

1000 words about the mobility of contemporary dance in FINLAND

- **Festivals**

The most important and most international Finnish dance festivals are:

Kuopio Dance Festival. Wide ranging programme from contemporary dance to classical ballet. Annually in Kuopio. www.kuopiodancefestival.fi

Full Moon Dance Festival. Contemporary dance from Finland and abroad. Annually in Pyhäjärvi. www.fullmoondance.fi

Moving in November Festival. International contemporary dance and Finnish premieres. Annually in Helsinki. www.movinginnovember.fi

Besides the above mentioned other relevant festivals are:

Side Step Festival. Biennial international festival presenting cutting edge contemporary dance. www.zodiak.fi

OuDance Festival. Annually in September, contemporary dance from Finland and abroad. In Oulu. www.jojo.fi

Factory Festival Manifesti. Annual festival with programme from dance and theatre to arts and craft. In Turku. www.manillantehdas.fi

ANTI – Contemporary Art Festival. International festival presenting site-specific works of live, sonic, visual and text-based art. Annually in Kuopio. www.antifestival.com

Time of Dance Festival. Annual festival of Finnish contemporary dance. In Jyväskylä. www.tanssinaika.fi

Loikka Dance Film Festival. Displays Finnish and international cinematic dance works of any genre. Annually in Helsinki. www.loikka.fi

Baltic Circle International Theatre Festival. Annual festival presenting European contemporary theatre and performing arts, including contemporary dance. In Helsinki. www.balticcircle.fi

More: www.danceinfo.fi



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2. Venues

Zodiak – Center for New Dance is the one and only venue dedicated to contemporary dance. It is situated in Helsinki in the Cable Factory. www.zodiak.fi

Alexander Theatre in the centre of Helsinki displays a wide variety of dance. Tero Saarinen Company has been the resident company of the theatre since 2005. www.aleksanterinteatteri.fi

Also in Helsinki: **Kiasma Theatre** and **Stoa the Cultural Center of Eastern Helsinki**. Both present dance as part of their programme. www.kiasma.fi , www.stoa.fi

In other parts of Finland many dance companies have their own spaces, which they also rent out. Examples:

In Tampere: **Hällä stage**, run by the Dance Theatre MD. www.tanssiteatterimd.fi

In Turku: **Dance Theatre ERI**'s space, www.eridance.net; **AB Dance Company**'s space, www.aurinkobaletti.com; and **Barker Factory Space**, run by the Barker Theatre Association. www.barkerteatteri.fi

In Kuopio: **Sotku stage**, the home stage of dance theatre Minimi, www.minimi.fi

More: www.danceinfo.fi

Currently, the Dance House Association aims at establishing a new venue for dance in Helsinki, the Dance House, which will be dedicated to dance and performing art. Further, the mission of the association is to enhance the availability and diversity of high quality dance art in Finland.

More: www.tanssintalo.fi

3. Agents

In Finland there are no agents for dance.



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4. Rehearsal spaces

There is a constant need for more rehearsal space, especially in the Helsinki region.

In Alexander Theatre there are six fully booked rehearsal studios. The demand, especially in evening times is bigger than what the theatre can provide.

www.aleksanterinteatteri.fi

One of the aims of the Dance House association is to answer to the growing need of rehearsal space. As a result it has established a so-called rehearsal space bank, which allows for private dance schools and others to rent out their studios for professional use.

5. Touring/mobility structures and networks

The Dance House association is currently developing new ways of touring in cooperation with the city theatres and the regional dance centres. The pilot project has started in 2014.

A nation-wide network of regional dance centres was established in 2004 by Ministry of Education. The network consists of six regional dance centres: Zodiak – Center for New Dance/the Regional Centre for Dance in Helsinki, the Regional Dance Centre of Western Finland, the Central Finland Regional Dance Centre, the Regional Dance Centre of Ostrobothnia, the Regional Dance Centre of Eastern Finland and the Regional Dance Centre in Northern Finland. More info: www.danceinfo.fi

6. Funding of mobility and touring of national and foreign dance companies.

Individual Finnish dance artists can apply for travel grants and grants for international projects from the National Council for Circus and Dance. At the moment there is not a funding system for international touring of the companies. The Arts Promotion Centre awards grants and subsidies for international cooperation, export and exchange. Funds and foundations give sometimes grants for international work, including touring costs.



