

# Present

The National Dance Theatre is the most important centre for Hungarian dance, founded by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. It first opened on 1 December 2001 in the buildings of the Carmelite Convent and Church. The National Dance Theatre's primary task is to represent and manage Hungarian dance both within and outside the country's borders. Its goal is to create a home for Hungarian dance and to provide a repertoire which showcases every genre. As a host institution, it collaborates with nearly forty professional Hungarian companies. From folk dancing to classical ballet, from ballroom dancing to contemporary dance and interactive children's performances, it aims to attract dance theatre audiences with a wide range of genres.



Péter Ertl, Director of the National Dance Theatre

After thirteen years, the National Dance Theatre left the building of the Court Theatre of Buda in autumn 2014 and has been staging its repertoire in alternative venues. It organises one hundred days of dance performances as a resident institution in the Palace of Arts. In addition, the next season will be launched at eight host venues; at the MOM Cultural Centre, in the Marczibányi Tér Cultural Centre, in the Castle Garden Bazaar, in the Bethlen Tér Theatre, as well as the National Theatre, which serves as a new venue instead of the Hungarian Heritage House, which is currently under renovation; furthermore, the dance performances organised by the National Dance Theatre will also be hosted by the Millenáris Teátrum and the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. The reconstruction of the Millenáris Teátrum will provide the National Theatre with its own new performance venue.

The building will be designed to meet the requirements of dance performances, and it will be made available to the National Dance Theatre as of the 2017/2018 theatrical season. It is not only the venue that is undergoing a transformation; the institution itself is being renewed, too, in order to realise a truly modern, European standard, 21st century centre of dance which preserves our traditional and contemporary dance movements. The new concept includes dance films, international co-productions, the development of the child and youth educational programme, as well as community and children's events, in order to provide a profound and lasting experience of dance to audiences of the National Dance Theatre in this new space.

The professional theatrical work of the Head of the National Dance Theatre is assisted by members of the Arts Council. Members of the Arts Council:

**Yvette Bozsik**; Kossuth Award Winner, Artist of Merit, Ballet Artist, Choreographer, Director

**János Kiss**; Kossuth and Franz Liszt Award Winner Dancer, Ballet Artist, Ballet Director

**Péter Korniss**; Kossuth Award Winner, Pulitzer Memorial Award Winner, Photographer, Photo Journalist

**Ferenc Novák**; Kossuth Award Winner, Artist of Merit, Széchenyi and Hevesi Award Winner, Director - Choreographer

**György Szakály**; Kossuth and Franz Liszt Award Winner Dance Artist, President of the Hungarian Dance Academy

Through its introductory dance theatre programmes, the institution pays special attention to the cultural education of young audiences. The Theatres child and youth theatrical education activities, which run besides the introductory programmes, have been complemented by a new, unique performance. By successfully merging dance and theatrical education, the Theatre launched its dance/theatre education programme in January 2014, which was immediately of great interest to secondary school age children, and which won professional awards at the Biennial of Childrens and Youth Theatres.

The National Dance Theatre also puts great emphasis on festival organisation. One of the key events of the season is the Budapest Dance Festival organised by the National Dance Theatre. The Festivals aim is to put Budapest on the international dance map by inviting renowned international companies. Besides the most influential figures of Hungarian dance, the Budapest Dance Festival has hosted Shen Wei Dance Arts (US), Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (US), Merce Cunningham Dance Company (US), Grupo Corpo (BR), Company fabrik Potsdam (D), Kylián Production (NL), Doug Varone and Dancers (US), as well as Ballet Preljocaj (FR).

Our series of programmes for the summer months, Dance Bazaar Budapest, takes place in the one the most beautiful spots, in the Öntőház Courtyard. Performers for this light, summer evening festival have a chance to see outstanding Hungarian dancers, as well as international companies.

The National Dance Theatre considers it important to be present at rural festivals, too. The Keszthely Dance Panorama, organised by the National Dance Theatre, has become one of the major cultural events of this atmospheric town. Furthermore, we are proud to cooperate with the Eger Studio Theatre Festival, the Pécs International Dance Festival, as well as the Győr Hungarian Dance Festival, where the National Dance Theatre works in collaboration with the highly successful Childrens Dance Festival.