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NOFOD NEWSLETTER NR: 38 – JULY 2013

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News from the chair to the members

Dear All,

To see the conference *Dance ACTtions – Traditions and Transformation* in collaboration with SDHS taking place in Trondheim was definitely one of the important events of the year. To meet scholars from all over the world was inspiring and made it manifest how Nofod is not only a Nordic platform but part of an international network. Knowing that this is result of a lot of work, let me once again thank both the former Nofod board and especially Anne Fiskvik and Susanne Ravn, as well as the SDHS representatives, for organising this event. How to continue to see Nofod in an international perspective is one of the questions that the new board will keep in mind.

To see the special interest groups meet was also a special treat. The discussion of how to organise these has been an important part of Nofod's activities over the last couple of years, and the fact they can now set to work is important. In this newsletter we have included reports from each group, and we will continue to discuss how to make the groups an active part of Nofod. Please also remember that as a member you can always suggest new working groups; if you wish to do so please contact : camilla.damkjaer@doch.se

The newly elected board had its first meeting at the end of Trondheim conference, but is already starting to plan ahead for the next conference in Iceland in two years – time goes so fast, 2015 will soon be here, and we will keep you all updated along the way. Already now we can tell that our host in Iceland will be the Iceland Academy of the Arts, and we are very happy about that. We will be occupied with other things too, of course, but the conferences have a very special place in Nofod's rhythm and we will do our best to see to it that also the future conferences become a fresh intake of breath for all those invested in dance research.

I hope that a wonderful summer lies ahead for all! And if you come across interesting information during the summer, you can always post it on our facebook-page: <http://www.facebook.com/nofod>.

Best wishes,
/Camilla Damkjaer, Chair of NOFOD, SE

News from the Special Interest Groups:

Special Interest Group: Artistic Research

The artistic research in dance working group had some 20 participants and was convened by Leena Rouhiainen. The workshop was described in the following manner: "Artistic research has evolved into a research field in its own right. Within its realm artists and other art professionals turn artistic practice into a medium of research. Articulating the tacit dimensions of artistic undertakings and producing artistic end results are amongst its main focus. This working group offers participants a forum to present and discuss an array of issues related to this field, especially from the perspective of dance. Possible themes of interest are, forexample: institutional environment, methodology, conceptions of knowledge, practice and theory, documentation, criteria, dissemination."

The group discussed the following questions: What do we consider artistic research in dance to be? What all does it encompass? What does artistic research in dance produce? How does it benefit dance research, the dance field and society more widely? How does artistic research in dance deviate from or contribute to other forms of practice-oriented research?

The discussion went on to address the following themes and issues: A need to think what dance is, artistic research as democratic practice, the practitioner-researcher, the language of articulating dance practice, embodied knowledge, practical approaches to working with dance as forms of investigation, in addition to personal, professional and academic knowledge – a form of situated and contextual knowledge is involved, the similarity of artistic and scientific practices – as creative undertakings, the research question in artistic research – determined from the outset / while researching through practice, in artistic research there is freedom to find diverse ways to document and disseminate the research, the answers of artistic research are not fixed, the problem of funding – the discourse required in applications, the research field acknowledges peer-reviewed publications but not art work etc., what is documentation in artistic research – how to communicate process and findings to others, the particularity of professional knowledge vs. general public and what contextualising information should the observes and readers of artistic research be offered, the challenges of artistic research as an interdisciplinary field should be viewed as opportunities.

/Leena Rouhiainen

To join the group, please contact: leena.rouhiainen@teak.fi

Special Interest Group: Folk and Popular Dance Research:

NOFOD's working group for folk and popular dance research convened during the conference in Trondheim with 19 participants altogether. The convener of the group Petri Hoppu started the first session on Sunday morning with a short introduction to different approaches and perspectives in research, examining definitions of 'participatory' dancing in relation to dance performances and historical and ethnographical dance research within the field. After the

introduction the group discussed the concept of dance in a global context as well as the status of dance in different cultures and religions.

