In April 2022, as part of Zona Flamenca, Galván re-staged her previous tributes to Triana in the neighbourhood of Madre de Dios, where the dancer Carmen la del Titi was relocated after her displacement from Triana.

Galván's danced homages to Triana are largely based on the audiovisual material from the 1983 performance of *Triana pura y pura* that I analysed in an earlier section. Interestingly, Galván approached that footage not so much as a memorial to the demise of a displaced community and its associated artistic practices, but rather as a helpful source to revitalize this unique collection of dance styles. When explaining the preparatory work for this project to me, Galván observed that, after several detailed viewings of the material (not yet released then as a documentary), she selected the most significant elements and adopted them for her own production. When doing so, she paid particular attention to Carmen la del Titi,

78 Michelle Heffner Hayes, "'Somos Anti-Guapas' – Against Beauty in Contemporary Flamenco', in *Flamenco: Conflicting Histories of the Dance*, ed. Michelle Heffner Hayes (Jefferson, MI: McFarland, 2009), 173–8.

79 Heffner Hayes, "'Somos Anti-Guapas'", 175.

80 A description of the project can be found on the website of Zona Flamenca. www.zonaflamenca.org. Also see Antonio Moreno and Miguel Ángel Vargas, 'Viaje al centro flamenco de las periferias hispalenses', *CTXT*, 7 April 2022, <https://ctxt.es/es/20220401/Culturas/39335/zonas-flamencas-sevilla-chocolate-pepa-la-calzona.htm>.

whose movements, in Galván's view, were among the richest of all the dances that were performed during the show.⁸¹

Galván's televised performance of 'Homenaje a Triana Pura' is a festive bulería, in which the musicians recreate the joyful atmosphere from *Triana pura y pura* through a combination of dance, song, and musical accompaniment.⁸² In it, Galván wears a dress with colourful patches that is reminiscent of the dresses worn by the elderly community from Triana. Furthermore, the distribution of artistic roles in Galván's performance emphasizes the importance of communitarian festivity, given that, apart from the singer José Valencia, Galván's two other musicians, the guitarist Ramón Amador and the acclaimed *palmero* (clapper) Bobote, also take turns in singing. Throughout the piece, Galván's body conjures up different protagonists of *Triana pura y pura* by making a series of direct citations from their playful dance movements. At one point, she kicks off her shoes and stamps her feet sideways while wiggling her hips – movements that are all clearly inspired by Carmen la del Titi. Another rhythmic break, prepared by an upward movement of the dancer's arm, reproduces an exact moment from *Triana pura y pura* where another dancer, Pastora la del Pati, brings closure to the 12-beat bar of the bulería rhythm in the same way. Towards the end of the piece, Galván performs several instances of more explosive legwork, such as a series of forward kicks and daring jumps that remember the style of Manuel el Titi and other dancers who participated in *Triana pura y pura*. On those occasions, the dance practices cultivated by a previous generation of artists appear to burst through the surface of Galván's own movements. To borrow Ruth Hellier-Tinoco's terminology, Galván's body here acquires an almost 'palimpsestic' quality as she restores a sense of 'poetic presence' for these artists through her own way of practising flamenco dance.⁸³

Apart from Galván's dancing body, there are several other musical components with strong historical resonances in the piece. One significant moment occurs halfway through the performance, when the artists pause the rhythm. This interruption is introduced by Galván herself, who ends the first half of her dance by moving towards the performers and leaning down on the table. Subsequently, the singer José Valencia intones the word 'Triana' with great dramatic emphasis. While singing the name of this iconic neighbourhood, Valencia modulates briefly into a minor scale before returning to the original Phrygian harmony of the bulería. The rhythm is then picked up and pulsed forward by the guitarist and palmeros. Through this subtle yet significant interruption of the original harmony, the artists appear to facilitate the entry into a new affective state, where the general joy of the fiesta from the earlier section starts intermingling with other emotions that are directed towards the past. To borrow Taylor's terminology, the fiesta here becomes a more explicit nostalgic 'scenario' that conjures up memories of Triana in a bygone era.

81 Personal communication, 5 April 2022.

82 Pastora Galván, 'Homenaje a Triana Pura', 15 May 2015, *YouTube*, www.youtube.com/watch?v=InmNU65LhMA.

83 Ruth Hellier-Tinoco, *Performing Palimpsest Bodies: Postmemory Theatre Experiments in Mexico* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019), 4.

