

**NOBA network meeting and festival
 in Tartu, Estonia
 April 17-19 2015**

Estonian Dance Agency was happy to host the latest NOBA meeting in Tartu in April. Tartu Uus Teater and Genialistide Klubi were full of dance performances for young audiences, seminars, workshops and meetings for choreographers, producers, teachers and dancers working in the field.

Venue – Tartu Uus Teater and Genialistide Klubi

Date – April 17-19, 2015

Theme – The focus during this weekend was to learn hands on tools on how to work with dance for young audiences.

Friday April 17th started with performances. We are still warmly looking back on WE GO's Music from Movement - Midi which brought a smile and laughter to everyone's face, Glims&Gloms Dance Company's papulaBOX that captured our attention and took us on a journey so colourful, Erik Kaiel's powerful No Man is an Island that showed the limitlessness of the body and Renate Keerd's KAMA that gave a humorous and enjoyable performance experience. We would like to thank all the performers and teams behind the performances – it was a great combination of different approaches to dance art for young audiences.

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th NOBA Tartu focused on seminars and workshops. The 18th started with Anne Ekenes' seminar that gave a practical and helpful overview on how it works touring with children and youth performances. Joan van der Mast continued the day with a



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practical-physical workshop focusing on creativity, and how to create with and for children. After that Erik Kaiel lead us to the world of partnering and physical communication as a way of generating ideas. Joan and Erik continued their workshops on Sunday. On Saturday evening the NOBA participants found their way to School Dance Festival and had a chance to cheer the young dancers who had worked all day during workshops.

Going through the feedback from the workshops we can see that the participants were excited, grateful, and more open to new possibilities when working with children. We believe that it is still just a start, but it is great that the local Estonian dance scene has come closer to the concepts of working with and for youth and the NOBA meeting provided them with the necessary tools.

It is so important to bring us all together once in a while, to share knowledge, learn from each other, give feedback, discuss new ideas, build bridges and sustain the community. We are still a relatively small group of people, but the world is out there waiting to be shown the true magic of dance for young audiences.

Lets make it happen.

Warm regards / Raido Bergstein and
Doris Feldmann, Estonian Dance Agency

NOBA Tartu hosted around 60 participants from Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Lithuania and the Netherlands. Next NOBA meeting takes place in Espoo in October.

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