On Monday Elina Seye suggested first that the group would discuss the relation between dance and music. After a lively and manifold debate on this theme, Anna-Maria Nielsen presented slides and video clips of Jamaican dancehall. This topic raised interesting ethical questions concerning dance and dance research, but it also urged the group to consider the ways video clips on the internet construct cultural phenomena, in this case social dancing. As a whole, the first meeting of the group was successful, and we can expect to see similar ones in the future, as well.

/Petri Hoppu

To join this special interest group, please contact: petri.hoppu@uta.fi

Special Interest Group: Dance Pedagogy:

The dance pedagogy working group meetings were very productive. We were a group of ten participants from Nordic countries, the US and New Zealand. The first meeting consisted of introductions and discussion on the theme that I had proposed in the working group description: what does dance pedagogy mean today, and how has the role of the dance teacher changed during recent times. For the second meeting, everyone prepared a short presentation on research that they either were aware of, planning to conduct, or had conducted. This discussion was lively and participants seemed to appreciate the exchange of resources. We decided that everyone will send their references to me and I will collect them into one document. This resource “bank” could be expanded in the future as we would like to keep this networking alive.

/Eeva Anttila

To join this group, please contact: eeva.anttila@teak.fi

Special Interest Group: Dance as Service – New Roles for Dancers and Dance Organisations in Society:

The group met in Trondheim at the Nofod/SDHS conference. To join this group, please contact: kai.lehikoinen@teak.fi

Special Interest Group: Contemporary Circus

As few scholars working with contemporary circus attended the Nofod/SDHS conference this time, it was not possible to constitute an agenda for the group or compile a mailing list. However, I consider it important that the working group was visible in the program, as an example of the width of Nofod and the intention to include contemporary circus.

/Camilla Damkjaer

To join this working group, please contact: camilla.damkjaer@doch.se

News from the countries:

News from Denmark

Books:

MA in music science and art history Ole Nørlyng has published a book about the ballet "Et Folkesagn" from 1854 by August Bournonville. The title of the book is: "Et Folkesagn. Fra Bournonville til syret Troldspejl".

The anthology *Dance Spaces: Practices of Movement* edited by Susanne Ravn and Leena Rouhiainen was released from the publisher beginning of March and can be ordered from the University press of Southern Denmark (publishing year 2012 as planned). The last conference held in Odense has formed the background for selecting, writing, reviewing and editing the articles which you can now find in the anthology. The homepage of the publisher is in Danish. However, the anthology can also be ordered through Amazon.

With a financial support of around 3500 d kr (to cover travel expenses) from the research unit Movement, Sport and Society at the Department of Sports and Biomechanics at the University of Southern Denmark a national meeting was held the 24th of November 2012. The theme of the one day meeting was: 'Practice as research', 'artistic research' or 'kunstnerisk udviklingsvirksomhed'. The theme was by way of introduction framed by Christine Fentz (performance artist, Aarhus) and Susanne Ravn (SDU, Odense). Birgitte Bauer (KU, Copenhagen) presented her newly defended PhD project entitled (in Danish): *Koreografen blik - den performative koreografiske praksis og strategi som metode i skabelsen af en interkulturel forestilling*. Camilla Damkjær (DOCH, Stockholm) gave a lecture demonstration 'The Representation of Space.' Based on the concept of problem-based learning Christina Blicher Johnsen (assistant professor, SDU) presented some didactical considerations related to working with performance projects with students in Physical Education – and finally PhD student Stine Degerbøl (KU, Copenhagen) presented part of her ongoing PhD project on Contemporary Circus.

News from Finland

The Performing Arts Research Centre of the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki accepted two new doctoral students in the field of dance: choreographer Simo Kellokumpu and dance pedagogue and choreographer Katarina McAlester

The Finnish NOFOD members are compiling an anthology of the methodology utilised in Finnish dance research. The anthology is edited by Hanna Järvinen and Leena Rouhiainen and includes articles by 15 dance researchers. It will be published by the Nivel-series of the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki.