Another noteworthy musical component is the relative slowness with which the artists perform the tempo of the bulería. As highlighted in an earlier section, different local varieties and claims of ownership over the bulería exist across Andalusia; yet practices of this style in Triana tend to be relatively unrushed. In the film *Triana pura y pura*, Ricardo Pachón recites a line from the lyricist Carlos Lencero that praises how the bulería is normally performed in Triana, in strong opposition to faster varieties that exist elsewhere in Andalusia: ‘Tan rápido en Jerez que yo no pude, tan lento en Triana, borrachito en Utrera me entraron ganas’ (‘So quick in Jerez that I couldn’t keep up / yet so slow in Triana / when I got to Utrera drunk I got in the mood’).⁸⁴ As such, Lencero’s line captures the way in which varieties of tempo and rhythm bear wider cultural significance. As the musicologist Mark Abel observes, rhythm is often understood as a factor of ethnic and cultural belonging. However, contrary to the view that rhythmic skill affirms a pre-existing cultural essence, Abel argues that rhythmic playing can also manifest itself as an ‘active, conscious process of identification’ with cultural identities that are socially and artistically mediated.⁸⁵ For Galván’s performance, I would argue along similar lines that the slowness of the bulería is not the outcome of these artists’ pre-existing identitarian bonds with Triana, but rather a moment that reflects a wider cultural imaginary about the slower pace of music, and life, in the neighbourhood. The artists, I contend, engage with this imaginary through music, to construct a shared nostalgic relation with the area.

Thus far, I have indicated how Galván’s ‘Homenaje a Triana Pura’ performs nostalgia on the level of micro-musical practice. How, then, may this performance have facilitated the circulation of a specific set of memories of forced displacement, both for the participating artists and for their audiences? Except for the palmero Bobote, neither Galván nor her other musicians have direct experiences of forced displacement from Triana.⁸⁶ Nevertheless, many of them will have indirect relations with that episode, either due to their family ties or through other affiliative bonds with those who did experience the events first-hand. Galván’s tribute to a displaced group of artists can be a mechanism, I propose, for these artists to strengthen that sense of belonging, solidarity, and respect for elderly members of their community. The effectiveness of this mechanism will, however, depend on the specific contexts in which this piece is staged.

As I have previously highlighted, Galván’s has brought her ‘Homenaje a Triana Pura’ to a variety of institutional settings. As we have seen, one version of the piece was broadcast during a televised gala in 2010 to support the declaration of flamenco as Immaterial World Heritage by UNESCO that same year. Given this institutional context, it seems plausible that Galván was asked to showcase her personal relation with flamenco by emphasizing, precisely, her strong respect for traditional artistic forms. Indeed, the title of Galván’s performance uses the word *homenaje* (homage), a discursive device that is commonly employed in the flamenco industry to acknowledge respect towards the past, as illustrated by the numerous homages that

84 Pachón, *Triana pura y pura*.

85 Abel, *Groove*, 77.

86 Romero (‘Los poligoneros poligonales’, 183–4) describes the trajectory of Bobote’s family across the city of Seville after their displacement from Triana.

can be found on flamenco albums and in festivals and other settings.⁸⁷ From a more critical perspective, the frequent institutional framings of flamenco as ‘heritage’ have led to a critical debate about the ways in which past expressions of flamenco should inform present-day manifestations of the art form. In a critical analysis of the heritage discourses that are used to promote flamenco at various institutional levels, such as by Andalusia’s regional government (Junta de Andalucía), the European Union, and UNESCO, José Luis Venegas argues that such institutions often fail to interrogate the specific conditions under which Andalusians and Spaniards are able to experience flamenco as a meaningful type of inheritance; that is to say, a cultural repertoire that does not only reaffirm existing notions of identity, but can also stimulate the construction of new cultural and political meanings. The institutional focus on cultural heritage as a stable entity, argues Venegas, has deprived flamenco of that vitality, almost converting it into ‘the echo of a forgotten language’.⁸⁸ As Venegas argues, such heritage discourses are pushing Andalusians, and Spaniards, to ‘take a back seat and simply “inherit” or “recognize” their identity rather than actively create it’.⁸⁹

