

International Theatre Institute ITI

World Organization for the Performing Arts

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Dr. Henrik Neubauer 1982

The board of the Permanent Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute suggested to all persons working in dance to celebrate 29 April, birthday of Jean Georges Noverre, as INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY.

The Board thus wishes to achieve that all the world should think on that same day of the basic significance of dance for all mankind. INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY should become an instrument for a better understanding between people, particularly because dance acts as a means of communication that does not need interpreters for other languages.

INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY should unite people in noble and progressive ideas of our time, for peace and friendship through the art of dance.

We chose as International Dance Day the birthday of the reformer of the art of dance, Jean –Georges Noverre, born on 29 April 1727. He contributed to the emancipation of dance from its former position as pure divertissement, and his critical Letters on Dance opened up a new era of artistic trends in our art.

All who work in this field feel the necessity of dance, which sensitises people and sharpens their awareness of themselves and of the surrounding world. The dance art should connect people so that they could go their own way into the world without exploitation and poverty, without any aspiration and armament. In all our works – should they be classical or romantic, works of our century or new creations with music of contemporary composers – dance should articulate the effort for collaboration in humanization of people.

Dance art is not separated from reality and the everyday life of people. It is connected with all that inspires people with what they expect and wish, what they are afraid of, what they dislike, what they love and what they are searching for. In the future, we will take advantage of all the possibilities we have to keep peace, to ensure social progress and to bring people closer to each other through human ideals.

The profession of dancer is characterized by heavy work from the beginning of schooling, which begins very early, and until the end of the career of every individual. This career is of a very short duration and the dancer risks every day that it may suddenly be interrupted by an accident or by illness. In spite of all that it is a most beautiful career. What could be more beautiful than showing human emotions with your own body, to use your own body as an instrument, to transmit your own art to an audience by the strength of your muscles, by the flexibility of your joints, by the expression of the instrument which everyone possesses.

Just because of that we would like dance to get its place together with drama, music and plastic arts in the general education system. That way dance can get public acknowledgement and help, and also our youth can acquire knowledge of the art of dance in elementary and secondary schools, together with all other art forms. In spite of this progress in the last decades, we can still consider our dance art as a young branch and therefore the education of future audiences and potential dance artists is very probably one of the main aims we have. We dedicate therefore our first INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY, which we celebrate with all our colleagues and admirers in different parts of the world, to that aim, together with the wish that dance should develop further.