



pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes



## **technical form**

Choreography residency in Helsinki

**Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes**

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- **national co-ordinator** Riikka Suomi, Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation

## presentation of the host organisation

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- **name of the residency** Choreography residency in Helsinki
- **juridical status** state/ the Arts Council of Finland  
municipality/ City of Helsinki  
artistic structure/ Theatre Academy of Finland  
Department of Dance (govern. by state)
- **address** Theatre Academy of Finland  
Department of Dance  
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- **web site** [www.teak.fi](http://www.teak.fi)
- **artistic director** Theatre Academy of Finland,  
Professor of choreography, Marjo KUUSELA
- **administrative director** City of Helsinki, Cultural Office,  
The Alexander Theatre  
Director Marianna KAJANTIE
- **number of artist(s) welcomed** 1 choreographer
- **length of the stay** 5 months
- **proposed dates of the stay** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Premiere of the dance production in February 2006

## artistic project of the host organisation

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- **fields of expression proposed for the residency:**

The Theatre Academy of Finland is interested in contemporary dance production and performances.

- **description the general artistic project of your structure:**

The Theatre Academy of Finland has the principal responsibility for the highest level of dance and theatre education in Finland, and is the biggest institution of its kind in the Scandinavian countries.

The department of dance was founded in 1983.

The dance programme leads to a BA (Dance) degree, after which the students can apply to study for a master's degree in dance, dance pedagogy or choreography.

Licentiate and doctoral degrees in dance and theatre art are also attainable from the Theatre Academy.

The focus on artishood and developing artistic expression can be clearly seen in the academy's BA programme in dance. Dance technique is taught, but the emphasis is on subject called dance performance, which consists of making productions and attending diverse workshops, also on choreography. According to the department's teaching philosophy, artishood is achieved through action and personal experience. Working with professional choreographers is a central part of the curriculum, and choreographers from outside the academy make numerous works for the students. Every student makes a solo piece already in their first autumn, and then gradually moves on to work with professional choreographers. In order to become an artist one needs to work with professionals from the very beginning in situations that resemble the real working environment outside the academy.

The academy also offers excellent premises for organising performances. Yearly there are around 50 premieres of dance and theatre performances. The academy building is a spacious and carefully renovated old factory near Helsinki's city centre.

The academy also has its own training theatre, which is located in the same building as the teaching premises. It is like a professional theatre, with its own props, wardrobe, technology for lighting, sound and stage and wood and metal workshops where everything for the performances is made, fixed and maintained.

- **particular frame offered for this residency:**

There is no particular frame. This residency is focused on production and performances of contemporary dance to be created either at the Theatre Hall of the Stoa, cultural centre of Eastern Helsinki, which is as a dance stage among the best in Helsinki and particularly popular with modern dance groups, or in the Alexander Theatre, a beautiful old theatre for guest performances.

Dancers are graduating dance students of the Theatre Academy; possibility to co-operate with graduating students of scenography from the University of Art and Design and graduating students of Light and Sound Design of Theatre Academy

- **the means of encouraging exchanges among different forms of expression:**

There is a possibility to co-operate with graduating students of scenography from the University of Arts and Design and graduating students of Light and Sound Design of Theatre Academy.

- **the means of fastering interactions with the human, social and economic contexts:**

The project that the choreography makes while taking the residency is the way of getting inside the professional dance community, getting to know the people, and making most out of the residency.

- **human resources which will enable the artist to develop his project:**

The City of Helsinki, with Ms. Marianna Kajantie is hosting the project. The artistic follow up, is made by Theatre Academy, Ms Marjo Kuusela, and the person in charge of production (in Theatre Academy), is Ms. Raija Vuorio.

- **material resources which will be available for the artist:**

Technical staff and administration will be available, approximately 2000 euros for material costs.

- **ways of promoting the artistic work:**

Information material, leaflets and photographs, contacts to media (newspapers, professional publications, tv), website and intranet of the Theatre Academy will promote the project realised.

## description of the residency

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- **description of the professional and artistic environment of the structure:**

The Department of Dance of Theatre Academy provides the highest level of education in dance in Finland. The dance and theatre productions are created by professional artists and students. The Department of Dance produces yearly one or two performances per each dance class, whereas as a whole the Training Theatre of the Theatre Academy produces altogether 40-50 productions of theatre in Finnish and Swedish language and dance per year.

The performance place will be decided later, but possible performance places are for instance:  
1) the Theatre hall of Stoa, cultural centre of Eastern Helsinki, which is among the best dance stages in Helsinki. Its so-called black box is easily adapted to meet a variety of needs, and fitted with the latest technology, the hall has a rising 250-seat retractable auditorium.  
2) or the Alexander Theatre, a classical theatre for guest performances.

- **description of the local environment and the standard of living:**

The local environment is central Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

- **description of the means of accommodation and the distance from the working place:**

Accommodation is provided in Linnunlaulu, Artists residency house administrated by City of Helsinki. Situated in central Helsinki, private room, and free access to a modern kitchen, lounge and balcony with a beautiful view. It is far from 7 minutes walk to the Theatre Academy, 20 minutes walk or 10 minutes by tram to the Alexander Theatre, 20 minutes by metro to the Stoa.

- **amount of the grant (monthly):**

The artist's grant is provided by the State, approx. 1200 EUR per month.

- **financer of the grant:**

The Arts Council of Finland is financing this grant.

## comments

### of the national coordinator

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The Helsinki residency is one of the three creative residencies in Finland within this programme. Each of the residencies is well based on the performances with the local audiences, typical to the field of art of the artist concerned.

In Helsinki, the artist will be strongly connected with the dancers, choreographers and other artists in the Department of Dance in the Theatre Academy. The Theatre Hall of the Stoa Cultural Centre, one of the best dance stages in Helsinki, or the "classical" Aleksanteri Theatre of the City of Helsinki give an excellent opportunity for the choreographer to produce a dance performance for the large audiences.

The residencies in Finland are a part of the national artist in residency programme guideline and supported by the Arts Council of Finland. The local cultural policy authorities are as well strongly linked with the realization of the residency.

Helsinki,

Riikka Suomi