Galván’s ‘Homenaje a Triana Pura’, when viewed against this institutional backdrop, would appear to be yet another enactment of a rather unreflective type of nostalgia that buttresses stable, and arguably problematic, notions of ‘tradition’ or ‘heritage’. However, Galván’s recent contribution to the project *Zona Flamenca* suggests that her work is not limited to the reaffirmation of such institutional discourses. Here, in front of audiences in Seville’s peripheries, Galván’s tribute to Carmen la del Titi and associated artists from Triana reflects the potentials of flamenco to also help construct alternative memories of Spain’s recent past. By staging her tribute to the artistic legacy of Carmen la del Titi in the context of *Zona Flamenca*, Galván has helped convert the former artist into a recognizable pillar for the community from Madre de Dios and other marginal parts of Seville. In this specific context, Galván’s performance of nostalgia can be seen as a contribution to struggles for the recognition of memories of dictatorial violence in Spain, as well as to the struggle against ongoing forms of marginalization of the country’s Gitano community and urban underclasses.⁹⁰

Israel Galván, *Lo Real*

The repression of Andalusian underclasses, and specifically Gitanos, is also a key concern in Israel Galván’s *Lo Real*. This international co-production, which premiered in Madrid’s

87 Aix Gracia, *Flamenco y poder*, 301; Carlos Van Tongeren, ‘Genealogía y memoria en el cante de Enrique Morente’, in *Estamos vivos de milagro: 10 años después de Morente*, ed. Pedro Ordóñez Eslava (Granada: Editorial Universidad de Granada, 2022), 58.

88 José Luis Venegas, ‘Populism without the People: The Cultural Politics of the Junta de Andalucía’, *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies* 21 (2017), 222.

89 Venegas, ‘Populism without the People’, 223. For a further discussion of the ways in which heritage discourses are negotiated in flamenco, see Matthew Machin-Autenrieth, *Flamenco, Regionalism and Musical Heritage in Southern Spain* (London and New York: Routledge, 2017) and William Washabaugh, *Flamenco Music and National Identity in Spain* (Surrey: Ashgate, 2012).

90 A testimony of another concert staged as part of *Zona Flamenca*, in which tribute was paid to the singer Chocolate, suggests that audiences found a forum for the expression of shared memories when attending these performances. See Antonio Moreno and Miguel Ángel Vargas, ‘Viaje al centro flamenco de las periferias hispalenses’.

Teatro Real on 12 December 2012, engages with such issues from a wide historical perspective, as it thematizes the extermination of Roma populations by the Nazi regime. For the musical enactment of these memories in *Lo Real*, Galván and the collaborating artists draw on a variety of artistic traditions – flamenco, pop, contemporary academic music, and avant-garde poetry – and develop a ‘multidirectional’ network of references to local and transnational histories of systemic violence.⁹¹ As it moves between the histories of Nazism and Francoism, Galván’s performance also inserts historical enactments of nostalgia for Triana into a wider constellation of authoritarian co-optations of flamenco.

As Pedro Ordóñez Eslava notes, the three dancers who protagonize *Lo Real* (Israel Galván, Isabel Bayón, and Belén Maya) make their presence seen and felt in inventive ways, not only through a virtuosic collection of solo and duo performances, but also by creating a disturbing soundscape through their interactions with curious objects on stage. In the first section of the piece, for instance, Israel Galván can be seen dancing on top of a collection of unstable metal panels scattered on the floor; and in a later episode, Belén Maya interacts with a thick set of metal strings that are extended across the stage, resembling the barbed wire of a camp-like structure.⁹² As the artists interact with the material and sonic textures of these materials, which appear to symbolize a history of destruction, their movements also clearly reflect a search for the enabling potentials of the dancing body. This is illustrated by a line from the song ‘Hitler in My Heart’ by Anthony and the Johnsons that is displayed on a screen at the beginning of the show and performed by one of the singers in Spanish translation: ‘from the corpses, flowers grow’. Indeed, in various press reviews and interviews, Galván and his artistic producer Pedro G. Romero have defined *Lo Real* as an attempt at circumscribing the inaccessible traumatic kernel of the unspeakable experiences of the Nazi death camps, and also as a performance of the liberating excesses of artistry that resist co-optation due to their radical Otherness.⁹³

