

dance

funding policy

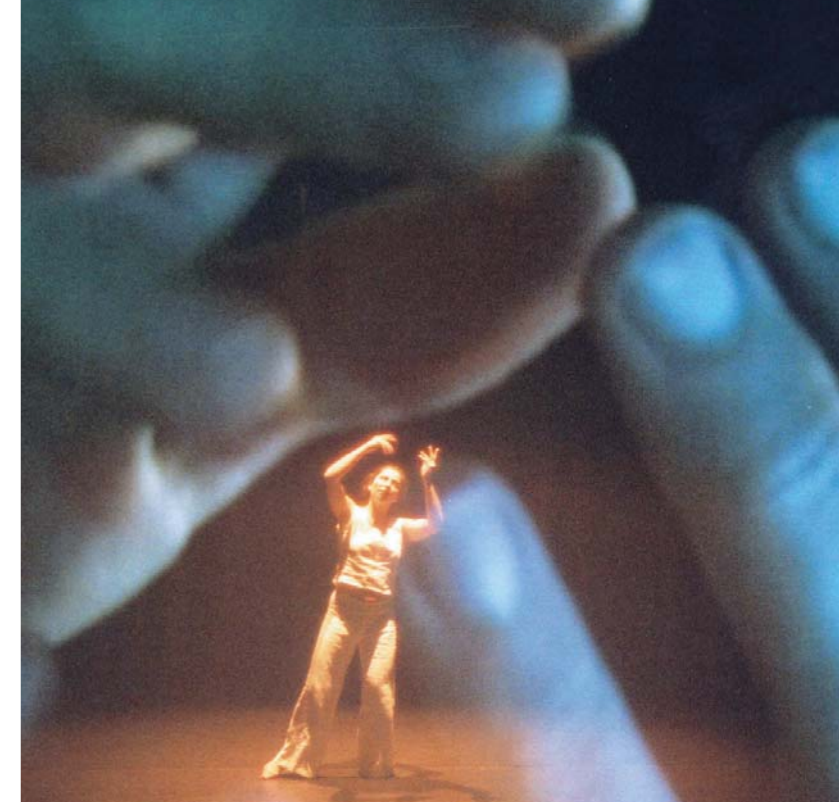


Maiden Voyage & Rex Levitates, 'Senses' with Nicola Curry
Front cover - Echo Echo Dance Co. 'Under Observation' with Ursula Laeubli

Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

arts council of northern ireland macneice house 77 malone road belfast bt9 6aq t:028 9038 5200 f:028 9066 1715 www.artscouncil-ni.org



Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council will give a priority to artists, arts organisations, arts initiatives and partnerships which:

- A increase opportunities for creative participation in the arts;
- B develop new audiences for the arts and build on existing ones;
- C extend opportunities for artists to develop their work and practice;
- D strengthen the capacity of arts organisations to deliver quality experiences of the arts.

Strategic Objectives

The Arts Council is committed to:

- 1 increase opportunities for artists working to the highest standards and in innovative ways;
- 2 strengthen the arts infrastructure;
- 3 engage with community arts to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and to expand the range of contexts in which artists work;
- 4 engage with voluntary arts to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and expand the range of contexts in which artists work;
- 5 increase the quality of access for disabled people to the arts;
- 6 enhance children and young people's access to creative expression through the arts, in contexts of their own choosing, and increase opportunities for participation as they grow and develop;
- 7 increase audiences for the arts.

The arts: inspiring the imagination, building the future

Dance Funding Policy

Introduction

Dance is an underdeveloped art form in Northern Ireland despite numerous attempts over the past decade to encourage and support it. The many studies, reviews, initiatives and schemes all point up inherent problems facing the sector – problems based in the lack of specific dance spaces and studios, and in a lack of training infrastructure.

But the situation is steadily improving and a number of developments have established a potentially firm basis for future stability. Crucial to this is the expansion of Dance Northern Ireland which grew out of The Dance Collective, founded in the mid-1990s. This organisation is focused on the specific needs of the sector in all its diversity. It has the potential to bring the community together for specific projects (such as the Earthquake Festival of Dance each spring), and the summer school of youth dance, while also serving as an umbrella body for teachers in other forms of dance.

The other major development is the establishment of a third-level undergraduate degree course at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster.

The Council initiated and has financially supported both the above developments. It also encourages a diverse range of dance projects, from direct assistance to individual dancers and dance companies, to funding for venue programming of dance events and tours.

Definitions

The Council assists dancers, choreographers and dance educationalists in the areas of contemporary dance and classical ballet. Support for Traditional Dance (Irish, Ulster Scots, ethnic) is addressed in the Council's Traditional Arts Funding Policy.

The Council's interest and ability is greater in certain areas within the dance community than in others, and its support of aspects of the sector is targeted accordingly. While not underestimating the diligence and creativity which occurs in any aspect of dance, funding ballroom dancing, line dancing, disco dancing etc is not a Council priority.

Funding

Dance can be funded under a number of programmes:

- Support for the Individual Artist (to assist artists in the development of their practice)
- Annual Support for Organisations (for organisations with year-round programmes)
- New Work (if it is the creation of innovative original work)
- Access to the Arts (aimed at addressing the needs of communities in areas of social and economic deprivation or supporting the involvement of children and young people)
- Audience Development (bringing new people to the arts and taking the arts to new people)
- Awards for All (for projects under £5,000. Applicants should consult www.awardsforall.com. Tel. 0845 600204).

Funding Objectives

A concerted focus of attention on Dance enables the Council to realise its four Priorities and meet its seven Strategic Objectives.

Funding objectives are to:

- support the establishment of an undergraduate course in dance at the University of Ulster (1, 2, 6)
- continue to fund and support Dance Northern Ireland (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- encourage the development of Youth Dance through Dance Northern Ireland (6)
- maintain information facilitation through Dance Northern Ireland (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7)
- ensure that the work of local and visiting dance companies and dancers is showcased by encouraging festivals, venue programming and touring of dance (1, 2, 6, 7)
- continue to investigate the establishment of a Dance Centre in Northern Ireland (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- establish a more effective communication between dance communities, north and south of the island (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)