

20.02.2019

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Dansmakers Amsterdam may be forced to give up their space, so I am writing this letter in hope that it may play a small role in changing the minds of those who hold this finale decision in their hands. I strongly ask you to consider the value that a space like dansmakers holds, not only is it a space to help young artists obtain the experience they need in order to be properly prepared for the professional world, it also allows like minded young artists to gather with similar interests and therefore it means the start of building their network and creating community. It offers a space in which they can have a discussion about the subjects that are relevant for their generation. Something that in Amsterdam is highly missing, a sense of community.

As an emerging performance artist based out of Berlin, I did not have access to a space like Dansmakers. I wanted to have the opportunity to shadow technicians and develop my knowledge of rigging, lights and overall technical knowledge. Something that as a dancer I was not taught in my studies. Dansmakers gave me a place to develop this knowledge, and I will always be grateful. The knowledge I obtained is something that aides me whenever I am creating and also when I am communicating in a theatre, or venue with a technical team. I now speak their language and feel empowered and confident about my choices and requests. I can look at a rig or space and know what is possible or have the terminology to achieve the image or atmosphere I would like, this also means that I now am doing all of my own lighting design.

I will be one of many artists devastated with the closure of Dansmakers, and it's saddens me deeply that this conversation is being had. Consider that the possible outcome could be losing a space for emerging artists' development and creativity, which in the long run would have an effect on the city as a whole.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and may this find you well,
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