In my analysis of *Lo Real*, I will focus on a fragment from the third section of the show, protagonized by Isabel Bayón.⁹⁴ This interlude, entitled ‘Carmen, la chinche y la pulga’ (‘Carmen, the Flea and the Bedbug’), parodies a tradition of stereotypical depictions of the Roma, epitomized by the Carmen myth. In *Lo Real*, Bayón engages with the European legacy of the Carmen figure by recreating a dance performance from the film *Tiefland*, directed and protagonized by the German filmmaker and Nazi propagandist Leni Riefenstahl. Filmed between 1942 and 1944, *Tiefland* reproduces earlier stereotypical associations of the female

91 Michael Rothberg, *Multidirectional Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009).

92 Ordóñez Eslava, *Apología de lo impuro*, 124–6. For further information on the use of resonant surfaces in earlier dance performances by Israel Galván, see Georges Didi-Huberman, ‘Tierra y conmoción o el arte de la grieta: Dos fragmentos’, trans. Pedro G. Romero and Nadine Janssens, *Anthropos* (special issue: *Georges Didi-Huberman. Imágenes, historia, pensamiento*) 246 (2017), 201.

93 Ángeles Castellano Gutiérrez, ‘El bailar de la muerte’, *El País*, Babelia, 1 December 2012, 6; José María Velázquez-Gatzelu, ‘La cruda realidad de Israel Galván’, *El Mundo*, El Cultural, 7 December 2012, 36, 38.

94 For this analysis, I have based myself on audiovisual footage from the premiere of the production in Madrid’s Teatro Real on 12 December 2012.

Gypsy with dance, artistry, and sensuality.⁹⁵ In the film, Riefenstahl performs the role of the Spanish dancer Martha in front of an audience of masculine admirers consisting of a wealthy marquis, a poor shepherd, and a group of Roma extras. This scene from *Tiefland* illustrates not only the reductive stereotypes of the Roma that have been exploited on stages across the globe, but also the real history of systemic violence that underpins them. While this fact was never publicly acknowledged by Riefenstahl herself, many of the Roma extras from *Tiefland* were killed in Auschwitz after they finished their work for the film in the early months of 1943.⁹⁶

In *Lo Real*, Isabel Bayón reproduces a section from *Tiefland* where Riefenstahl can be seen circling around the stage while she plays the castanets with different levels of intensity. As the tempo increases towards the end of Riefenstahl's performance, her tireless, uninterrupted percussion on the castanets becomes a collection of intrusive noises that, rather than effectively accentuating the rhythmical accents of the score, are often out of sync. When recreating this sequence in *Lo Real*, Bayón mocks Riefenstahl's questionable demonstration of sensuality and artistic skill through a series of frantic and uncontrolled movements with her arms and hands. Towards the conclusion of her parody, Bayón brings one of her seemingly uncontrollable arms into the shape of the fascist salute. Subsequently, the singer David Lagos intones the opening line from 'Triana, Triana', a nostalgic poem that was originally performed by the copla singer Imperio Argentina in the musical *Carmen, la de Triana* (1938), the first of five Andalusian folkloric films shot by the Spanish directors Florián Rey and Benito Perojo in Nazi Germany between 1937 and 1939.⁹⁷ Quite unexpectedly, and through a combination of song and dance, Bayón and Lagos here reterritorialize a wider repertoire of stereotypes of the sensual Gypsy as one that has strong relations not only with Nazi Germany, but also with Francoist Spain.

In comparison to previous case studies that I have analysed in this article, *Lo Real* exemplifies most clearly how local expressions of nostalgia in Seville tie into wider transnational imaginaries and ideologies. As Eva Woods Peiró observes about the protagonist of *Carmen, la de Triana*, the latter's strong attachment to Triana represents a 'nostalgia for place' that was absent from Merimée's novella on which the film is loosely based.⁹⁸ As Woods Peiró notes, while the different aesthetic and ideological concerns of Nazi Germany and Francoism that shaped *Carmen, la de Triana* and related films are far from monolithic, what these works have in common is a nostalgic vision of nationhood, unaffected

95 The film was directly inspired by Eugen D'Albert's opera version – which was known to be a personal favourite of Adolf Hitler – of the earlier theatre play *Terra Baixa* by Àngel Guimerà. For more information about different versions of the opera, see Àngel Quintana and Margarida Cascacuberta, 'El nacionalismo como mito: *Tiefland* de Leni Riefenstahl, una interpretación de *Terra Baixa* de Guimerà', *Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes*, 1999, www.cervantesvirtual.com/obra-visor/el-nacionalismo-como-mito-tiefland-de-leni-riefenstahl-una-interpretacion-de-terra-baixa-de-guimera-0/html/. Images from *Tiefland* were projected in later performances of *Lo Real* but not in the premiere; see Leticia Blanco, 'El baile de la supervivencia de Israel Galván', *El Mundo*, 16 January 2014, 42.

