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NORDISKT FORUM FÖR DANSFORSKNING

NYHETSBREV NR: 29 – December 2007

DEAR MEMBERS,

As we can see in this newsletter there are positive things going on in the area of dance in education. We who are teaching dance welcome the new journal of dance in education, *Tidskrift for Dans i Uddanelse*, as well as the two books about dance education newly published in Denmark. It has been a battle in most of the Nordic countries to get dance in to the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools, battle that is not quite over yet. Where dance is accepted in schools as subject its status is low as it function as a sub subject, not an important part of every child's education.

/Sesselja G. Magnusdottir, IS

A word from the Chair,

We are very happy to announce that we now can continue our work with the next conference. The conference is going to be in Tampere, Finland, with the theme *Dance-Movement-Mobility* and is now decided for 23rd until 26th of Oct 2008. We are also proud to announce that our keynote speakers will be Georgiana Gore, André Lepecki and Helen Thomas. They represent different areas in dance research and are also representative for some of the broad interests of all of you members.

The Board of NOFOD have just had board meeting at the University of Tampere where the conference is going to be situated. Parts of the university, where the conference is going to be hosted, are newly built so it is very modern with all technical facilities.

Tampere is an old industrial city in Finland, with a lot of the old buildings restored and rebuilt in very beautiful manners for new ways of using them. The city itself is an example of one way of looking at mobility, which forms one part of the theme for the conference. I hope to see a lot of you members at the conference to also give us more example from research of how to approach the theme from different perspectives.

/Ingrid Redbark-Wallander, Sverige

News from Sweden

A new book

*The Royal Swedish Ballet
from 1592 to 1962*

By Marina Grut

THE BOOK

Sweden's ballet has a fascinating and international history, having given the world a choreographer such as Charles Louis Didelot, whose talent was recognised and financially fostered by Sweden's "Theatre King", Gustav III.

His creative choreography and the theatrically innovative staging of his ballets were inspirational, and so was his insightful wisdom. Sweden was also the birthplace of the great Romantic ballerina Marie Taglioni.

More ballet productions have been staged uninterruptedly in Sweden than anywhere else in the world outside of France, Denmark and Russia, and these productions were staged at a very high artistic level with dancers of great calibre. Remarkable dancers performed there, e.g. Filippo Taglioni, Antoine Bournonville, his son August Bournonville, Giovanna Bassi, André Isidore Carey and Joséphine Sainte-Claire.

The great dancer and teacher who were to influence the Russian ballet came from Sweden: Per Christian Johansson who took the French

influence from Bournonville's teaching to Russia and trained generations of Russian dancers.

Memorable visits by Michel Fokine, Antony Tudor and Leonide Massine are dealt with, as well as Mary Skeaping's epoch-making directorship, and the Swedish choreographers Anders Selinder, Birgit Cullberg, Birgit Åkesson and Ivo Cramér and their ballets.

The book contains many illustrations which have never been published before, a table with detailed information about ballet performances in Sweden from 1638 to 1962, and biographies of the ballet masters and theatre directors.

THE AUTHOR

The author of this book, Marina Grut, began the research for it in 1959 and 1960 when she lived in Sweden, and after Mary Skeaping had suggested that she should write the history of that company. In doing so she met some of the leading dancers at the time.

She also interviewed former principal dancers like Jenny Hasselquist, and the founder of Les Ballets Suédois, Rolf de Maré. In 1998 she decided to complete her research. Marina Grut, who is fluent in Swedish, then made many more visits to archives and museums in Sweden in search of additional facts and illustrations, and for further interviews with leading figures in the ballet world.

Grut trained as a dancer at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Ballet School, USA, danced in their company, taught at the UCT and at the George Washington University, authored books on ballet history and on Spanish dance (see www.grutbooks.com), made a DVD on the Bolero School dances (www.spanishdancesociety.org); contributed to international encyclopaedias, *The Dancing Times*, *Ballet Today*, *Flamenco International* and *Danza Hoy*; and staged performances in the Cape Town opera house; in the USA at the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic Society, the Juilliard School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and in Boston and New Orleans. In England she has been presented by the Royal Ballet and the Sadler's Wells Theatre.

In 1989 King Juan Carlos I invested her as Dame of the Order of Queen Isabel of Spain for her presentation and preservation of Spanish dance. She has also received other awards.

