

1000 words about the mobility of contemporary dance in Norway

1. Festivals

There are three major dance festivals in Norway. **October Dance Norway** (www.oktoberdans.no) in Bergen is organized by BIT Teatergarasjen and was established in 1997. **CODA – Oslo International Dance Festival** (www.codadancefest.no) was established as a foundation in 2002. The two festivals occur biannually and function as showcases for Norwegian contemporary dance, as well as for visiting choreographers and companies. **Dance Festival Barents** (<http://www.dansefestivalbarents.no/>) in Hammerfest was established in 2004 by Stellaris DanceTheatre (<http://stellaris.no/>), which is now closely connected with Dansearena Nord - The regional dance center of Northern Norway (see point 5). The festivals focus is dance, art and culture from the Barents area.

Besides the above mentioned, there are around ten smaller dance festivals, of which can be mentioned:

Multiplie dansefestival (Trondheim): www.dansit.no

Kortreist Dansefestival (Inderøy): www.dansinordtrondelag.no

ImproFestivalen (Oslo area):

<https://www.facebook.com/events/693143857395212/>

Ravnedans (Kristiansand): <http://www.ravnedans.com/>

Urban moves, urban dance styles (Oslo): www.dansenshus.com

There are also several performing art festivals that include dance among other arts and culture events.

More: <http://danseinfo.no/lenker/festivaler>

2. Venues

Dansens Hus started their activities on various rented premises in 2004 and opened their own house on February 29th 2008 in Oslo. In Sandnes, **RAS-Regional Arena of Contemporary Dance** opened in 2007. In 2011, **Bærum Kulturhus** achieved the status as Regional Centre for Dance programming established Norwegian and foreign dance companies. Prior to the founding of Dansens Hus, the three theaters for



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independent performance art: **Black Box Teater** in Oslo (established 1985), **BIT Teatergarasjen** in Bergen (1983) and **Teaterhuset Avant Garden** in Trondheim, (1984) were of great importance to the development of Norwegian dance. The theaters have extensive international networks and are still great contributors to the promotion of Norwegian dance. **Performing Arts Network** (Nettverk for Scenekunst) is an informal network between these three theaters that work to promote exchange and touring of Norwegian and international performance art.

Dansens Hus: <http://www.dansenshus.com/>

RAS: <http://ras.as/>

Bærum Kulturhus: <http://www.baerumkulturhus.no/>

Black Box Teater: <http://www.blackbox.no/>

BIT Teatergarasjen: <http://www.bit-teatergarasjen.no/>

Teaterhuset Avant Garden: <http://www.avantgarden.no/>

Nettverk for Scenekunst, contact: <http://www.blackbox.no/>

3. Agents

Agents play no important part in Norwegian contemporary dance, however there are several independent managers that work with the larger dance companies, in Norway they are called producers and among administration and PR-tasks international promotion often also play a part. Gunn Hernes, Kirre Arneberg, Pernille Mogensen, Gry Ulfeng, and Morten Kippe are all producers that have an international network through their work with different choreographers and companies.

4. Rehearsal spaces

Scenehuset is an old church in Oslo and has existed as a production and rehearsal space for dance since 1990. From 1995 it has been administered by Dance Information Norway and hired out to choreographers and dancers. **Room for Dance** in Oslo also hires out space. **Bergen Dance Center** has studios for rent, and in Stavanger **RAS** may be contacted (see point 2).



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Scenehuset: <http://www.danseinfo.no/scenehuset>

Room for Dance: <http://www.romfordans.no/>

Bergen Dance Center: <http://www.bergen-dansesenter.no/>

There are also multiple private dance schools and groups renting out their studios.

See: <http://danseinfo.no/lenker/lokaler-til-leie>

5. Touring/mobility structures and networks

There is no tailor-made infrastructure for the touring of dance performances in Norway at the moment. The last 5 years a total of 13 productions have toured with **Riksteateret. Den Kulturelle Skolesekken** (The Cultural Rucksack) and **Scenekunstbruket** produce and promote performances for children and young people, mainly at schools. However, due to practical limitations, mostly smaller and technically undemanding performances are considered, although there are exceptions.

Performing Arts Network (mentioned in point 2) also invites international companies, giving them the possibility to perform in Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim.

