



Dancing on the Edge

ABSTRACT ANNUAL REPORT 2019

1 Activities Dancing on the Edge 2019

Below, a description of DOTE's activities in 2019, organized under three headers:

Professional. Under this header we place all activities that have to do with developing and exchanging professional knowledge, such as co-productions, international projects, residencies, scholarships and trainings.

Programming. This header entails the biannual festival in several cities in the Netherlands. This also includes all continuous programming throughout the year, such as guest performances, installations, lectures and participation projects.

Knowledge Exchange. Since her foundation, DOTE has built a varied network and a lot of knowledge in and about the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) and the diaspora. DOTE connects partners internationally and aims to promote knowledge exchange.

1.1 Professional

International Exchange Project *Performances beyond two shores*

Performances beyond two shores was a two-year international exchange project (2018-2019) within the framework of Creative Europe and supported by the European Commission. It is a follow-up to the *Performance (s) between two shores* project, which took place in 2016-2017.

Dancing on the Edge Scholarship Program 2019

In July 2019, DOTE organized the Dancing on the Edge Scholarship Program for the eight time. A program for talented dancers from the MENA region. This year, two dancers were selected to participate in the program: Chourouk el Mahati (Morocco) and Salem Abdelbasset (Algeria). They resided in Amsterdam for three weeks from 6 till 26 July 2019, where they participated in the workshops and masterclasses during the *Amsterdam Summer Intensive*, organized by the Henny Jurriëns Studio (HJS), created a short performance, and visited performances at the Julidans Festival. They followed workshops and masterclasses from (amongst others) Allyn Dance, Akram Khan Movement & Repertory, Eastman/Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Fighting Monkey Practice, David Zambrano, Hofesh Shechter, Jiri Kylian Repertory, Peeping Tom, Ultima Vez/ Wim Vandekeybus.

Dancing on the Edge managed the complete organization from selection, travels, visas, accommodation.

Reaction Chourouk el Mahati: *"This program was an ideal and necessary step for me to continue my growth as a dancer and improve my skills and broaden my artistic knowledge and experience. Also to get to know a new culture and art trends in a cosmopolitan and vibrant city such as Amsterdam, which is more open, diverse and complementary to artistic expression than my home country. The fact of being in the Netherlands and especially in the city of Amsterdam was very enriching and inspiring for me and I felt fully charged after this amazing experience. The Dancing On the Edge team was very professional, helpful and available from the day I received the confirmation email to my application until the day I left Amsterdam city."*

Residencies (12 participants)

In 2019, 12 artists took residencies with DOTE. It concerned 5 artists, who followed a short residency at Het Huis Utrecht, after which they showed their work-in-progress and/or performance to an audience during *Meet the Artist* (see below). These were **Hilda Mouchraffieh** (Netherlands / Lebanon), **Muhcine Ennou** (Morocco / Netherlands), **Youness Aboulakoul** (Morocco / France), **Farah Saleh** (Palestine / UK) and **Mohamed Fouad** (Egypt / France). In addition, Youness Aboulakoul (Morocco, France) and his team (4 in total) attended a residency, also at Het Huis Utrecht, prior to the festival, where he did the final montage of *Today Is a Beautiful Day*. This performance had its world premiere during the Dancing on the Edge Festival. Subsequently, **Khalid Benghrib**, **El Mahdi Reffouh** and **Yassine Khyar** (all Morocco) worked on the creation of our co-production *Collective Urban Gnawa* during a 2.5-week residency, which also had its world premiere during the Dancing on the Edge Festival.

Co-productions (9)

This year DOTE realized 4 international co-productions and 5 DOTE/national (co) productions. They were all to be seen at the festival. It concerned ***Under a Low Sky*** by Wael Ali (Syria/France), ***2048: What Does Not Make Us One*** by Alaa Minawi (Lebanon /Palestine /NL), ***Today Is a Beautiful Day*** by Youness Aboulakoul (Morocco/France), ***Collective Urban Gnawa*** by Khalid Benghrib (Morocco).

The DOTE productions/national co-productions were the ***Table Talks Series + two XL versions*** during the festival, ***Second-Hand Body writing project***, and the ***DOTE-Mezrab Nights*** (3x).

Partner Meetings & Research

In 2019, several travels have been undertaken regarding the benefit of artistic research, within the frame of international collaboration projects, and the further establishing and development of DOTE's artistic and strategic network. These travels have mostly been funded by partner organizations or the European exchange project.