BOOK FACTS:

Title: *Royal Swedish Ballet, History from 1592 to 1962*. Writers: Grut, Marina. Preface: Häger, Bengt
Publisher: Carina Ari Library Publications, Publication No. 6. Vol.: ca. 752 p. 68 colour images

and 260 b/w images. Publishing house: Olms, Germany, www.olms.de/Release: expected in autumn 2007

ISBN13: 978-3-487-13494-9

www.carina.se E-mail: satu@carina.se

/ Satu Mariia Harjanne /Sverige

Arkivet för Nutida Dans och Koreografi

Den 12 november 2007 öppnar det internetbaserade *Arkivet för Nutida Dans och Koreografi* på www.dansdatabasen.se. Syftet med det nationella arkivet är att dokumentera och tillgängliggöra så mycket och så detaljerad information som möjligt om nutida dans skapad och framförd från 1950 och framåt. Tänkt användare är forskare, studenter, elever och lärare och en intresserad allmänhet. Arkivet är under uppbyggnad och visas i en första offentlig version. Arbetet med arkivet, som är en del av Dansdatabasen, leds av Madeleine Hjort och Åsa Unander-Scharin. På hemsidan finns information om uppbyggnad, finansiering och målsättning. Info@dansdatabasen.se

/Anna Karlander / Sverige

News from Norway

The Norwegian branch of Nofod, in collaboration with the CODA-festival and KHIO, hosted a national one-day seminar on the topic of the status of dance research in Norway today on Friday September 21st. The seminar was held at KHIO in Oslo from 1300-1730, and almost 30 people found their way to the seminar to listen to different papers. The theme of the seminar was open; we (Siri Mæland and Anne Fiskvik) wanted everybody to get a chance to get to know about what research on dance is going on in Norway today. The papers were short presentations by Nofod members (and some others) on research they are involved in/doing at the moment. The topics included history, education, practice-based research and aesthetics/philosophy.

The seminar was quite successful, and we want to thank warmly all of you that contributed papers and insight. Norway has had a short history of dance research, but we can see that it is starting to blossom!

At the end we discussed future national meetings. We agreed to arrange another seminar in the spring of 2008, or in collaboration with the CODA-festival again next september. Then we aim discuss more specified issues, for instance around practice-based research: This is a topic which many of us are interested and engaged in.

/Anne Fisvik and Siri Mæland

News from Denmark

SÆT KRYDS LØRDAG D. 3. MAJ, 2008 NATIONALT MØDE PÅ SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET I ODENSE

Lørdag d. 3. maj afholdes nationalt møde.

Det overordnede tema for mødet er "Bevægelse". Hermed menes bevægelse som den udfoldes i dans samt hvordan dans kan ses i sammenhæng med andre bevægelses aspekter, eksempelvis 'folkebevægelser'. I den sammenhæng præsenteres et koordineret oplæg baseret på igangværende forskningsarbejde (og antologi) om bevægelse, ved forskningsgruppen Kultur, bevægelse og sundhed (Institut for Idræt, Syddansk Universitet). Temaet til det nationale møde vil være i tråd med den kommende Nofodkonferences hovedtema Movement - Motion - Dance.

Der vil i øvrigt, på mødet, være mulighed for at præsentere speciale- samt forskningsprojekter.

Flere oplysninger herom fremsendes ultimo februar.

NYT DANSK UNDERVISNINGSMATERIALE TIL UNGDOMSUDDANNELSERNE

Dans med unge – oplæg til undervisning i koreografi i idræt

(red. Charlotte Svendler Nielsen)

Dans er et felt som kan, og i uddannelsessammenhæng bør, anskues meget bredt. Dans er rytmisk bevægelse, og bevægelse af videst mulig karakter kan være og kan blive til dans. Dans kan også defineres som et formsprog, hvor man udtrykker sig med kroppens bevægelser i tid og rum i forhold til bl.a. kulturelle, historiske, kønslige og etniske forhold. Uanset hvilke genrer og stilarter, der er fokus på, er metoder der giver eleverne mulighed for selv at være medskabende, og at blive bevidste om egne udtryksmæssige og kropslige muligheder i samspil med andre, meget givtige i forhold til elevernes læring, når der undervises i dans indenfor uddannelsessystemet.

De enkelte artikler i dette hæfte indeholder forskellige idéer til at tage hul på en kreativ og problemløsende tilgang til danseundervisning indenfor idrætsfaget – i gymnasiet og HF, men ideerne kan også bruges til folkeskolens ældste klasser og i fritidsregi. Forfatterne har undervejs i hæftets tilblivelsesproces afprøvet og udviklet undervisningsforløbene i praksis – ude på et gymnasium.

Hæftet indledes med en kort gennemgang af de dele af læreplanen for idræt, der handler om dans, og der gives forslag til kompetencebeskrivelser og evalueringsformer på området. I artiklen "Dans – koreografi – didaktik" stilles der spørgsmål ved, hvorfor det er relevant at beskæftige sig med dans og koreografi i idrætsundervisningen, og med udgangspunkt i forskning på området beskrives, hvordan der kan skabes mulighed for læring i og om dans. Dernæst følger tre artikler, som giver idéer til det praktiske arbejde med dans. Bagest i hæftet findes en liste over litteratur, som giver flere ideer til undervisning i dans og information om, hvor man kan finde dansevideoer.

