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Dear members. Here comes the newsletter for fall 2011. Its main content is news from the last board meeting and news from the countries. The proceedings from the last Nofod conference is on its way and an issue of the Nordic Journal of Dance is forthcoming in December. I would like to remind you of our website. It is open for everyone and there you can find a calendar, Ph.D abstracts (under articles), news, publications and useful links. We on the board try as well as we can to keep the website up to date. Help from you would be appreciated in improving the website as an important source of information about dance research. I encourage you to send to our webmaster Elina Seye elina.seye@uta.fi information about upcoming events, news about publications, dissertation abstracts and other items you think would be of use and interest for our dance research community.

Editor/Sesselja G. Magnúsdóttir /IS

News from the chair to the members

Dear All

In the first weekend in September we had our first board meeting, after the NOFOD conference in Odense. As one of the very first things we discussed how to improve the communication between the board and you, the members. As part of this discussion we decided to change the form and the format of the Newsletter. The news from the chair will be presented in a relatively informal way and more directly refer to what the board is discussing, taking action on and investing working hours in relation to. We hope that this might work as a way of opening up the work of the board, so that you as a member feel more actively invited to take contact to the board if you have any ideas, suggestions or the like for the NOFOD board to take into consideration, to take action on, or...

We also decided to try to be as fast as possible sending out the newsletter after our meetings, so that the news that we exchange within the board can be offered to all members as soon as possible. We are well aware that each Nordic country already has different networks, newsletters, facebook- groups through which anyone interested in dance can be updated on national and international dance news and events. It is obviously a challenge to find out how the newsletters from NOFOD board are to work in relation to this in the future. Again, if you have any suggestions or ideas we encourage you to take contact to the board members.

In elongation to this discussion and in accordance to the decision from the General Assembly we also focused on how we can generate and organize the special interest groups in NOFOD. That is, how we from the site of the board can help facilitate processes so that interest groups become an active part of NOFOD's activities. In the board we imagine that in the future NOFOD might have special interest groups in relation to, for example, 'dance education and dance pedagogy', 'artistic research' and 'new circus'. We established a working group within the board. Before the next board meeting the working group will prepare for how the board can offer guidelines and suggestions that makes it attractive and as easy as possible to use NOFOD as a platform for special interest groups. Obviously, it will be important that the board, is aware that there should be time and space for the interest groups to meet during the NOFOD conferences in the future.

At the General Assembly it was decided that the board should go on finding ways so that NOFOD members would receive the *Nordic Journal of Dance* as part of their membership fee. In these months, the board members are in the process of figuring out the practical necessities to be taken care of to be able to send out the next volume of the Journal (vol 3) to all NOFOD members. We expect the volume to be published in December this year. The board decided that each country will update the list of paid members by the 20th of October – and this will be the list used when

sending out the journal. Please, be aware and check if you have paid your membership fee for 2011. If you have not paid for this year you will not receive any journal. ... and it's a great journal – so don't miss it...

In a major part of the board meeting on Saturday we worked on finishing up accounts and evaluating the 10th NOFOD conference in Odense. There is still a bit more work to be done before the 10th conference is 'closed down'. All the participants in the conference should by now have received a proceeding directly and the national members (paid members 2010 and/or 2011) should receive their copy within the next month. I just send out boxes of copies from Odense this Friday to representatives from each country today.

Most of the Sunday meeting was focused on the next NOFOD conference to be held in Trondheim at NTNU together with Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) in June 2013. Anne Fiskvik from the board is the head of the local organizing committee at NTNU in Trondheim. She has already been able to raise money so she can participate in the next SDHS meeting in New York this October to present – and represent – the interest of both NOFOD and NTNU in the process of working out a shared memorandum for how the conference are to be organized as a co-joint event.

Finally, I will already by now make you aware, that in 2015 the NOFOD conference will be held in Iceland. This seems far away in the future but the conference is already on the agenda and part of the ongoing work in the board. By now, we expect that the focus of the conference in 2015 will be related to artistic research and practice based research projects.

/Susanne Ravn DK

Nyheder fra Danmark

Copenhagen University is now enrolled as a partner in the new Nordic MA in Dance Education. Both the Department of Art and Cultural Studies Institute (Dance research) and the Department of Exercise and Sport Science co-operate with The Danish National School of Theatre and Contemporary Dance. Together they contribute to the 'Danish' part of the education.

Dance in education (DiU) was dissolved as association this spring. At current the intention is to find a way of working as a network, instead – and maybe connect to NOFOD (as a special interest group?) on a national or Nordic level.

Charlotte Svendler Nielsen has been employed as assistant professor at the Institute of Sport in Copenhagen. Congratulation Charlotte with this permanent employment.

A seminar on Phenomenology and Qualitative Methodologies – with Dan Zahavi, Shaun Gallagher, Dorothée Legrand, Susanne Ravn was held in the 26th of May. The seminar was very successful and a list of PhD students and researchers interested in and/or working with phenomenology has in this way been started. More dance researchers participated. A PhD course (seminar and workshop) focusing on this topic is planned to be held in September 2012. Information about the PhD course will also be send to the NOFOD network and also specifically to dance and performance related departments in the Nordic countries, as soon the dates of the course are set and the economy approved.