96 Stephen Bach, *The Life and Work of Leni Riefenstahl* (London: Little, Brown, 2008), 204–5, 293–5.

97 Woods Peiró, *White Gypsies*, 185; also see Rafael Fernández de Larrinoa, 'La música de *Carmen, la de Triana* (1938): las fuentes y el proceso creativo', *Anuario musical* 76 (2021), 178.

98 Woods Peiró, *White Gypsies*, 206.

by forms of ethnic and cultural diversity.⁹⁹ To borrow Boym's terminology, this variety of nostalgia can be understood as decidedly 'restorative', as it situates an allegedly purer version of the homeland in a projected past.

To be sure, the poem 'Triana, Triana' is now a common component of the lyrical repertoire of flamenco. For instance, in *Triana pura y pura*, the singer El Coco performed fragments from the same poem when accompanying the dancer Pastora la del Pati; and in Pastora Galván's televised performance of 'Homenaje a Triana Pura', José Valencia can be seen performing a version of the same lyrics. As the flamenco scholar Luis Suárez Ávila observes, the lyrical repertoire of flamenco contains many traces of older textual forms, often without an artist knowing that a fragment of a *bulería* or *soleá* may originally stem from, for instance, a medieval epic poem.¹⁰⁰ Furthermore, as Peter Manuel notes, the words used in flamenco song can normally not be attributed to one single author.¹⁰¹ Indeed, it is fairly common for flamenco singers to freely reorder and recombine the stanzas and verses of existing lyrics and poetic compositions – a process that Suárez Ávila calls 'fragmentism'.¹⁰² An illustration of this process is the fact that Pastora Galván has not used the lyrics from the poem 'Triana, Triana' in all her danced tributes to Carmen la del Titi and has given her singers the freedom to perform different lyrics, as long as they conjured up the right atmosphere.¹⁰³

What makes the sung performance of 'Triana, Triana' in *Lo Real* noteworthy, then, is that it reverses the process of 'fragmentism' by casting a light on the historical and ideological context in which these lyrics were first written and performed. As Georgina Born and David Hesmondhalgh observe, from a historical perspective, all types of music 'become subject to inevitable historical processes of reinterpretation and then reinsertion into the changing socio-cultural formation'.¹⁰⁴ These scholars assert that the original context of certain musical borrowings will normally disappear, unless it is given presence by other means: 'Whatever the original sociocultural and ideological connotations such borrowings may have carried will fade in due course, unless they are reproduced as a projection into the musical object by other, nonmusical forces.'¹⁰⁵ I would suggest, however, that the historical context of the poem 'Triana, Triana' acquire a renewed presence in *Lo Real* precisely through a set of very specific musical operations. Thus, while the artists largely follow the rhythmic cadence and melodic structures of Imperio Argentina's sung performance of the poem in *Carmen, la de Triana*, in *Lo Real*, the singer David Lagos phrases the words with over-affectionate precision. Similarly, the dancer Isabel Bayón uses her arms and feet to emphasize the rhythmic

99 Woods Peiró, *White Gypsies*, 208. The film *Suspiros de España* that is part of this filmic cycle was dubbed in German under the title *Nostalgia*.

100 Luis Suárez Ávila, 'La memoria viva, el olvido y el fragmentismo, poderosos agentes fundacionales del flamenco', *Boletín de la Real Academia Sevillana de Buenas Letras: Minervae Baeticae* 38 (2010), 302.

101 See Manuel, 'Composition, Authorship, and Ownership in Flamenco, Past and Present', especially 121 and further, for a detailed discussion of notions of authorship and ownership in flamenco *cantes* and substyles (*estilos*). For a similar discussion of the lyrics of fado, see Gray, *Fado Resounding*, 15.