Hæftet er udgivet af Dans i Uddannelse (www.dansiuddannelse.dk) og kan bestilles mod et administrationsgebyr på 50 kr. hos dansenshus@dansenshus.dk

TIDSSKRIFT FOR DANS I UDDANNELSE ÅRG. 1 (Journal for Dance in Education vol. 1)

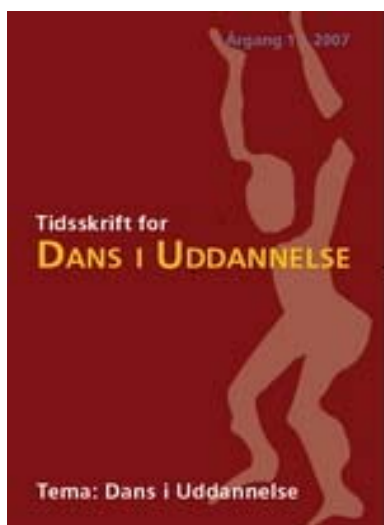
"Dans i Uddannelse" ("Dance in Education") is a Danish association for professional development and exchange and is open to all who are interested in, or work with, dance in educational contexts.

The association has launched a new journal – the first on dance education published in Denmark. It primarily includes contributions from professionals in Denmark, but also single contributions from a Nordic country and further away. Some articles are in Danish, some in English.

In the first volume the overall theme is dance in school contexts and teacher education. The articles focus on dance teaching that highlights different ways of moving and children's co-creation of choreographic work. Different levels and aspects of the teaching situation are discussed, among others

- What is dance?
- Projects in schools and kindergartens
- Dance consultants and culture strategies
- Children's learning experiences
- 'Hidden curriculum'
- Professional dancers' teaching
- Movement expression and choreography – a challenge for PE teachers

The journal is addressed at all who in some way work with dance, movement and bodily expression and can be ordered from the publisher www.bavnebanke.dk (price 120 dkr.)



LIS ENGEL:

DANCE DANCE DANCE

Ideas in theory and practice, Copenhagen: Frydenlund, 2007 (only in Danish)

Dance dance dance is a book of the practice and theory of dance in education with special focus on dance as a musical-aesthetical art subject.

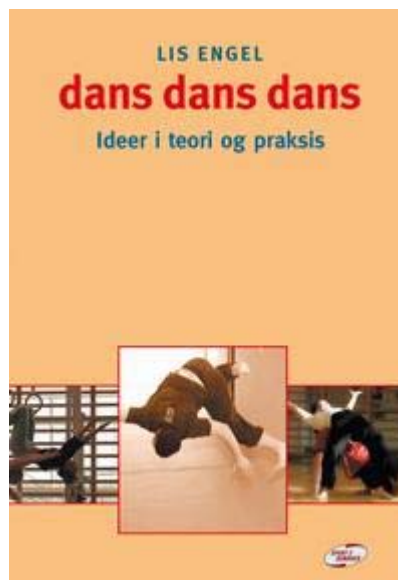
The book falls in three sections: theory of dance and movement, examples on techniques and styles and dance workshop: choreographic process and free aesthetic production

Within these areas the book has concrete ideas for among others break dance, electric boogie, MTV dance, jazz dance, release technique, mime and improvisation.

Dance dance dance is directed toward youth educations, but can be read from everybody interested in the theory and practice of modern dance.

Lis Engel is a researcher of movement and dance at the University of Copenhagen.

199 kr
125 sider ill.
1.udgave, 1. oplag
Udgivelse: september 2007.



News from Iceland

This autumn The Icelandic association of dance research, which the Icelandic Nofod branch is department within, did held a contra dance. Before there where two evenings course. The dance was very successful and an experience for those who didn't much about contra dances. The Icelandic association of dance is aiming for encouraging dance research here in Iceland and introducing different genre of dance to common people.

/ Sesselja G. Magnusdottir, IS

News from Finland

Finnish Dance Research at the Crossroads: Practical and theoretical challenges

The purpose of this volume is to provide international readers with a survey of the development of dance research in Finland. Readers are able to acquaint themselves with pioneering work as well

as recent studies. Twenty scholars have contributed to this book, which contains articles from the fields of dance education, anthropology and cultural studies, history and sociology, philosophy and aesthetics, and artistically oriented research.

Päivi K. Pakkanen & Aino Sarje (Eds.):

**Finnish dance research at the crossroads:
Practical and theoretical challenges.**

Arts Council of Finland. Helsinki 2006. ISBN 952-5253-38-4. Price 22,00 €

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/Leena Rouhiainen FI

Other information on dance in Finland in the internet is provided by the Finnish Dance Information Centre:

www.danceinfo.fi

NOFOD

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER: 18th of April, 2008