

Newsletter Knowing in Motion. Dance, Body, Archive

- In June, ViBe's three researchers held a panel at *Dimensions of Dramaturgy* the 2023 conference of the European Association for the Study of Theatre and Performance (EASTAP) in Aarhus, where we presented our first reflections on specific aspects of the project and brought into play terms and concepts that we had discussed in reading group meetings over the spring. As a panel guest we invited dancer and choreographer Carolina Bäckman from the artist-driven initiative Danish Dance Stories ([Danish Dance Stories](#)).
- In June, we also traveled to Stockholm for our first of three planned archive visits. We met with Kajsa Sandström, dance archivist at the music and theatre library at [Musikverket](#) and with the acting director of [Dansmuseet](#), Erik MaUsson. Our conversations revolved around categories and categorization in dance archives, contexts and communication. Finally, we met with Professor Emerita of Dance Studies, Lena Hammergren for a more general discussion of the project.
- After weeks of planning with the three artistic consultants Tim Matiakis, Carolina Bäckman and Andrea Deres (Danish Dance Stories), we held our first project workshop about ballets, pantomimes and class material from Danish choreographer Emilie Walbom (1858-1932). For a full week in August, dancers Alice Martucci, Louise Mochia, Morten Eggert, and Tim Matiakis collaborated with us in exploring different types of archival material – dance notations, costumes, photographs and musical scores. We worked in the university's ballet studio at Søndre Campus and were on the final days accompanied by pianist Kirsten Monique Jenssen. A showing and the project's formal launch reception concluded the workshop.
- In September and November, ViBe researchers participated in the initiatives of a newly founded network of artists and researchers in the Nordic region: *Dancing/Archives* was initiated by Danish Dance Stories (Carolina Bäckman), supported by the Nordic Culture Fund, and brought together artists/researchers from the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (Khio), Dansens Hus in Oslo, the University of Gothenburg, Musikverket in Stockholm, and Copenhagen University.
- In October, ViBe researcher and research librarian at the Royal Danish Library Anna Lawaetz started intensive curating work on the hybrid archive *Dansearkiv.dk*. This archive consists of an analogue and a born digital part, as well as a part in Netarkivet (The Danish Internet Archive). In collaboration with her colleagues Stephen Hunt and Line Slot Hansen, Anna explores different ways of sorting and presenting the archival material to prepare for ViBe's project workshop in 2025 where this digital archive will be examined with dancers.
- In November, the ViBe researchers visited New York City to investigate artists' involvement as creators and users in three very different dance archive institutions. We met with archivists and curators at [Jerome Robbins Dance Division](#) of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts to learn about their collection strategies and elaborate programming of residency and fellowship programmes, exhibitions et al. We had an extended discussion with members of staff from [Hemispheric Institute](#) about their activities, which include collecting 'untold stories', facilitating artist encounters, and publications. And we were initiated into the work of [Merce Cunningham Trust](#) and its legacy plan in which 'dance capsules' play an important part.

- Later in November, ViBe researcher Franziska Bork Petersen presented her work on dance costume as an archival source at the symposium “An der Quelle. Zum kritisch-künstlerischen und wissenschaftlichen Umgang mit Dokumenten und Traditionen” at Munich’s Lenbachhaus.
- Throughout December, ViBe researcher Franziska Bork Petersen conducted a series of interviews with members of staff at the Royal Danish Ballet. The interviews explored dancers’ interaction with costumes to activate embodied memory. Furthermore, they addressed techniques and practices of maintaining and transforming bodies at the Royal Danish Ballet.
- ViBe’s principal investigator Karen Vedel is in the process of preparing material for the next project workshop in August 2024, which will explore the work of American jazzdancer Doug Crutchfield in Copenhagen in the 1960s and 1970s.

Last but not least, it has been decided that the closing conference in Dronningesalen of The Royal Danish Library will take place on 10 September 2025. We will keep you updated.



Louise Mochia and Tim Ma0akis work with Emilie Walbom’s dance nota0ons for Sylvia (1915) in the ballet studio, University of Copenhagen, August 2023. Photo: Karen Vedel