

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jesus de Vega and I am a choreographer living in Amsterdam since 2006.

Throughout my years living in Amsterdam, I have been in close relation not only to Dansmakers itself but also to its director, Suzy Blok. I had the opportunity to use the beautiful working space of Dansmakers several times in order to work on ideas and to develop my craft as a maker. On top of that, Suzy has always been available for me to discuss, exchange, get feedback and help me in my process even when I wasn't necessarily an artist in a residency, but more of a "visitor".

As a beginning maker, this type of opportunity to be at the Dansmakers space and to have that type of artistic dialogue was invaluable for my development. It allowed me the time and space not only to find my voice but also to contrast it with other makers, generating a flow of connections that has enriched me by the exchange and the exposure to other artistic expressions, as well by being part of the audience in the performances shown in its theatre.

In 2017 I was selected by Dansmakers to have a 1 month residency (in combination with ICK), and after applying and receiving a subsidy from the AFK I was able to develop my latest work, called Choreopop. This piece has been programmed by Frascati theatre in February 2019 and it will tour in several Dutch cities as part of the Moving Futures festival. That is another opportunity that has been possible because of Dansmakers. In 2018 I also had the chance to be programmed at Dansmakers theatre with my piece GlitterGods/Stigma, which later on was programmed in the "What you see" Festival in Utrecht at the Kikker theatre. This being another opportunity presented to me due to being programmed at Dansmakers.

It is a place that has granted me not only the possibility of artistic growth, connection with peers and audiences as well as a network, but that has also allowed me to find rehearsal space when needed (which, in the circumstances that surrounds the life of a new maker, is an invaluable help)

Life in the arts, and particularly dance, becomes nomadic quite easily. Losing a place like Dansmakers would mean losing an "anchor" that roots many of us. Dansmakers manages to offer a platform to choreographers (and performers) with very different points of view to exchange, grow, share, feel, think, disagree, get inspired, experiment, develop and most importantly, belong. It provides a space of creative diversity for the audiences to enjoy and widen their understanding of what "dance" can be.

To lose this platform would mean to go back to nomadism without a clear space to develop links between artists themselves as well as between artists and audiences.

All of the artists that Dansmakers has supported and encouraged throughout the years, that have grown and are now enjoying a fruitful career with international projection, represent Amsterdam's artistic richness. So in the end, I feel that finding a solution to maintain this creative haven in Amsterdam would be also a way to allow its artists to give back by proudly representing a city that supports them and understand their needs.

Jesus de Vega, 05-02-2019