News from Iceland

The general assamble of Íslenska dansfræðafélagið (Nofod Iceland) was held in beginning of February. There Sesselja G. Magnúsdóttir and Guðbjörg Arnardóttir were elected as the Icelandic candidacies for the Nofod board.

An Assembly in memory of Sigríður Þ. Valgeirsdóttir former board member of Nofod was held 4th of May in cooperation with The Reykjavík Folk-Dance Association. Ingibjörg Björnsdóttir opened the assembly by talked about Sigríðar's life not at least from the perspective of dance, then a piece of her choreography was shown on video and at last a few folk dances from her book *Íslenskir söngdansar í þúsund ár. Andblær aldanna* where danced.

News from Norway

NTNU has two new PhD-candidates: Siri Mæland and Elizabeth Svarstad

Hilde Rustad defended her PhD dissertation "Dans etter egen pipe; en analyse av danseimprovisasjon og kontaktimprovisasjon som tradisjon, fortolkning og levd erfaring" at the Norwegian School for Sport Science.

The NOFOD conference Dance ACTions – Traditions and Transformations, took place at NTNU in Trondheim, 8-11 June 2013. The conference was a collaboration between Society of Dance History Scholars, SDHS, and NOFOD, and about 170 people participated.

SKUDA – skuespiller og danseralliansen/the actor and dancer alliance started in 2012.

Amanda Steggel was appointed professor at KHIO, Statens Balletthøyskole, in a 50 % position.

News from Sweden

The annual performing arts biennale was held in Jönköping 21-26th of May. The next biennale will be held in Malmö 2015. <http://scenkonstbiennalen.se>

On the 13th of April 2013 John-Paul Zaccarini defended his PhD thesis with the title: *Circoanalysis: Circus, Therapy and Psychoanalysis*. The PhD project has been carried out in a collaboration between the University of Dance and Circus and the Department of Performance Studies, Stockholm University.

The University of Dance and Circus (DOCH) has published three new books:

Britt-Marie Styrke: *Dans, didaktik och lärande - om lärares möjligheter och utmaningar inom gymnasieskolans estetiska program*

Conference Documentation: *Close Encounters - Contemporary Dance Didactics: Explorations in Theory and Practice*

Cecilia Roos, Katarina Elam och Anna Petronella Fouttier: *Ord i tankar och rörelse. Dansaren och den skapande processen: konstnärlig och humanistisk forskning i samverkan*

For more information please see: http://www.doch.se/forskning/publikationer-publications/bestall_material

In September 2013 a new Master program in Contemporary Dance Didactics starts at DOCH.

For more information see: <http://www.doch.se/utbildning/alla-utbildningsprogram/masterprogram-i-samtida-dansdidaktik>

From the 1st of January 2014 the University of Dance and Circus, Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, and the University College of Opera will form a new artistic university.

Information is continuously published at: <http://www.stockholmuniarts.se>

All together 6 new phd candidates have been accepted recently within the field of performing arts. At the department of Musicology and Performance Studies (Stockholm University) Jonas Eklund and Irene Velten Rotmund have been accepted. At the University of Dance and Circus Jonathan Priest has been accepted as phd candidate in choreography with a specialisation in circus and Paz Rojo as a phd candidate in choreography – both in collaboration with Konstnärliga Forskarskolan and The Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Lund University. The Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts has accepted Carina Reich and Anna Pettersson, also in collaboration with Konstnärliga Forskarskolan.

Nordic Journal of Dance

According to agreement NOFOD members receive every second issue of Nordic Journal of Dance. The currently edited volume 4 (1) will be published in early fall and will be sent to the NOFOD members accordingly. Eeva Anttila is issue editor for the upcoming volume 4 (1). All numbers of NDJ can be subscribed from Dans i Skolen in Norway: dis@dansiskolen.no. More info on the website: www.nordicjournalofdance.com

The board of Nofod would like to encourage all members to contribute to the journal. For more information about how to submit articles, please see: www.nordicjournalofdance.com

The board (as elected at the General Assembly June 13):

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