Norway has **10 Regional Centers for Dance** that, among others, works to promote dance and bring dance performances to their region. The centers have great variations in budgets and capacity and the funding is not on permanent basis:

RAS – Regional Arena for Contemporary Dance Rogaland (see point 2)

Dansearena nord, Finnmark: <http://www.dansearenanord.no/>

Bærum kulturhus, Akershus (see point 2)

Dansekunst I Grenland, Telemark: <http://www.dansekunstigrenland.no/>

Bergen Dansesenter, Hordaland (see point 4)

Forum for Nordnorske Dansekunstnere, Troms: <http://www.fnnd.no/>

DansiT, Sør-Trøndelag: <http://www.dansit.no/>

Fjelldansen Valdres: <http://www.2011.frikar.com/FJELLDANSEN>

Dans i Nord-Trøndelag: <http://www.dansinordtrondelag.no/>



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Scenerommet, Buskerud: <http://www.scenerommet.com/>

From the start in 2004 **Dansens Hus** (see point 2) has programmed international companies alongside the Norwegian companies and is now commissioned by the Ministry of Culture to investigate structures for a national touring scheme. There have already been some examples of touring collaboration between the regional dance centers.

Riksteatret: <http://www.riksteatret.no/>

Den Kulturelle Skolesekken: <http://kulturradet.no/den-kulturelle-skolesekken>

Scenekunstbruket: <http://www.scenekunstbruket.no/>

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

The institutions mentioned above receive funding for their activities. There is also funding for guest performances (but not for touring) through **Arts Council Norway**. Venues or companies themselves can apply. Norwegian companies can also apply for money to travel abroad, through Arts Council Norway: <http://www.kulturrad.no/> and/or **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. This support is administered by **Performing Arts Hub Norway (PAHN/Danse og Teatersentrum)** and bears the name **STIKK**. Performing Arts Hub Norway: <http://www.danseogteatersentrum.no/>

7. Norwegian dance abroad

Dance Information Norway has statistics on international touring showing an increase from 3 performances in 1995 to 307 performances in 2013. Obviously, one of the reasons for this extensive traveling is the lack of infrastructure for touring in Norway. Many Norwegian companies play by far more performances abroad than in Norway.

8. Residencies

There are several residencies for artists in Norway, but there is a lack of comprehensive overview. **Dansearena nord** (see point 5) offers a popular residency



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and **Tou Scene** in Stavanger offers residencies with the aim to strengthen the production of new media, visual and performance art in the region. They offer free accommodation for up till 2 weeks all year round. **DansIT, RAS** (see point 5) and **Arena Vestfossen** may also be contacted.

Tou scene: <http://www.touscene.com/>

Arena vestfossen: <http://www.arenavestfossen.com/index.html>

9. Co-production possibilities

Co-productions are possible at the venues and festivals mentioned, but dependant on the programming of their artistic leaders.

10. Daily training

Daily training is organized by the foundation **PRODA-Professional Dance Training**. Dancers can train on a daily basis only in Oslo, while the training is organized as courses or workshops in 6 other places in Norway.

<http://proda.no/>

11. National features

There are only two companies receiving set annual funding: **The Norwegian Opera and Ballet**, which opened their new house April 12th 2008, and **Carte Blanche** in Bergen. The art form has mainly developed in the arena of independent dance. Several dance companies are working with varying degrees of continuity, on project financing from Arts Council Norway and additional financing from smaller funding bodies.

The Norwegian Opera and Ballet: <http://www.operaen.no/>

Carte Blanche: <http://www.ncb.no/>



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The most important organizations are:

Norske Dansekunstnere 'NoDa' – the association for choreographers, dancers and pedagogues was founded in 1947. It is a national and independent union with 852 members in 2013. NoDa's aim is to promote their members' artistic, political and economical interests. Considering Norway's short dance history, NoDa has played an important part in the development of the art form. Both PRODA–Professional Training and Dance Information Norway were established by NoDa.

Norske Dansekunstnere: <http://norskedansekunstnere.no/>

Dance Information Norway (DI), established in 1994, and is the national information and resource center for dance. DI is a non-profit foundation, aiming to promote the art of dance in a multitude of ways. Working with information and documentation is of particular importance. DI runs a specialized library for the dance discipline, as well as a video library comprising approximately 1000 videos/dvds. Professional dancers, students, amateurs, the general public, the media and politicians utilize DI. From day one, the center has worked politically to establish Dansens Hus and is now situated in the same building, centrally in Oslo. DI is working to collect, preserve and convey the Norwegian dance history through The Dance Archive (DanseArkivet).

Dance Information Norway: <http://www.danseinfo.no/>

Politics

For several years political parties have, across the board, agreed to increase their support of dance. The previous government launched 'Kulturløftet' with the aim to contribute 1% of the GNP to the cultural sector, by 2014. Dance was one of the 15 entries in 'Kulturløftet'. The current government has not yet presented their first fiscal budget, so it will be interesting to see what comes.

Kulturløftet: <http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kkd/Tema/andre/Kulturloftet.html?id=86984>

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