

The Typist Synopsis

The story is set in the 1950's around the time that the *Niños* were 'coming of age' and starting their independent lives.

The *Niños* were sent all over the UK, including some to Liverpool where the protagonist was fostered. Esperanza's family originally from Andalucia, found themselves in Bilbao in May 1937 and so she became part of the evacuation of *Niños* to the UK on *SS Habana*. As a young adult in Liverpool, Esperanza became a shipping office typist, a common employment at the time, where she would discover a significant name on a shipping list. There was a very busy route in the 1950's between Spanish ports and Liverpool, and the fruit exchange there liked employees to understand both languages.

However, once old enough, many of the *Niños* moved to London to be closer to the *Hogar Español*, and to each other, and to be involved in activities there. The story is set in London around the *Hogar*, (and Esperanza's move there), and mainly focuses on the story of the two main protagonists, represented by the 2 dancers in the show.

Their passionate story, as Esperanza copes with letters arriving from Spain with devastating news... the dangerous activities of her older lover who forges documents for people in the movement needing to cross borders from France to Spain... the realisation that she may never go home again... is all told through dance.

For such an intense narrative, and because Kerieva was involved in the world of flamenco, the style was a good fit to carry the story, and by no means a comment on regionality. She was lucky to know some of the most respected names in the genre, such as maestro Javier Latorre, and all involved were left wing with their own tragic family stories from La Guerra Civil.

Alexei Sayle offered to narrate the show due to his interest in the International Brigades and his father's involvement in the anti-Francoist struggle.