

Dansmakers Amsterdam was the first place in Amsterdam where I could start work on my own choreographic practice, since I moved back to Amsterdam.

After graduating in MTD (contemporary dance) at the Academie voor Theater en Dans (AHK), I started working with Jan Fabre and I moved to Belgium. At the end of 2016, I decided to move back to The Netherlands and it's then when I met Suzy Blok. We met during a dinner with other artists and she has been very open in listening to me and my ambitions since that first encounter.

In 2017, I needed a space to start working on my first choreographic piece, which was commissioned to me by an Israeli dance festival. I only needed to ask Suzy if I could use the space to create, and she was immediately welcoming, giving me the studio space to create what then became "LDRC". Since then, we have created a strong bond and I am proud to say I am resident choreographer at Dansmakers Amsterdam.

I was happy to contribute to the artistic life of the building by organizing the Queer Techno Party for the closure of Moving Futures festival. It was beautiful to see how artists, choreographers, queer people and performers, curators, music lovers could all come together to dance under this high roof. I was also proud to curate one edition of You Better Move, with the intention of using this multifunctional and modern building to host dance and circus makers who use different artistic tools, all with the intention to connect with the audience, to both entertain them and let them feel and think at the same time with their art. It was beautiful then to see how many of the neighborhood decided to join us then, bringing their kids and their family, to have an artistic experience in Amsterdam Noord, an area in which there is still a lack of cultural centers and events.

I always say that "theatre reminds people to be human", to have compassion, to love each other, to come together and share opinions. Art brings people together. Culture is necessary to create healthy inter-relationships and a support a strong fabric of the society. Dance and theatre bring people closer and closer. Amsterdam Noord needs a place like Dansmakers Amsterdam to vitalize its social life. We artists need the building and the organization of Dansmakers to connect with each other and with the public. It is a great networking place where long lasting artistic and work collaborations are born. Artists can only grow if connecting with each other and with an organization, like Dansmakers, that support them and can offer them the space, physical and moral, to create, to try, to fail, to learn, to get better.

We have seen how this modern and big building was great for events of networking, like it happened during the last edition of EDN (European Dancehouse Network), where we dance makers living in Holland had the great opportunity to meet with curators and directors of production houses from all over Europe. Another personal example, is when I performed at Dansmakers during Moving Futures festival in 2018 and I could meet curators from Germany, France, UK, Denmark, Japan and more. Only because of this possibility, I can now connect with the international dance field in a much easier way. It should be mentioned that Suzy Blok is part of Aerowaves, which is probably the most important European platform for young choreographers to expose their work at an international scale and start their career with a bang, and facilitates the growth of choreographers both on a national and international level.

After the cuts of 2012, we dance makers have real, tangible difficulties to continue our researches and develop our works and careers. As choreographers, we do not need much to start: just time and a space where we feel welcome and we can rehearse. Dansmakers Amsterdam has been that space for many artists, and I am confident in saying that it would be a real tragedy for everybody if it will one day be gone. I please encourage the committee to reconsider and give Dansmakers Amsterdam the opportunity to sustain the costs of the building, so that it can keep on being an important center for the Performing Arts, bringing work to the professionals of the dance field and culture to the audience and the neighborhood of Amsterdam Noord.

Yours sincerely,
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