

## Editorial

It is a pleasure to present this volume of *Nordic Journal of Dance*, which includes a practice-oriented article, a book review and a report.

In the practice-oriented article ‘The World Falls Silent – A Practice-Based Performance on Ageism and Its Effects on the Dancer’, Madeleine Karlsson situates ageism as a structuring force within contemporary dance. Her study sheds light on how sociocultural norms, institutional frameworks and choreographic practices shape dancers’ agency, visibility and artistic identity. Through an autobiographical, improvisation-based methodology and an age-critical inquiry conducted with five co-researchers aged 50–62, she demonstrates how improvisation and autobiographical processes can function as both artistic and analytical tools to reveal and counteract internalised ageism. By positioning the ageing dancer’s body as an embodied archive and a site of ongoing knowledge production, Karlsson proposes alternative narratives of artistic continuity and reframes ageing as a generative force for the future of dance practice.

Maren Wedøe Reitan and Anette Sture Iversen present a report from the project ‘Dans – Autismespekteret’, conducted by Senter for dansepraksis i skole, utdanning og forskning (SANS). During the spring and autumn of 2025, inclusive dance classes for neurodivergent pupils were implemented at two schools in Oslo with support from Kulturtanken’s programme ‘Inclusion in Cultural Life’. Through exercises designed to foster motor competence, social interaction and self-regulation, the project sought to cultivate movement joy and a sense of mastery without presupposing prior dance experience. The results indicate clear developmental gains for the pupils as well as an expanded pedagogical understanding among teachers and assistants, underlining the potential of dance as both an artistic and socially transformative practice.

Katarina Lion has written a book review of *The Dance and the Dancer* by Eva Lundqvist and Lesley Leslie Spinks (Bokförlaget Arena, 2025).

On behalf of the editorial board of *Nordic Journal of Dance*, I encourage researchers and practitioners committed to dance scholarship to submit contributions. I also warmly invite submissions of book reviews and reports.

Have a good read!

*Elizabeth Scarstad*  
Issue Editor