



Staying curious

Progress happens most often in our world as a result of interaction by many people. At Dansehallerne we view the interaction between staff, artists and audience as central, but there is one more crucial factor – the outside world. We exist and we work in a context. Art develops in relation to an ever-changing world and it is only in dialogue with this outside world that we can produce activities and events that generate images, expressions and actions of relevance in our everyday life.

At Dansehallerne we keep finding new roads to what we want to do, and what we do – we do well. We stay curious, working our way forward. Together we are brave. As co-workers we strive for an ethical protocols and we challenge each other's thinking. Our mission is about creating meaning through art. To succeed we must make our

competences, experiences and personalities work together based on a common target vision. Curiosity is a necessary prerequisite.

The role of being an audience also demands curiosity. We develop choreographic activities intended to be relevant and meaningful to a wide and diverse audience. We make space for the unexpected. We should make it possible for you to meet something you didn't have a clue that you wanted to see, hear, experience...

Sometimes we succeed, sometimes we fail. Occasionally it is so incredibly good that you perceive it as life-changing. Sometimes we just make a bad choice, but you have to take risks when you work with art. I often wish I was more daring... More daring as artistic director and leader. But when you are responsible for people's well-being, you're well advised to sometimes slow down.

Now there will soon be a new leader at Dansehallerne. Danjel Anderson, with his visions, will take Dansehallerne to new goals. With his many years in artistic management of eg. the festival Perfect Performance and the house for contemporary dance MDT in Stockholm, he will surely make a difference. Danjel is both brave and strong. And we can all contribute with our curious participation (if you do not know him then he is presented elsewhere in this newsletter).

There is so much to feel good about, be proud over and take on as a challenge. So many nice people, who create works for us to share and so many fine people, who choose to meet the many faces of contemporary art. Keeping focused on the positive side of all this, gives you strength to deal with all the difficulties that inevitably come in your way (also when you least expect it). But focusing on the positive doesn't mean that we will only present art that is perceived as positive. Life is too complex for that. We need to meet art that takes the world, our everyday life and politics seriously, art that doesn't shun the difficult sides of life, the ugly and the deeply troubling.

Surely your curiosity has already driven you to look at our spring season program. Maybe even booked tickets. Maybe even visited some performances, seminars or had a meal and engaged in conversation at Meet, Eat and Talk. Not so – then do it! Art offers great opportunities, not least this spring season, when our program is partly

focused on participatory and interactive works, for instance our countrywide activities for children and youth, and the Close Encounters festival at Den Frie in Copenhagen. And if you want to be sure to get a ticket for Mette Ingvarsen's guest performances with her new solo – get it now, because they will run out fast...

The choices we make concern perceived needs, curiosity and practicalities, like time and money. We all know that. That's why we try to program our activities at times that offer a variety of choices and reasonable ticket prices.

The forces of habit are strong. How easily we get stuck in our ways, our routines and our behaviour. Staying curious is a way to get past what is a given and make us follow new wishes and impulses. Even in everyday life, there is a measure of risk-taking. One way of stimulating our thoughts and actions forward is – art.

Spring is almost here!

Efva

PS. When I read this text, I come to think of another impulse that seems to dominate many people's lives – fear. I think I should write about that next time...

Photocredit: Efva Lilja