102 Suárez Ávila, 'La memoria viva, el olvido y el fragmentismo, poderosos agentes fundacionales del flamenco'.

103 Personal communication, 5 April 2022.

104 Born and Hesmondhalgh, 'Introduction', 34–5.

105 Born and Hesmondhalgh, 'Introduction', 46.

accents of the piano and guitar with excessive clarity. These musical features are all a clear reflection of ‘unisonance’, which is the term that Eva Woods Peiró, drawing on Benedict Anderson, uses to describe the ideological connotations of the *pasodoble*, a style whose stable, unsyncopated rhythm conjures up a military march and thus acquires a decidedly patriotic meaning.¹⁰⁶ In *Lo Real*, moreover, Bayón’s movements on stage are repeatedly interrupted by authoritarian shouts from the musicians and, at one point, by a collective exclamation of the word *España*. These unsubtle gestures of mockery clearly allude to the similarities between the discipline of Bayón’s dancing body and forms of military drill that were meant to uphold the pyramidal hierarchies of Francoist Spain.

Thus, through a parodic combination of song, dance, and instrumentation, these performers achieve a clear ‘projection’¹⁰⁷ of the ideological and historical forces that shaped the lyrics of ‘Triana, Triana’. Israel Galván’s production shows that the emergence of a ‘restorative’ variety of nostalgia in *Carmen, la de Triana* and other Francoist musicals should be understood as a twofold operation: during this era, the construction of a mythicized and whitened ‘Gypsy’ figure went hand in hand with the infliction of violence on real Roma populations.

As the artists in *Lo Real* unravel these historical layers of meaning in the flamenco repertoire, they do not dismiss festivity altogether as a meaningful framework to engage with painful memories of systemic violence. While the performance of ‘Triana, Triana’ is a clear parody of state-sanctioned forms of festivity, the same section continues with the performance of various festive bulerías by different dancers, at different tempos, and on different parts of the stage. Here, in a clear overturn of Isabel Bayón’s iconicity as a highly equipped performer of the Carmen role, other artists, such as Emilio Caracafé, Bobote, and La Uchi, who all live in Seville’s southern polígono,¹⁰⁸ daringly take turns in protagonizing the party as singers and dancers, roles that not all of them are traditionally accustomed to. As Pedro G. Romero notes about the inclusion of these individuals, they represent ‘un extraño cuerpo de baile como el testimonio más directo de lo que odiaron Hitler y otros más recientemente. Galván los incluye porque representan precisamente la verdad de los gitanos, lo real, porque bailan tal como son, no actúan’ (‘a strange companion of dancers as a testimony of what Hitler, and others more recently, hated the most. Galván includes them precisely because they represent the truth of the Gitanos, “the real”, because they dance exactly as they are, they don’t perform’).¹⁰⁹ These performances of joy and derision thus conjure up a variety of historical forms of systemic violence: the marginalization of Andalusian underclasses under Franco, which led to the construction of the polígonos now inhabited by these individuals, and also a wider history of violence against Roma populations in twentieth-century Europe. However, following Romero’s words, these artists also give subtle embodiment to certain excess that speaks in many tongues and can perhaps never be fully appropriated or destroyed.

106 Woods Peiró, *White Gypsies*, 210–11.

107 Born and Hesmondhalgh, ‘Introduction’, 46.

108 These artists can be seen in different films set in Seville’s Polígono Sur, such as Dominique Abel’s *Polígono Sur: El arte de Las tres mil* (2003) and Gonzalo García Pelayo and Pedro G. Romero’s *Nueve Sevillas* (2020).

109 Castellano Gutiérrez, ‘El bailar de la muerte’, 6.

This search for daring new forms of embodied expression is clearly also what steers Galván's own interventions in *Lo Real*. In several sections of the piece, his body becomes a haunting shadow when he moves in intimate proximity with Isabel Bayón and Belén Maya, shaping and delimiting the scenic space that is available to his counterparts.¹¹⁰ If *Lo Real* creates intricate connections between embodied performances, material objects, and complex soundscapes, then Galván's haunting presence on stage could be interpreted as an externalization of the authoritarian co-optations of flamenco that are still somehow present in the contemporary repertoire, albeit only tacitly. In that sense, while *Lo Real* engages with nostalgia through a lens of mockery and derision, it does not stop from staging the quest for memory as an active bodily process.

