

## 1000 words about the mobility of contemporary dance in ESTONIA

### 1. FESTIVALS

Estonian Contemporary Dance Platform UUS TANTS – Biannual contemporary dance festival, will take place next time in 2015. The festival is a contemporary dance overview festival that presents the most interesting performances of Estonian dancers and choreographers selected by the jury that have premiered during the last two years. Organized by the Union of Estonian Dance Artists.

<http://www.tantsuliit.ee/new-dance>

August DanceFestival – Annual internationally acknowledged contemporary dance and theatre festival that contains works of choreographers mainly from Europe. It is organized by Kanuti Gildi SAAL and its artistic director is Priit Raud.

<http://www.tantsufestival.ee>

NoTaFe (Noore Tantsu Festival/ Young Dance Festival) – Takes place annually in Viljandi, South-Estonia. Contains international summer school, workshops, performances. Organized by Eve Studio. Artistic director: Eve Noormets.

[www.notafe.ee](http://www.notafe.ee)

Festival HOMMIK – The catchwords of the dance festival HOMMIK are freshness and novelty, present-day reflections, daring experimenting, and approachability. The performances that the dance artists will be sharing with the audience react to today's needs and present time and people's minds.

<http://stu.ee/h2013/>

Hiiumaa Dance Festival – Dance festival for young audiences that takes place annually in Hiiumaa. Contains workshops, performances and film evenings.

<http://www.tants.org>

Koolitants (School Dance Festival), organised by the Estonian Dance Agency, is the most popular dance event for children and youth in Estonia, having the largest number of participants. Since its foundation in 1995, the creative dance festival is open to all styles and levels of dance. The goal of the School Dance Festival is to develop Estonian dance life as widely as possible, igniting interest towards dance in as many children and youth as possible and to encourage appreciation of dance art by the Estonian society through children and their parents.



c/o Dansehallerne

Pasteursvej 14, DK 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark +45 33 88 80 01 [www.kedja.net](http://www.kedja.net)



Contemporary dance is frequently also in the programme other festivals:

Baltoscandal – Most known international performing arts festival in Estonia started in 1990. The festival is held biannually in June-July (next July 2008) and takes place in Rakvere, organized by Rakvere Theatre and Baltoscandal team. The main accent is on theatre, but the program contains contemporary dance pieces as well.

[www.baltoscandal.ee](http://www.baltoscandal.ee)

## 2. VENUES

Tallinn:

Kanuti Gildi SAAL – the first production house that is devoted exclusively to the genre of contemporary dance in the Baltic countries. Presents and co-produces independently local and international productions. Established 2002. [www.saal.ee](http://www.saal.ee)

Okasroosikese Castle – is a unique building in Tallinn where are artists' studios and an open project based cultural room. The black hall of the castle is open for residencies and performances, concerts and exhibitions take place.

<http://stu.ee/okasroosikese-loss/>

Vaba Lava - Vaba Lava will be opened in 2014. It wishes to become a venue for young, experimental and innovative performing arts and network with theatres with similar profiles abroad.

[www.vabalava.ee](http://www.vabalava.ee)

Von Krahl Theatre – a theatre house and company in Tallinn in which annual program is usually one or two contemporary dance pieces per year. Until 2002 Von Krahl Theatre was the main venue for independent dance.

[www.vonkrah.com](http://www.vonkrah.com)

KUMU (Estonian Art Museum) auditorium – black-box theatre-auditorium used for dance performances.

[www.ekm.ee](http://www.ekm.ee)



c/o Dansehallerne

Pasteursvej 14, DK 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark +45 33 88 80 01 [www.kedja.net](http://www.kedja.net)



With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

Theatre NO99 – black-box theatre and a smaller chamber hall. Mostly for theatre pieces but a few contemporary pieces per year are performed.

[www.no99.ee](http://www.no99.ee)

### **Tartu:**

Sadamateater (Harbour theatre) – black box of the Vanemuine theatre. Used for their company productions and guest performances / festivals. Other venues of Vanemuine theatre are also used for dance productions.

[www.vanemuine.ee](http://www.vanemuine.ee)

Genialistide klubi – small venue for independent artists presents also contemporary dance. [www.genklubi.ee](http://www.genklubi.ee)

Tartu Uus Teater – a black-box theatre venue that holds a few dance performances per year. [www.uusteater.ee](http://www.uusteater.ee)

Athena centre – two venues at the new art centre in the centre of Tartu. Sometimes holds also dance performances.

[www.athena.ee](http://www.athena.ee)

### **Viljandi:**

Black Box of the University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy – used mainly for the student works, but also holds series of Contemporary Dance Scene, 1-2 times in month, organized by University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy and Eve Studio.

### **Pärnu:**

Küün of Pärnu Endla Theatre - black box of the Endla theatre. Mostly holds theatre performances.

[www.endala.ee](http://www.endala.ee)

### **Rakvere:**

Rakvere theatre - big hall and small hall, mostly holds theatre performances and a few dance performances per year.

