
NOFOD NYHETSREV

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NORDISKT FORUM FÖR DANSFORSKNING

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DEAR MEMBERS,

The conference in Stockholm was once again a good example of the vitality of dance research in Nordic countries. During the years, the quality of the conference papers has become better and better: anyone can see the high level of the research in our countries. Furthermore, the conference also showed how important it is that we are doing co-operation in the North. Yes, we are indeed in a global context, but together not as a minor agent, which we would be alone. NOFOD conferences and No-MA-ds are significant achievements in the field of dance research, and we can proudly present them all over the world. Let us hope, we can see similar projects even more in the future.

/Petri Hoppu, FIN

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

As the new chair for NOFOD, I first want to thank for the honour to take over the chair man's post. I also want to thank the board members Inger Vinther Damsholt (chair), Karen Vedel (treasure coordinator) and Inka Välipakka (vice chair), for the enormous work you have done for NOFOD. After your periods with the board, we now have a common account system for all Nordic countries, an evolution that makes the moneymaking in NOFOD much easier. Besides that we got the money for working out the new website for NOFOD. We thank you all very much for that!

I also want to welcome our new board members: Sesselja Magnusdottir, Iceland, Ulla Boeg Nielson, Denmark, Susanne Ravn, Denmark, and Leena Rouhiainen, Finland. The new board has started working immediately and we are right now very occupied with writing texts, finding pictures and a lot of other things to make the web-site look good! Next fall NOFOD will have its new web-site ready.

We will also start working with the next conference which will be in Finland 2008, so in the fall we start discussing the theme for the conference.

Ingrid Redbark-Wallander

The Ballet School problem in Iceland

In the last Newsletter we expressed our anxiety over the situation of The Icelandic Ballet School. By orders from above, that is the Ministry of Culture and Education the school will be closed on the 31st of May 2006. All winter there have been many attempts to try to have this decision reversed, for example the students have been dancing in front of the Ministry at lunchtime once a week until the weather stopped these performances. There have been many articles in the newspapers and so on. At the same time much work has been done in planning and preparing for a new private ballet school that could take over the role that the Icelandic Ballet School has played for so many years. This has been done in good cooperation with the Ministry. As things look today it seems likely to go through, but now under the auspices of the Academy of the Arts in Reykjavik. But nothing is certain yet, so the students are still waiting in a vacuum.

Other dance educational news from Iceland

At the time of this upheaval in dance education in Iceland, the Ministry of Culture and Education has launched work on a dance syllabus both for dance students of primary school age and for dance in secondary schools. The dance schools that choose to use this syllabus and prove to be able to meet the standard of dance education demanded in the syllabus can apply for an official grant for their secondary school students. The process is a bit complicated as they have to make a contract with an ordinary secondary school that will be the official recipient of the grant. But as yet the work on the syllabuses is not finished and still has to get the Minister's approval.

Six students of dance will this spring have finished their one year diploma studies at The Academy of the Arts. This program started last year as an experiment in association with the Icelandic Dance Company. As it seems to have been quite a success the Academy is taking in another lot of six dance students starting next August.

/ Ingibjörg Björnsdóttir, IS

Nyheter i Sverige

Nina Lundberg och undertecknad, som arrangerade NOFOD's Stockholmskonferens i januari 2006, håller just på med efterarbetet. Nina håller på med redigeringen av alla presentationerna och när det är klart ska allt till tryckning, enligt planering är proceeding klar i höst.

Jag vill även här passa på att tacka för det ekonomiska stöd vi fick av Carina Ari vilket gjorde konferensen möjlig att genomföra, men jag vill även tacka Danshögskolan som med personal, utrustning och lokaler ställde upp på ett oerhört generöst sätt!

Dansbiennalen kommer i år att vara i Göteborg den 11-14 maj och i samband med den hålls även ett Nordic meeting som fokuserar på samarbete i Norden vilket här även inkluderar de baltiska länderna. Vill ni se programmen till båda evenemangen gå in på www.dansbiennial2006.se

/Ingrid Redbark-Wallander, S

Ny bok: Dans med Häger

Journalisten och f.d. kulturattachén i Washington DC, Nancy Westman, har skrivit och det nya förlaget Lind&Co har givit ut den första boken om Bengt Häger. Den släpps på hans 90-årsdag den 27 april 2006.