Susanne Ravn has together with Leena Rouhiainen taken initiative to editing a peer reviewed book based on 14 selected contributions of high academic quality, submitted and now published in the proceedings of the 10th NOFOD conference – specifically focusing on exploring on the theme: Spacing Dance(s) – Dancing Space(s). All the contributors have been contacted and initiatives have been taken to raise the necessary money for publishing the book. The plan is that the book will be published in September, 2012.

Book publications:

Erik Aschengren has published a new book: "*Forført af balletten*" The book is published by Gyldendal.

Susanne Ravn and Pia Stilling /DK

News from Finland

The local, still independent, dance and theatre magazines are joining forces. From the beginning of 2012 Teatteri&Tanssi will be published for the first time. (more info at www.teatteritanssi.fi)

An independent an open network for interested researchers and students from variety of disciplines formed around performance studies (see. www.esitystutkimus.wordpress.com). Its first research day was held on the 16th of May 2011 at Tieteiden talo (The Sciences House) Helsinki.

The Theatre Academy Dance Department held an open full day seminar called Somatic Understanding as knowhow in Contemporary Dance, with a research paper presenting the evolvement of the somatic field and several somatic practitioners introducing their work within dance.

The local NOFOD is holding a seminar on dance research methodology at the University of Tampere on the 29th of September.

CIRKO Circus Information Centre's new facilities were opened at Suvilahti, Helsinki.

There was a national Nofod meeting on the 15th of April.

Books publications

Eeva Anttila and the Theatre Academy are about to publish a book on art pedagogy including perspectives on dance in October 2011. Anttila, E (ed.) (2011), Taiteen jälki: Taidepedagogiikan polkuja ja tienristeyksiä (The Trace of Art: Paths and Crossroads of Art Pedagogy). Helsinki: Teatterikorkeakoulu (Theatre Academy).

A book on contemporary Finnish choreography introduces 37 artists was published: Jyrkkä, Hannele 2011. Nykykoreografien jalan jäljessä: 37 tapaa tehdä tanssi. Helsinki: Like.

/Elina Seye and Leena Rouhiainen FI

Nyheter i Sverige

A new Master-program started September 2011 at the University of Dance and Circus. The program is called New Performative Practices. Some of the courses within the program are also open as independent courses.

In December 2011 the circus program at the University of Dance and Circus will move into a new circus hall on campus. The circus hall will be officially inaugurated during the spring 2012.

/Camille Damkjær og Åsa Unander-Scharin S

Nyheder fra Norge

At NTNU the department of dance studies have succeeded in establishing an international Master Degree in Dance. Also they have, as well succeeded in establishing an Erasmus Mundus in Dance Ethnography.

The first volume in a series of 3: "Dance in Nordic Spaces" ""*Dance and the Formation of Norden. Emergences and Struggles*" Dance and the Formation of Norden" (edited by Karen Vedel) has been printed and a formal book launch was held at

NTNU with all the members of the project present in Trondheim on 14th of September. A copy is already on its way to be reviewed in Nordic Dance Research Journal

The Norwegian branch of Nofod will arrange a seminar for its Norwegian members, with a focus on Dance Research in Norway today. The seminar will be held as part of the CODA-festival, which this year focuses on reconstruction and will show work by Yvonne Rainer and Deborah Hay. Hilde Rustad is in charge of this national meeting/seminar.

At KHIO they have a new dean (dekanus): Susanne Bjørneboe.

/Anne Fisvike og Hilde Rustad, N

News from Iceland

Sigríður Þ. Valgeirsdóttir passed away the 3rd of September at the age 92. Sigríður was the founder of the Íslenska dansfræðafélagið 1998 that is the Icelandic branch of NOFOD and was on the board from the beginning. She was also the founder and primus motor of Reykjavík Folk-Dance association 1951 and directed many of the group's performances through the time. Sigríður published several things about Icelandic Folk dances most important her books *Gömludansarnir í tvær aldir* and *Andblær vindanna* the former about Icelandic pair dances and the latter about Icelandic songdances. Sigríður was a professor at the University of Education for decades.

Sveinbjörg Þórhallsdóttir has been hired as the programme director of dance at the Iceland Academy of Arts. Sveinbjörg holds a Master degree in choreography and has been dynamic in the Icelandic dance world since she graduated from Alvin Ailey American Dance Centre New York 1995.

Marija Scekić has got a position as an assistant professor in dance at the Iceland Academy of Arts. She is the first assistant lector within the program. Marija comes from Zagreb in Croatia where she has been out of many other things the artistic director of Historia Nova. Marija has a basic education in ballet and contemporary dance and further education in improvisation, contemporary dance and choreography.

Reykjavík Dance festival will be held the 5th to 11th September. The festival is a bigger event than ever before offering dance films, workshop, panel discussion and many interesting performances and installations.

Íslenska dansfræðafélagið will held two smaller events this semester where the members share their work of practice within the dance world. Margrét Gísladóttir and Ragna Rögnvaldsdóttir will talk about courses in folk dances they took this summer.

Like in many other countries dance in Iceland for example the Icelandic dance company get reduced amount of money this year.

/ Guðbjörg Arnardóttir and Sesselja G. Magnúsdóttir IS

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