



Basque Traditional Dance, Magic and Discipline

Idoia Besada, ULMA Medical Imaging



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OTHER TALENTS OF THE ULMA GROUP

Many people from the Group make their professional career compatible with very demanding hobbies in which they demonstrate that all obstacles can be overcome with talent and hard work.

Idoia Besada, a worker at ULMA Medical Imaging, has practised Basque traditional dance since she was 6.

Idoia Besada, born in Pasaia 25 years ago, has been with us since the summer of 2018, and has always had a passion for Basque traditional dance. She recalls that when she was 4, she followed all the dance classes of her sister in Billabona sitting in a corner. Until one day the teacher told her to stand up - she has not sat down again since that day. Although today she only practices traditional dance, she is considered a great dancer in general and during these years she has learned ballet, contemporary dance and even tap.

Idoia's journey has been very intense since age 6 when she began traditional dance classes in the Dantza eta Musika Eskola de Rentería until she was 18. At the same time, and to dance with her friends, she was part of the Alkartasuna Dantza Taldea in Pasaia. At age 14, Jesus Mari Garate invited her to participate in Nahia Dantza konpainia de Beasain and when she turned 18 she made the leap to Ereintza Dantza Taldea de Rentería. At age 22, she started dancing with Xabier Artola, still her dance partner today, and it was after one of the rehearsals together

she was invited to stay at the Udaberri Dantza Taldea in Tolosa, “and without realizing it, I become an udaberritarra”, she tells us.”

With Artola, she participates in different dance competitions around the Basque Country. The dantzari has been very successful - 3-time champion of the “Euskal Herriko Dantza Txapelketa” contest together with Xabier and twice together with her former partner, Ion Iburguren. When she was younger, she also won first place in the competition “Euskal Herriko Soinu Zahar Txapelketa”.

As a member of Udaberri Dantza Taldea, Idoia participates in multiple performances throughout the year - summer being the most active season for town festivals. “Dance companies rehearse throughout the year and we accept almost all performance requests that come to the company,” says Besada. Thanks to dance, she has had the opportunity to travel to countries such as Italy, Switzerland, France, the Czech Republic and even Japan, a trip with very good memories.

For Idoia, dancing is forgetting the daily grind and immersing oneself in a different world. “Through dance I have the opportunity to express my feelings

and it is a chance to put aside any problems that I have. Although in the championships it's more difficult to enjoy them because of nerves, on the stage everything is forgotten”.

The pasaitarra begins the year with three general rehearsals a week, with one more in April, when they begin to rehearse the Bordon Dantza for St John's day in Tolosa. In February it's time to start preparing for competitions and the whole dynamic changes. With her dance partner she rehearses twice a week, apart from group rehearsals, and in May - when the championships start - they usually get to see each other three times a week and even four times in August when the most important event approaches, “Euskal Herriko Dantza Solte Txapelketa”.

Despite the dedication required, “we like to dance, so we make time even where there isn't any”. Her dance group and place of work are far from her home in Pasaia, which means that some of the time the rehearsals are shorter, although she tries to make the most of the practices on Fridays. She recognizes that “it is not easy. But not difficult either. As the saying goes: *gustuko tokian, aldaparik ez*”.