På förlagets hemsida kan vi läsa:

En gång i tiden stod valet mellan spindlar och dans för Bengt Hägers del. Som tonåring mötte han dansen på ett avgörande vis: han förfördes av en rysk ballerina. Han har förblivit dansen trogen i mer än 75 år. Cullbergbaletten, Dansmuseet och Danshögskolan hör till de svenska dansinstitutioner som Bengt Häger varit med och gjort till vad de är idag. Hans kulturpolitiska insatser för dansens räkning är banbrytande. Som folkbildare nådde han under flera decennier den breda allmänheten via hundratals krönikor och recensioner i dagspressen. Som impressario och producent öppnade han Sverige för de internationella stjärnor som verkade

i de stora dansmetropolerna likaväl som för exotiska danstrupper som vi aldrig ens hört talas om. Och han såg till att svensk dans fick en plattform ute i världen. Han blev tidigt en makthavare i dansvärlden men av den sort som föredrar att verka men inte synas.



www.lindco.se

For you that do not read Swedish, a short information on a new book:

In 1930, when Bengt Häger was 14 years old, he saw Anna Pavlova dance at the Royal Theatre in Stockholm. That was a starting point for an unusual career in the magical world of dance. There are many good reasons for Bengt Häger to be called Mr Dance of Sweden. He has had his hand in initiating and establishing numerous dance institutions, from the world famous Dansmuseet in Stockholm to founding what is now the University College of Dance. He worked with the Cullberg Ballet, ensuring them a world reputation. He was the main force in bringing international stars from the modern dance world to inspire Swedish audiences and artists alike. At 90, he still heads the Carina Ari Foundations, fundamental in supporting young dancers, making sure they can improve on their skills abroad. He is probably the Swedish champion when it comes to writing about dance in various newspapers. His influence on the Swedish dance scene has been huge - and at times provocative. In **Dans med Häger**, Nancy Westman tells the story of a remarkable man who has accomplished remarkable feats.

Dance has become a subject that can be offered at the Danish "gymnasium"

The whole structure of the Danish gymnasium (high-school) changed with a new reform that became effective at the beginning of august 2005, and as a more anonymous part of this reform dance has finally become one of the official subjects that can be offered at the gymnasium's in Denmark. Dance had until august 2005 existed as a subject on dispensation for a period of 10 years. In 2005 dance was offered as subject in 4 gymnasium's located round Copenhagen.

The course in dance in the gymnasium has been and will still be based on a combination of theory as well as practise. This includes that the course in periods is taught and planned as projects centred round choreographies the students create and perform themselves. Another important aspect is the contact to the professional environment. Further information about the curriculum in dance in gymnasium's in Denmark can be found on www.emu.dk

There is a lot of work to do before dance will become a subject area that can be chosen on gymnasium's spread all over Denmark, however the possibility is given by the new reform and it will be interesting to follow the development in the coming years.

/Susanne Ravn, DK

Coming lecture and workshop with Professor Valerie Briginshaw

In the last week in September 2006 Professor Valerie Briginshaw from the dance department at Chichester University are invited to visit the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. There will be arranged a lecture and workshop in relation to her visit – probably the 28th of September (in planning). The lecture will be about the research project *Embodying Ambiguity*, that she has been involved in with the choreographer Emily Claid. The project has been centred round possible interactions and interfaces between writing and performance. Valerie Briginshaw will focus on how the theories of different philosophers like Bergson, Deleuze, Merleau-Ponty, Irigaray, Adraiana Caverero and Michel De Certeau were of use in her writing about dance in this project. The research project *Embodying Ambiguity* is presented on the website: www.embamb.com, where different texts are available for downloading as well.

Please contact associate professor Susanne Ravn sravn@health.sdu.dk for further information. Researchers and students from outside are very welcome.

From Reconstruction to Construction Seminar and workshop in Tampere, Finland, 14. – 15.6.2006

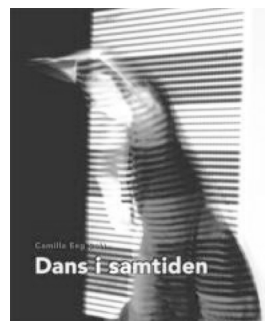
The project Past and Present Dance Practices (Department of Music Anthropology, University of Tampere) arranges a seminar and workshop whose topic is the re-

interpretation of past dance traditions. The lecturers at the seminar are professor Timo Leisiö, PhD Inka Väli-pakka and PhD Petri Hoppu. The teachers in the workshop are Arne, Silje and Asbjørg Sølvberg from Norway, and they teach dances from their home region. They also show how and in which forms the old dances can live in the present day.

Further information: petri.hoppu@uta.fi
www.uta.fi/laitokset/mustut/english/danceprac.html

Dans i samtiden

En ny bok om norsk samtidsdans
Spartacus forlag
Camilla Eeg (Red.)



Boken er en fagbok for alle som jobber med, og ser dans. Med utgangspunkt i seks norske dansekompanier forsøker forfatterne i boken å forklare hvordan vår kultur forstår kroppen.

Forfattere:

- * Tone Kristine Kolbjørnsen om Ingun Bjørnsgaard Prosjekt
- * Gunn Engelsrud om Øyvind Jørgensen Produksjoner
- * Marit Strømmen om Kreutzer Kompani
- * Camilla Eeg om Zero Visibility Corp.
- * André Lepecki om Heine Avdal/deepblue
- * Myriam van Imschoot om Impure Company

Boken selges på Black Box Teater og Dansens Hus, på utvalgte bokhandlere samt på www.spartacus.no. Pris 288 NOK.

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

www.danceinfo.fi

NOFOD

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