



DANCE INFO FINLAND – Summary of the statistics regarding dance performances and audiences for the year 2019

HALF A MILLION PEOPLE SEE FINNISH DANCE EVERY YEAR

The total number of performances given by Finnish dance companies and production centres has been quite steady during several years: nearly 3 000 performances per year. Also the number of people dance reached in 2019 was on the same level as in previous years. Over half a million people were engaged in dance in the form of performances, audience development, community dance or dance films.

Nevertheless, the sector is very vulnerable and easily touched by alterations and changes in the operational environment due to lean basic resources for dance art.

Finnish dance performances in 2019 were attended by 406 600 spectators in total (2018: 399 000), 28 000 of them abroad (2018: 29 800). 112 000 people participated in audience development and community dance projects, and dance films were seen by 18 000 people around the world. Guest performances of dance from abroad were shown at festivals and different venues, and they attracted 18 000 people in Finland.

MORE FIRST PREMIERES DIDN'T RESULT TO MORE PERFORMANCES

The Finnish dance companies and production centres performed in 2019 in total 2 829 times (2018: 2 859).

The number of first premieres increased to 159 from the previous year's 143. A big part of the new works that premiered were produced by independent choreographers or groups, and they were performed only a few times (less than five).

It seems that all in all there are more small independent groups and production based collectives in Finland who make performances and apply money for one production at a time. Nevertheless, they are able to give only few performances of their production as there is a lack of a touring system in Finland. It's also easier to get a little money for a new creation than support for prolonging the life cycle of a piece.

Many dance companies and freelancers have integrated outreach work and community dance in their artistic practice. By these means they reached 112 000 people in 2019.

LESS TOURING ABROAD THAN BEFORE

During 2019, 21 Finnish dance companies toured in 22 countries, and attracted almost 28 000 spectators with 97 performances abroad. Year 2019 is thus a record low touring year.

Nevertheless, there were four Finnish dance companies that performed a lot – even much more internationally than in their home country. The major part of their audiences were abroad for Tero Saarinen Company, Susanna Leinonen Company, Alpo Aaltokoski Company and the Väkevä Collective.

Dance from Finland was seen all over the world, mainly in Europe. Many performances were taken to Russia, and South Korea, countries in which Dance Info Finland has actively undertaken cooperation projects.

The statistical information was collected from more than 140 dance groups, choreographers, regional centres, festivals, and theatres active in Finland. The complete dance statistics are published on the Dance Info Finland website www.danceinfo.fi/en.

THE CRITERIA USED IN COMPILING THE STATISTICS

The dance statistics include professional Finnish dance performances and premieres along with their ticket sales and aggregate attendance. Choreographies made for television or film are not included.

The statistical information comes from dance groups, production companies, individual choreographers and regional dance centres. The statistics provide a reliable picture of the performance volume and the number of spectators of Finnish dance.

The data concerning the dance companies that are entitled to state subsidies according to the Theatres and Orchestras Bill (so called VOS-category) is gathered by TINFO - the Finnish Theatre Information Centre. In the statistics compiled by Dance Info Finland, the information is put together and organized so that the big institutional theatres (Finnish National Ballet, Helsinki Dance Company), state-subsidised companies, independent groups and other dance companies as well as individual choreographers are dealt in their own categories.

The collaborations between dance groups and individual choreographers have been calculated in the statistics of both parties. The aggregate statistics take into account the overlaps created by visits, collaborations and combined performances.

The activities of regional centres for dance are shown in a separate table. The table shows how many first premieres and performances they have been involved in making, and how many spectators these performances attracted.

Finnish dancers' and dance groups' touring abroad constitute a separate statistic, although these visits are included in the calculation of aggregate attendances and the total number of performances. The statistics do not include dance works that Finnish choreographers have created for international companies.