

Recent PhD Graduate from Sweden

Katarina Lion

On 10th October 2023, Ingrid Redbark Wallander presented her PhD dissertation entitled 'When Dance Became Modern' (När dansen blev modern) at the Department of Culture and Aesthetics, Theatre Studies, Stockholm University. The opponent for her thesis was Professor Karen Vedel from Denmark, and Professor Lena Hammergren supervised the dissertation.

This study focuses on the history of theatrical dance in Sweden between 1930 and 1960, examining how it took shape as a profession and an aesthetic expression, highlighting the different genres and aesthetics that emerged during that period. This dissertation is based on a historiographical narrative that describes the 1930s and 1940s as a period of decline, with a radical change occurring during the 1950s. Redbark Wallander emphasizes the connections between dance and emerging modernity, investigating the factors that contributed to the emergence of specific genres and aesthetics. The study includes various sources such as reviews, articles, program leaflets, posters, statutes, protocols, dance history books, biographies, memoirs, etymological books, dictionaries, encyclopaedias and film clips.

Methodologically, this thesis demonstrates how various mechanisms work together to establish a genre and an aesthetic. This is achieved through historiographical and cultural theoretical approaches. The dissertation covers the development of professional performing arts dance, as well as social changes in Swedish folk homes and other areas, in a clear and illuminating manner. It also sheds light on the collaboration of various actors from different groups to create new structures that support modern dance ideas. It explains how transnational exchanges occur through international guest performances. Overall, the study makes a valuable contribution to the field of dance theory, particularly concerning the history of dance in Sweden at that time.

The dissertation was written in Swedish. If you are interested in reading more, please go to DIVA vetenskapliga arkivet. diva-portal.org

När dansen blev modern

Framväxt, formering och förändring av ett svenskt konstområde,
1930-1960

Ingrid Redbark Wallander



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