

EDN Encounter: Support for the Ukrainian Dance Community April 25, 2022

A summary written by Carmen Amme

As a reaction to the war in Ukraine, the EDN encounter 'Support for the Ukrainian Dance Community' was hosted on April 25, 2022, by Tanec Praha within the Czech Dance Platform in Prague. In a hybrid setting, the guests shared their experiences of seeking and giving support to the Ukrainian dance and artistic community. EDN members Tanec Praha, Centro per la scena contemporanea in Bassano del Grappa, Italy, and AREAL from Bucharest, Romania, shared how they support dancers and artists from Ukraine. The Ukrainian Emergency Performing Arts Fund, an organization focused on helping artists staying in Ukraine, as well as Artists at Risk, an international organization that connects artists internationally, talked about their work. The audience could either participate on-site or via online stream (*insert link to online stream*).

Victor Ruban, choreographer and researcher from Ukraine, has been working on improving the contemporary dance community in Ukraine. The Ukrainian culture fund was forced to shut down and gave the money to defense. This year, there will be no possibility to make projects. 'It will be a great help to give us the opportunity to realize the projects that were planned for this year,' Victor Ruban says. To connect Ukrainian artists internationally to fundraise money and redistribute it to independent artists staying in Ukraine, Victor Ruban founded Ukrainian Emergency Performing Arts Fund (<https://www.uepaf.org.ua>).

Artists at Risk (<https://artistsatrisk.org/?lang=en>) organizes residencies and provides accommodation for artists in emergency situations, like war. Artists who are at risk are matched with possible hosting institutions, so that artists can continue their work and make professional contacts. Even if institutions cannot offer grants, they are welcome to join the network, as Artists at Risk can offer 3-months emergency grants.

Roberto Casarotto, EDN member from CSC in Bassano del Grappa, Italy, described how social workers, who were in charge of the welcoming of hundreds of Ukrainian kids, approached his dance house to work with them to support inclusion through dance classes, which they have done before in the project 'Migrant Bodies - Moving Borders' (<https://www.migrantbodies.eu>). CSC was also able to offer a 3-months residency with salary and accommodation to an Ukrainian artist, where she will be working on a dance project with kids. In addition to that, they also connected a 19-year old Ukrainian dance student to



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the university in Linz, where help is offered to place Ukrainian students into a fitting educational program and enter courses free of charge, with additional support to find accommodation (<https://www.jku.at/en/international-welcome-center-and-student-ombuds-office/jku-linz-for-ukrainian-displaced-people/>).

Yvona Kreuzmannová from Tanec Praha explained how they encourage young dance students from Ukraine to go to performances for free and offer them open classes to connect to the world of dance in this country. Tanec Praha also organized special workshops for Ukrainian children to relax and get them out of stress. Yana Reutova, a dancer who fled from Ukraine and is now staying at Tanec Praha, prepares small video performances with support of House of Europe, where collaborative projects between Ukrainian and European cultural organizations can receive grants (<https://houseofeurope.org.ua/en/grant/international-cooperation-grants>).

'Finding ways to involve Ukrainian artists into projects and connect them to the dance community is the little thing all of us can do,' concludes Yvona Kreuzmannová. Big Pulse Dance shows only one possibility to help by inviting Ukrainian dancers to be involved in the project City Horses (<https://www.bigpulsedance.eu/news/city-horses-begins-its-tour-at-big-pulse-partner-festivals/>).

Further resources on how and where to get help for Ukrainian artists:

<https://coda.io/@cultureactioneurope/solidarity-with-ukraine>

<https://www.contactsforukrainians.art>

<https://www.artsforukraine.org>

<https://on-the-move.org/resources/collections/solidarity-ukraine-enforced-mobility>

<http://www.help-dance.org/en/home>



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