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Funding for mobility and touring of foreign dance companies in Finland does not exist. The receiving party, like a festival, a regional dance centre, a dance company etc. can apply grants for visiting companies from different sources.

7. Finnish dance abroad

During 2013 in total 36 Finnish dance companies and choreographers visited 33 countries. The 189 overseas performances attracted a total of 36 391 spectators.

When examining the number of Finnish dance companies performing in the Baltic and Nordic countries during the last ten years, a distinct increase is noticeable. One reason to this is the keđja project, which has promoted the performance activities in these countries.

International touring is an established activity for a few companies, but most lack the resources to tour overseas on a regular basis. The volume of international activity is therefore susceptible to yearly variations. The statistics do not entirely cover overseas visits by Finnish dance artists as works made by choreographers for international companies are not included. More: www.danceinfo.fi

8. Residencies

HIAP - Helsinki International Artist-in-residence Programme is the largest international residency centre in Finland and the only one operating in the capital. The Dance and Choreography residency programme is administered jointly with Zodiak – Centre for New Dance. www.zodiak.fi, www.hiap.fi

Kokko1721 is an artists-in-farmstay-residence. The idea is to offer focused time to artistic work and connect everyday life actions of an old farm. www.kokko1721.eu

The Raumars Artist-in-Residence Programme is with the aim of bringing the art world and the community closer to each other. The purpose of Raumars is to take art out of museums and galleries, and to work in a social context. www.raumars.org

The Saari Residence is maintained by Kone Foundation and hosts artists of all art forms in a historical surrounding. www.koneensaatio.fi



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Some individual residencies suitable for dance artists can also be found via **The Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation** which purpose is to secure and offer reasonably priced working space. www.ateljeesaatio.fi

JoJo's Artists' residency is maintained by JoJo – Oulu Dance Centre in Northern Finland. JoJo provides free accommodation, rehearsal and performance space for three weeks. www.jojo.fi

9. Co-production possibilities

Within Finland co-producing is a common way of producing dance. The emphasis on co-productions as a way of producing is due to the structure of the Finnish dance scene, which is characterized by several independent dance companies or groups. Co-production parties are dance companies, regional dance centres, dance festivals and venues.

10. Daily training

Tanssille is an association for professional dance artists in the Helsinki region. The association organizes regular morning classes for professional dancers. www.tanssille.net

The regional dance centres provide professional dance training in the respective regions. www.danceinfo.fi

11. National features

One of the characteristic features of The Finnish dance scene is the large number of freelance productions created by dance companies and groups. There are only two institutions: the Finnish National Ballet and Helsinki Dance Company. The nearly 50 dance companies and groups constitute the corner stone of Finnish dance. The networks of regional dance centres are ensuring that dance is equally available within Finland.



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The majority of the Finnish dancers and choreographers work as freelancers – and the number continues to rise. As a result, the artists join their forces and establish multi-disciplinary artist collectives. Examples of new forms of cooperation:

Apinatarha is a cooperative of seven artists who e.g. produces the ApinaFest! Festival for contemporary dance. www.apinatarha.fi

Choreographer Sonya Lindfors has created a unique event concept **UrbanApa** – a community for urban culture, art and events. One of its main aims is to promote in particular the works of young, upcoming dance artists. UrbanApa was acknowledged with the State Prize for Dance in 2013. www.urbanapa.fi

The Finnish Dance community is:

11 dance companies or production centres that are subsidized by the law.

Finnish National Ballet and Helsinki Dance Company (exists within Helsinki City Theatre)

19 dance companies funded by the National Council for Dance and Circus on yearly basis. (2014)

About 20 other dance companies or groups, working and funded more on a single production base. Yearly 150-250 premieres, in 2013 there were 160 premieres, spectators all together 429.999.

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