



DANCE SCHOOLS ON STAGE 2026

– APPLY TO PERFORM AT KUOPIO DANCE FESTIVAL, FINLAND

Kuopio Dance Festival is the largest, most diverse and the oldest dance festival in the Nordic countries. The festival includes dance performances, seminars, courses and other cultural activities. The purpose of the event is to offer an international and cultural experience to everyone interested in dance.

Kuopio Dance Festival proudly presents the Dance Schools On Stage showcase on June 10–11, 2026, organized in collaboration with the Finnish Dance Schools Association, STOPP ry. The event will take place in the inspiring setting of Kuopio City Theatre's Maria-stage.

The showcase welcomes both Finnish and international dance schools and academies. It is not a competition, but a celebration of dance that offers audiences and participants a chance to explore a wide variety of dance styles and levels. Participants must be over 7 years old and non-professional dancers.

Each group will receive feedback on their performances from the artistic director of Kuopio Dance Festival, Kenneth Kvarnström and the executive director of the Finnish Association of Dance Schools STOPP ry, Milla Malmberg.

The application period is 1.12.2025 – 31.1.2026. The selected groups will be notified by 17.2.2026.

The goal of the showcase is to inspire and encourage dancers to continue their determined practice and create opportunities for networking and collaboration among dance schools.



APPLYING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DANCE SCHOOL ON STAGE KUOPIO DANCE FESTIVAL 2026

PERFORM DATES

Wednesday 10.6.2026 / 16:00 and Thursday 11.6.2026 / 16:00

WHO CAN APPLY AND HOW?

You can apply under the following conditions:

- Performers should be aged 7 years and up
- Non-professional dancers
- Group size min. 2 dancers

PERFORMANCE

- Free choice dance style
- Duration max. 6 minutes
- Flexible technical solutions (2–3 basic light situations)
- The performance place is Kuopio City Theatre, Maria-stage.
- Stage details: width 8,5 m, depth 8,8 m. Entrance to the stage is possible from both sides, but the main access is from the left side (facing from the audience).

APPLYING

Applying period: 1.12.2025 - 31.1.2026

Apply via online here: [Apply](#)

SELECTION

In the selections, attention is paid to e.g., to the following matters

- The technical skills of the performers
- Choreography
- Expression
- The skill of dancing in a group
- Musicality
- Courage
- Suitability of the presentation's difficulty level for the group

SELECTED GROUPS

- The selected groups will be notified by 17.2.2026
- Kuopio Dance festival will take care of marketing, media and general arrangements.
- Other expenses and arrangements will be covered by the schools / performing groups.
- We recommend to apply funding for your costs from your country.

FEEDBACK

Every performing group will receive feedback after their performance.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- On the day of the performance, there will be a run-through where everyone go through the whole show together. Organizer will also announce the rehearsal schedule for each day before the festival.
- Group members will also receive a festival pass, which entitles to discounted tickets for the festival's paid performances.
- The selected groups and their sponsors commit to promote the performances on their social media channels. Postings will include #kuopiodancefestival #kuopiotanssijasoi.
- By filling in the application form, all members of the group give permission to film and photograph the performances and use the images on the festival's channels.