1.2 Programming

Dancing on the Edge Festival 2019

*How can we change perspectives...
... as a festival, as an artist, as a visitor?*

The seventh edition of the Dancing on the Edge Festival took place from 13 to 24 November 2019. It was a special edition, in which many new formats were tested. The Festival 2019 was a festival in transition. The new developments are also the prelude to the future.

To meet at an even deeper level, we deconstructed the festival. With the soft radicalness of open questions. With projects focused on process and time spent together. Projects conceived and created collectively. With additional alternative locations as well as a combination of disciplines. With programs in which we could change roles: the visitor became a maker, the maker a co-curator and a festival that derives its right to exist from the fact that it is supported by all.

“Very inclusive and special atmosphere, I felt participant, not audience” - visitor Festival 2019

The program took place in Utrecht (Het Huis Utrecht, Stadsschouwburg Utrecht), in Rotterdam (Theater Rotterdam) and in Amsterdam (Frascati, Mezrab, Podium Mozaïek, Dokzaal, Pllek, various other locations). A total of 38 performances, including 19 theater performances, 13 dance performances, 3 multidisciplinary productions (DOTE-Mezrab Nights) and 3 music programs. It concerned 16 unique productions, including 4 international co-productions, 4 world premieres, 5 DOTE productions/national co-productions (not counted as world premieres). All productions were shown for the first time in the Netherlands.

In addition, there were 3 installations, combined on display for 27 days, 5 screenings of a dance film, 2 programs around *What is Artivism?*, a Late Night Program, 5 Table Talks Series (prior to and after the festival), 16 dance workshops as part of a participation project, 7 sessions in our own DOTE Lab, 6 after-talks and more. It concerned a total of 67 programs.

The 2019 edition attracted a total of 8,586 visitors (compared to 7501 in 2017). In addition, 1692 digital visitors were attracted with 19 artistic digital / online activities.



“What I also loved was the element of the collective - to (...) move together, love each, feel as one. However fleeting. This connecting was not a binding one - there was a freedom to it, an invitation to connect, love and leave, or stay. Participating in this project has enriched my embodiment practices and the way I experienced being with my fellow Amsterdammers”- Participant Festival 2019

Ongoing Programming 2019

Presentations Dancing on the Edge Scholarship

The weekly presentations of the dancers were also part of the *Amsterdam Summer Intensive* (see below *Professional: Scholarship Program*). During the open studio sessions they showed what they had been working on in the past week. In addition, the scholarship dancers performed their own short solo in Café Belcampo together with other dancers who followed the Summer Intensive.

Meet the Artist #2

The second edition of *Meet the Artist* took place from 19 to 21 January 2019 in Het Huis Utrecht (HHU). The program was a collaboration between Dancing on the Edge and Het Huis Utrecht. During a three-day program, five Middle Eastern artists, living in Europe, had the opportunity to meet each other (as well as artists associated with HHU and DOTE) during a lab, show their work to the public and expand their network. The artists of this second edition were **Hilda Moucharrafiéh** (Lebanon / Netherlands), **Muhcine Ennou** (Morocco / Netherlands), **Youness Aboulakoul** (Morocco / France) and **Farah Saleh** (Palestine / United Kingdom) and **Mohamed Fouad** (Egypt / France).

Touring

The co-production *Under a Low Sky* by Wael Ali (Syria / France) of the European collaborative project *Performances beyond two shores* toured various partners.

2 Financial Report 2019

The year 2019 closed with a positive result of €332, which was transferred to the general reserve.

The results can be summed up as follows:

| (amounts * € 1.000) | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|----------|----------|
| Income | 439 | 67 |
| Project costs | -439 | -67 |
| <i>Residue from projects</i> | 0 | 0 |
| Managements costs | 0 | 0 |
| Residue from incomes and non-program costs | 0 | 0 |
| Financial benefits | 0 | 0 |
| Results | 0 | 0 |

Dancing on the Edge has income from multi-year and incidental subsidies as well as its own income, namely contributions from partners, receipts and buy-out sums. Some projects have been realized under the budget and settlement of partner organizations.

The direct revenues (ticket revenues, partner contributions, sponsorship and other revenues) amount to €141,825. Own income (revenues and private contributions) amounts to €279,575 or 64%. This is more than was budgeted. The revenues were high, mainly due to partner contributions for the co-productions and other programs.

In the annual accounts, the management costs are stated under activity costs, organization (under festival).