

NBS' Collaborative Leadership in Action

Two initiatives spurred by NBS' Assemblée Internationale 2017

Shaping a better audition process for students, schools & companies

The first stage in most professional ballet audition processes is a video submission, where dancers perform exercises and excerpts in hopes of being invited for an in-person assessment. At the Assemblée Internationale 2017 Artistic Directors' Roundtable, directors observed that many companies set out varying requirements for these videos, creating a stressful and often costly process for students and the schools they attend.

As a result of these discussions, a committee was formed – with representation from ballet schools around the world – to research, develop and recommend a standardized audition video protocol that would respect companies' needs while easing the burden on auditioning students. The protocol incorporated feedback from many stakeholders, and the final product has been adopted by more than 20 leading ballet companies, and is used by an increasing number of schools for their post-secondary programs.



Working with dance competitions to prioritize dancer wellbeing



Dance competitions offer benefits to students, schools, and professional companies. They help young dancers gain performance experience and access training scholarships, and give schools and companies a chance to scout talent. In spite of these benefits, artistic directors at Assemblée Internationale 2017 raised concerns about competitions and created a committee to address them. Working collaboratively with a number of competition directors, the committee is focused on aligning competition ethics with training values, including developing systems that will better support the health and welfare of competing students, and ensure that scholarships are offered in a fair and transparent manner.

Working directly with dance competitions, the committee is seeking solutions that will benefit everyone and create the conditions for long-term success.

“At NBS' Assemblée Internationale, everyone seemed comfortable and open to share thoughts and ideas freely. I had the impression that everyone understood how refreshing and inspirational and rare a situation NBS had created for us by bringing us together for an entire week.” - Samuel Wuersten, Codarts Rotterdam, Assemblée Internationale 2017 participant