



Call for papers

Within the conference series CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, the University of Dance and Circus in Stockholm, Sweden, invites you to send proposals for the conference:

Contemporary Dance Didactics: Explorations in Theory and Practice

A conference with workshops and working groups at the University of Dance and Circus, 28-31 October, 2012

Purpose

The purpose of the conference is to introduce and share research, discuss, demonstrate and try different forms of dance didactics with participants from Sweden and internationally. Furthermore, to illuminate how dance didactics have developed and how this field of teaching and learning can grow.

Background

The interest in research into dance didactics and dance pedagogy has increased during the last decade, both in Sweden and internationally, and the need to critically review the existing educational practices has become pertinent. In tandem with this development, the will to reassess, research and develop dance didactics has grown. There is a recognized need to exchange ideas within the field of dance pedagogy in order to promote the research basis for teacher training and education, and this in line with the national Swedish education policy.

Language

The conference language will be English or Scandinavian languages. Be sure to state in which language you wish to present your paper, lecture demonstration or round table discussion in.

Important dates

26 February 2012, deadline for abstracts. Late admittances will not be accepted.

4 April 2012, the selected participants will be contacted by e-mail.

2 May-31 July – early registration, reduced conference price.

1 August and onwards – full conference price.

28-31 October 2012, the conference.



The themes of the conference

The following questions are some of the perspectives addressed by the conference's three different but partly overlapping themes.

The first theme deals with theoretical aspects of dance didactics. In other forms of art it is sometimes said that the focus in teaching and learning has shifted from conveying a tradition into innovative thinking and creativity. If that is the case also within dance, how does this affect different pedagogical methods? Do these new perspectives also change how we define the profession and the pedagogues' vocational competency; and how we conceive of dance theory and practice? Conversely, if dance teaching is still focused on conveying a tradition-based physical technique, as is often the case in classical ballet, how does it adapt to the modern academic approach to teaching and the students' abilities of critical reflection?

The second theme deals with practical aspects that answer the question "How is it done?" This will be demonstrated, tried out and discussed. If dance pedagogy no longer is focused on master/student-relationships, what other methods are used to convey choreography and technique to the students? In situations where the focus is to develop a meticulous knowledge of movement, as is the case in various somatic practices, the dance teacher faces problems of transforming individual instruction into group instructions and to lead the students into creative situations (Nettl-Fiol, 2008). How is this achieved?

The third theme deals with dance education in a social context. For example dance pedagogy and gender, dance for young people and community dancing. Dance classes attract mostly girls - is it a good idea to set up special classes for boys or not? Does dance pedagogy discriminate gender by tradition or not? Do you have to adapt the dance teaching depending on the teachers' and students' cultural background? In that case, are there ethical aspects to think about, and if so, what are they? Furthermore, how does the pedagogue relate to them? What are the society's views on dance and disability? How do you encourage differently-abled persons and children as well as adults with health problems to join in and express themselves through dance? What are the priorities for including dance in the school curricula, seen from an historical context as well as today?

Keynote speakers

Professor Dr. Gabriele Klein, University of Hamburg, Germany.

Professor Eeva Anttila, Theatre Academy, Finland.



Associate Professor Ralph Buck, Auckland University, Nya Zealand.

Associate Professor Becky Dyer, Arizona State University, USA

Associate Professor Tone Pernille Østern, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway.

Head of Department of Dance Toby Bennet, Roehampton University, London, England.

Practical information

Abstracts

You are invited to submit abstracts on 200-250 words in English.

State in what form you would like to present your proposal, as a paper, a lecture demonstration or a round table discussion as well what language you wish to use. The conference languages are English and Scandinavian.

State your professional title (for example: researcher at a university, senior lecturer/associate professor, doctoral student or other).

Proposals should be committed to closeencounters@doch.se before the 26th of February 2012. Late admittances will not be accepted.

The program committee: Professor Lena Hammergren, Visiting Professor Birgitta Sandström, Professor Cecilia Roos and Post-doc Britt-Marie Styrke, will evaluate the proposals during the month of March.

Information and costs

The fee for the conference will be 1 600 SEK (176 EUR, 237 USD, 151 GBP) if registration takes place during the early registration period, and 2 100 SEK (232 EUR, 311 USD, 199 GBP) if it is done later. It includes the full conference as well as lunch and coffee/tea during breaks. The welcome dinner is optional and will cost an additional 400 SEK (44 EUR, 60 USD, 38 GBP). Be sure to inform us of any allergies with your application.

Costs related to room, board and transportation will be covered by the presenters themselves or their respective institutions.

Up to date information about the conference will be posted at <http://www.doch.se/closeencounters> There you will also find information on hotels



close to DOCH, travel and transportation. If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Coordinator Kay Artle kay.artle@doch.se