



Dance Briefing 2004/05



Dance attracts people from all backgrounds.
Photo: Michael Wolchover

Dance in Scotland is enjoying a period of change and growth. There are more people getting involved in dance – at all levels – than ever before, and audiences for dance are increasing.

Dance is also becoming a more viable career option with advanced training opportunities, new facilities in which to create and participate in dance, and a growing network of venues presenting dance. So as well as developing and sustaining our creative talent in Scotland, we hope to attract back professionals who have previously had to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Our aims for dance

We play a key role in providing an environment in which high quality dance can be created, presented and enjoyed:

We believe that Scotland has the potential to produce world-class dance – and to do so in an international context – and we are enabling dance artists and organisations to achieve excellence.

- Developing the infrastructure for professional production and performance.
- Encouraging an environment that values and supports professional development.
- Ensuring that people throughout Scotland have the opportunity to experience and enjoy dance as audiences.
- Ensuring that people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to learn and participate in dance and participants have routes available to them to take their talent through to a professional level.

Development initiatives

- YDance, the national development agency, is producing an innovative CD-ROM and other digital teaching resources to support teachers, PE specialists and others to ensure that children and young people have access to dance.
- Imagine received funding to commission a new dance production specifically aimed at a young audience for presentation at the 2005 Children's International Theatre Festival and then touring across Scotland.
- A joint initiative between us and the Jerwood Charity, in collaboration with Cove Park, to create residencies for Scotland's top choreographers for research and development of new work and working practices.
- More support for dance artists in Scotland to create work for the screen, including providing professional development opportunities for choreographers to explore working in this medium, through to forming a partnership with the BBC and Arts Council England on the forthcoming project, Dance Film Academy, to be broadcast in spring 2005. We are working with Scottish Screen to ensure that our respective funding and development roles are complementary.



Dance Base, Edinburgh.
Photo: Michael Wolchover

Investment in dance

In 2004/05, we are investing £4.5 million in dance development across Scotland. This includes core funding to a number of key organisations:

- Scottish Ballet
- Citymoves Dancespace
- Dance Base – National Centre for Dance
- New Moves International
- Scottish Dance Theatre
- Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust
- YDance (formerly Scottish Youth Dance)
- X Factor Dance Company

We also support independent choreographers to develop ideas for new work, and we fund professional arts organisations to produce, present and tour dance to audiences throughout Scotland.

We encourage a wide range of dance, including work that is created or presented using new media.

Our investment in audience development programmes has ensured that dance is being enjoyed by a growing number of people of all ages and backgrounds.

Key successes

- The success of Dance Base, Scotland's National Centre for Dance, and the inspiration provided to thousands of people in its award-winning building continues.
- The relaunch of Scottish Ballet under its new Artistic Director, Ashley Page, was met with critical and public acclaim.
- Scottish Dance Theatre tours extensively in Europe and won the Critics' Circle National Dance Award for outstanding repertoire.
- Research into dance audiences in Scotland demonstrates that dance appeals to a very wide range of people and that audiences are increasing.
- Our investment in the creation of Off Kilter, produced by Dance Base, a contemporary dance piece which fuses traditional dance with hip hop and Asian moves.



We encourage an environment that supports professional development.
Photo: Douglas Robertson

Further information

www.scottisharts.org.uk