

A pioneering workshop teaches flamenco to people in wheelchairs or with functional diversity

LOCATION: Seville

DURATION: 1'41"

SUMMARY: Dancer and teacher Jose Galan is making history in the field of flamenco education. He's already known for his innovative shows starring students with mental disabilities. Now, he's teaching flamenco to people in wheelchairs or with other physical limitations. Taking it one step further, the Christina Heeren foundation is donating space for his classes.

VTR:

Flamenco is an everlasting icon of culture and heritage. And now, learning to dance isn't limited to just able-bodied students. Sevillian flamenco dancer Jose Galan is forging a new path in flamenco education. With the help of his friend and muse, Lola Lopez, he's teaching the first classes in history that cater to students in wheelchairs or with other physical limitations.

LOLA LÓPEZ
Inclusive Flamenco student

"Instead of stomping my feet, I hit the chair. It works just as well. Also, when I spin around, instead of putting two hands up, one of them has to move the chair, obviously, but the other can stay up. The wheels are my feet, and it's actually a really nice adaptation."

Galan is already known for his shows starring dancers with mental disabilities. Now, he's out to prove that no physical condition can prevent someone from experiencing the joy of flamenco.

JOSÉ GALÁN
Flamenco dancer

"You have to want it, you have to love it, you have to be passionate, you have to feel the music. It's a shame to meet a nine-year-old girl with little desire to dance or older people telling me, "I can't dance anymore; I can barely even move!" What do you mean you can't? You can bring me to tears when you move your hands."

To support his efforts, the Sevillian foundation Cristina Heeren donates practice space. Manuel Jorge Perez sings in the "Esperanza de Triana" choir. After finding out about the classes offered by Galan, he's wasted no time creating his own bold flamenco routines.

MANUEL JORGE PÉREZ
Inclusive Flamenco student

"You find your spark, you create your style. You look for a trick to dance the best you possibly can".

Together with students like Manuel and Lola, Galan is making history in the world of flamenco, proving that nothing is impossible.