[www.rakvereteater.ee](http://www.rakvereteater.ee)



c/o Dansehallerne

Pasteursvej 14, DK 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark +45 33 88 80 01 [www.kedja.net](http://www.kedja.net)



Occasionally contemporary dance performances are organized in the state theatres in Kuressaare and Culture centres of Haapsalu and Võru.

### 3. AGENTS

All venues produce themselves. Also independent artists very often produce or co-produce their own work.

Estonian Dance Agency / Tantsutuur is a contemporary dance series that kicked off in 2010 with a mission to intertwine various forms of dance while keeping all doors open for other forms of art. The repertoire of Tantsutuur entails performances for children, youth and adults, who are interested in contemporary dance and theatre. Tantsutuur deems it important to promote contemporary dance also in the counties, outside the main cities of Estonia.

Dance productions produced by Estonian Dance Agency for Tantsutuur brings together accomplished dance artists as coaches and young dance artists who are about to start their journey on the field of dance.

[www.tantsuagentuur.ee](http://www.tantsuagentuur.ee)

### 4. REHEARSAL SPACES

The most used rehearsal space is Kanuti Gildi SAAL's rehearsal studio, Estonian Dance Agency's studios and Okasroosikese castle. Also studios of the universities dance departments and private dance schools are used.

There is a need for rehearsal spaces in Tallinn and other towns.

### 5. TOURING/MOBILITY STRUCTURES AND NETWORKS

There are no official networks for touring and mobility in Estonia. Producers and co-producers are responsible for touring of their productions. There are three main production and co-production organizations in Estonia for contemporary dance – Kanuti Gildi SAAL / 2.tants, Estonian Dance Agency and STU (Independent Dance



c/o Dansehallerne

Pasteursvej 14, DK 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark +45 33 88 80 01 [www.kedja.net](http://www.kedja.net)



With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

Association). They are dealing also with organizing the touring and looking for financing of them.

In Viljandi and Pärnu there are independent organizations organizing series of contemporary dance performances in their towns – Eve Studio in Viljandi.

Festivals in Tartu, Viljandi, Pärnu and Haapsalu are also giving possibilities for touring.

## **6. FUNDING OF MOBILITY AND TOURING OF NATIONAL AND FOREIGN DANCE COMPANIES**

Financing of touring in Estonia is mainly coming from four different institutions:

local municipalities, Cultural Endowment of Estonia; local offices of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia and programme "Theatre to countryside".

Foreign touring of Estonian choreographers or groups is often supported from Cultural Endowment of Estonia or Estonian Ministry of Culture.

The organisers of festivals or guest performances can apply funding from Estonian Ministry of Culture and from Cultural Endowment of Estonia to invite foreign dance companies to perform. Also foreign cultural offices or embassies can support these events.

## **7. ESTONIAN DANCE ABROAD**

During 2012 (last statistics available; from Yearbook of Estonian Theatre Statistics 2012), 3 Estonian dance companies and choreographers presented 12 performances and gave a total of 31 performances in 15 different countries.

## **8. RESIDENCIES**

In Estonia we have two different residency places, one is Okasroosikese castle offered by STÜ and Kanuti Gildi SAAL offered by Teine Tants.



c/o Dansehallerne

Pasteursvej 14, DK 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark +45 33 88 80 01 [www.kedja.net](http://www.kedja.net)



With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

## 9. CO-PRODUCTION POSSIBILITIES

Kanuti Gildi SAAL, STÜ (Independent Dance Association) and Estonian Dance Agency are the producers or co-producers of most Estonian independent dance productions. Simultaneously they are responsible for these artists touring arrangements.

Sometimes some festivals are co-producing local and foreign productions.

State theatres are not interested in co-producing contemporary dance productions but occasionally might produce one by themselves.

Some companies have also foreign co-producers.

## 10. DAILY TRAINING

There are daily dance classes and workshops by Tantsijalt Tantsijale (From Dancer to Dancer) and workshops from STÜ, half of them supported by the Union of Estonian Dance Artists.

## 11. NATIONAL FEATURES

Estonian dance scene consists of 10-15 active choreographers/groups who are production based. So there are several productions and festivals, but there is a big lack of spaces for rehearsing and especially for performing. Also there is lack of touring networks or other support systems for touring and mobility and regional centres. This applies both to national and international work.

Three dance organizations (producers, co-producers) are supported partly by the Ministry of Culture.

Estonia has two ballet companies – Estonian National Ballet in Tallinn and Vanemuine Ballet in Tartu.

Yearly 10-15 premieres by independent artists. Total audience number for contemporary dance yearly around 25000-35000.

This paper is produced June-July 2014 by Raido Bergstein and Monika Tomingas from the Union of Estonian Dance Artists.

[www.tantsuliit.ee](http://www.tantsuliit.ee)



c/o Dansehallerne

Pasteursvej 14, DK 1799 Copenhagen V, Denmark +45 33 88 80 01 [www.kedja.net](http://www.kedja.net)



With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union