Conclusions

Triana, like other iconic urban locations that have shaped the history of flamenco, is a densely layered object with a long history of discursive representations and musical invocations. This article has gone in search for ways in which performances of nostalgic longing for Triana in flamenco acquire specific critical meanings in the context of post-dictatorial Spain. By analysing three interrelated case studies of flamenco dance from Seville, I have shown that nostalgic longing can be inhabited and reinhabited in radically different ways by different generations of artists. In these performances, Triana has meaningfulness both as an iconic urban location associated with authenticity and strong communitarian values and as a scenario of nostalgic festivity that mediates memories of systemic violence.

First, my reading of *Triana pura y pura* has shown how different 'restorative' and 'reflective' varieties of nostalgia can co-exist in discursive and embodied performances of memory. Comprising a musical performance and a retrospective filmic mediation on the significance of the original show, *Triana pura y pura* is reminiscent of earlier institutionalized forms of nostalgia in flamenco that were driven by an urge to safeguard past expressions of the art form. However, beyond this disputed aspect of Pachón's nostalgic take on the recent history of Triana, I have interpreted the festive scenes of flamenco dance that form the artistic kernel of *Triana pura y pura* as meaningful scenarios of embodied memories for those performers that protagonized them.

As Pastora Galván's recent work on the basis *Triana pura y pura* illustrates, the dance repertoire of an elderly generation of displaced artists still has a dynamic afterlife. In opposition, for example, to Matilde Coral's reluctance, as voiced in *Triana pura y pura*, to adopt elements from this unique dance vocabulary, Pastora Galván has shown how a creative approach to this tradition can enhance, rather than delimit, the expressive possibilities of flamenco. In the festive interlude of Israel Galván's *Lo Real*, moreover, flamenco operates as a deconstruction of a state-sanctioned, restorative type of nostalgia for Triana that permeated the musicals co-produced by Francoist Spain and Nazi Germany in the 1930s. *Lo Real*, then, is a layered

110 Georges Didi-Huberman has written eloquently about the role of shadows, haunting, and silence in earlier work by Israel Galván. See Georges Didi-Huberman, *El bailar de soledades*, trans. Dolores Aguilera (Valencia: Pre-Textos, 2008), especially 49–83.

and experimental search for new musical and embodied vocabularies to voice memories of the repression of Andalusian underclasses under Franco, and of Roma populations elsewhere in twentieth-century Europe.

Despite the ongoing public, political, and scholarly debates about the unresolved legacy of the Franco dictatorship in Spain, the concrete experiences of segregation, marginalization, and repression suffered by the flamenco community under Franco have thus far not received widespread attention. One possible explanation for this phenomenon is the common association of flamenco *with* Francoism; that is to say, the assumption that flamenco was mostly a folkloric product of the regime, rather than a cultural field with a potential for critical contestation. Alternatively, the fact that flamenco has historically been criticized as an unspecific outcry of pain and longing may have restrained more nuanced views of the relations that this music holds with real experiences of hardship. As noted by Jesús López-Peláez, flamenco is commonly interpreted from a perspective of ‘essentialist flamencoism’, by which he means ‘an approach to flamenco that basically privileges its supposedly eternal and immutable nature, setting it apart from any material struggle, political interest or partisanship, and ideological agenda’.¹¹¹ Pedro Ordóñez Eslava has addressed the same issue, stating that the political ‘genetics’ of flamenco are often silenced in essentialist accounts of this art form.¹¹²

As an alternative to those tendencies, I have addressed here the dynamics between different varieties of nostalgia in three festive performances of flamenco dance – that is to say, in a series of festive dance styles that, at surface level, evoke the folklorist stereotypes of flamenco that were widely promoted under Franco’s dictatorial rule. As these case studies illustrate, even the most festive and jovial dance styles in flamenco contain meaningful echoes of a recent history of violence. Like other commemorative rituals and scenarios, flamenco fiestas affirm values in the here and now, but also conjure up previous gatherings from the past. Festive performances of dance and song, then, are a potentially rich source for future scholarship on the ways in which memories of painful experiences, and ongoing forms of longing for bygone places and eras, are artistically mediated.

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111 Jesús López-Peláez Casellas, ‘The Politics of Flamenco: *La leyenda del tiempo* and Ideology’, *Popular Music* 36/2 (2017), 197.

112 Ordóñez Eslava, *Apología de lo impuro*, 48.

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