

DANSENET DANMARK

Current partners:

Dansehallerne – Bora Bora – Aaben Dans

What does the dance sector need?

THE CHALLENGE

Contemporary dance needs infrastructure

The dance sector lacks:

- Paid development opportunities
- Producing organisations
- Co-producing organisations
- Presenting organisations

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Too little infrastructure means:

- **Too few places**
where dance is presented
- **Too few performances**
for each production
- **Too few audiences**
across too limited a geographical area

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

ARTISTS

Fewer job opportunities

Fewer places to anchor their work

AUDIENCES

Fewer opportunities to encounter dance
across the country

FUNDING

A reduced return on investment
when productions reach too few people

A SECOND CHALLENGE: TOURING COMES TOO LATE

Turnénetværk Danmark primarily facilitates touring of already premiered productions.

Typically: PREMIERE → 18–24 MONTHS → TOUR

By then:

- The artistic team has moved on
- Rehearsing is expensive
- Touring grants are limited
- Without base funding, the cost per performance becomes too high

TWO INTERCONNECTED PROBLEMS

01

LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE

02

A FINANCIALLY INSUFFICIENT MODEL FOR TOURING

Our response:

DANSENET DENMARK

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**An international co-production model
adapted to the Danish context**

Established informally by

Dansehallerne • Bora Bora • Aaben Dans

following a pilot project initiated in **2022** by

Dansehallerne • Bora Bora • Aaben Dans • Momentum

The principle:

Commit early.
Present together.

FROM PRODUCTION TO TOURING

Instead of:

Produce → Premiere → Find venues → Tour

We aim for:

Co-produce → Commit to presentation → Produce → Premiere → Tour

Coordinated presentation at partner venues

around the time of the premiere

WHY THE MODEL WORKS

Early commitment from several partners means:

- Stronger fundraising
- Touring built into the project budget
- More resources and expertise for artists
- Deeper artist–institution relationships
- More sustainable touring
- More audiences benefiting from the investment

And: The collaboration itself strengthens the infrastructure.

RELATIONSHIPS ARE INFRASTRUCTURE

Through the network, we have:

Learned

about each other's missions, resources and ways of working

Built

close relationships and an open dialogue

Created

ongoing conversations about artists, works and priorities

Result:

More collaboration

More synergy

Greater sustainability

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Cross-organisational collaboration requires:

TIME to build relationships

COMMITMENT across different organisational missions

RESOURCES to make collaboration possible

Bikubenfonden's support made the initial pilot possible

The positive experience led to the informal establishment of:

DANSENET DENMARK

THE NEXT STEP

A FORMALISED DANSENET DENMARK

A model that can include different kinds of partners:

**RESIDENCY
CO-PRODUCTION
PRESENTATION**

The ambition has always been to include more partners.

Choreographic centres

would be obvious partners in such a network.

WHAT DOES THE SECTOR SAY IT NEEDS?

Three workshops ~ 20 participants each ~ on:

**PRESENTATION & TOURING
CO-PRODUCTION
ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT**

We asked:

What are the barriers?

What would help?

PRESENTATION & TOURING

BARRIERS

- Too few suitable presenting organisations
- Limited familiarity with dance
- Uncertainty about audience and ticket sales

NEEDS

Choreographic centres
Obligation to support or present dance
Earmarked funding
Dance literacy & presenting expertise

CO-PRODUCTION

BARRIERS

- Too few willing co-producers
- Access based on existing relationships
- Unclear terms and expectations

NEEDS

Choreographic centres
Dansenet Denmark
Earmarked funding
Matchmaking
Transparency
Early alignment

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

BARRIERS

- Too few spaces for artistic development
- Funding focused too heavily on production
- Dominant ideas of dance and professionalism excludes artistic expressions

NEEDS

Artist salary (corresponding Dansalliansen)

Longer paid residencies

Residency networks

Institutional obligations to share knowledge, spaces & resources

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The workshops largely confirmed what we had expected.

**So we continue developing:
DANSET DENMARK**

But need to wait for:

THE PERFORMING ARTS REFORM

The model needs to reflect the structures and possibilities that will exist after the reform.

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO BUILD?

Infrastructure that gives artists:

TIME & SPACE

to develop

ACCESS & RELATIONSHIPS

to be co-produced

FUNDING & COMMITMENT

to tour

VENUES & AUDIENCES

to reach people across the country

That is what we are trying to build with Dansenet Danmark.