



## Dutch Dance Teachers Association Receives Royal Approval.

Amsterdam, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It is with tremendous pleasure and pride that we can inform you that the Dutch Association of Dance Teachers, N.V.D, has received Royal status by His Majesty the King Willem-Alexander.

The 100-year-old Dutch Association of Dance Teachers which has its roots in Ballroom Dancing supports both Ballroom and Latin Dancing, and the profession of Dance Teacher in particular. With several partner institutions we are committed to offering and facilitating internationally accredited quality training in these fields. In its long history, the N.V.D has adapted itself time and again in accordance with the spirit of the times culminating in a branch organisation that supports and encourages all forms of dance.

Dancing unites people from all walks of life, ages, genders, races, and beliefs. It provides human connection and relaxation by creating joy and freeing us from worry. With so many people currently isolated in their homes, the desire for this liberation is enormous. As such, we believe dancing has a bright and significant future.

In the not so distant past The Netherlands literally bounced back and danced off the dark war years. The liberation in 1945 was celebrated in the streets with joyous dancing and a longed-for sense of freedom - just what we wish for today. Dance was at the forefront of the celebration as the American soldiers introduced the Jitterbug and the Jive, while contemporary additions were added to the existing dance repertoire of the Quickstep, Foxtrot, Slow Waltz and Tango.

These exciting times were accompanied by the relaunch of the former 'Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Dansleeraren, the N.V.V.D. Later, in the 1970s, the double V's were dropped and the Association was simply referred to as the N.V.D. The Association continues to adapt and modernise in its commitment to galvanising the dance world through its facilitation of national and international congresses, workshops, and business and educational courses. It encourages wise entrepreneurship amongst dance schools and provides support even in areas of tax advice, general administration and insurance.

As a national organisation the N.V.D is affiliated with the Conseil International de la Dance (CID) which is the official umbrella organisation representing all forms of dance in more than 200 countries around the world. The N.V.D is also a significant player internationally and as such it retains Dutch membership on the European Dance Council (EDC) with corresponding connections to the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the European Council.

As a voting member of the World Dance Organization the NVD contributes to an international dance community and with its affiliation may help set the course for the future.

Recognition of the importance of social inclusivity continues to play a key part in the work of the N.V.D as it raises awareness by offering and promoting dance where there are limitations. The likes of such actions can be seen in the N.V.D's support and development of wheelchair dancing in The Netherlands.

The work achieved by the Dutch Association of Dance Teachers has been honoured at the highest level by His Majesty the King Willem Alexander, as he recognises 100 years of merit. From today we proudly implement the Royal designation bestowed upon us as the 'Royal N.V.D'.

Yours sincerely,

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Nederlandse Vereniging van Dansleraren