

## TO WRITE ABOUT PERFORMING ARTS

How do you write about performing arts in the public space?

Here we show some different text genres you can write in, and also provide some tips on what to think about when writing.

## BE CRITICAL TO YOUR SOURCES

When writing something online or in another medium that many others can read, you should know as far as possible that what you are writing is correct. Do you know what you're writing about? Where is the information you have from? How can you find out more about a matter and how do you know what you find out is right? To learn more about source criticism, take this fun test (there are new questions each time):

### FACIAL-LAW

When writing about performing arts, you are allowed to think things. Nevertheless, it is always advisable to follow the facial act: Do not write anything about a person if you could not say the same directly to this person.

If you or someone you interview is criticizing other people or something they have done, they have the right to respond to the criticism. If the criticism is strong, the reply should be published at the same time as the criticism.

### CHECK YOUR FACTS

Together with the editor, you are responsible for the fact that facts about ideas, things and people you write about are correct.

## GENRES

### CRITICISM

A critique is a text that considers and discusses a work of art or an artistic expression.

In performing arts, critics consider the performances and concerts. It is common to write criticism from the very first performance, the premiere. However, all publicly available shows must be prepared to be visited by a critic.

In performing arts criticism is also important as documentation, since performances of living art expressions are slightly different each time.

Critics are often written by a professional, but in principle, anyone who has been on a show can write a criticism. A criticism is not just consumer guidance. A criticism should put the performance into a broader context.

Where do you start?

Bring your pen and paper into the performance space and write down thoughts you get while watching and listening. What comes in here can often be a good starting point for a text.

Another tip is to ask yourself after the performance or concert what you remember best or what you would first tell a friend who was not present and start writing about it. This does not have to be the beginning of the text, but it often brings interesting points.

A criticism can have many forms, but it must contain

- A description of something you see / hear / read
- an opinion about what you have described
- A reason for why you think this

As a critic you are allowed to be personal and subjective, only you always justify what you mean. If you have strong opinions, it's wise to use the word "I" and for example write "I'm experiencing this because ...". Then you show that what you are writing is an opinion and not an eternal truth. Remember, you never know what others think in the audience unless you've asked them. Are you particularly critical, remember the facial act (see top). And remember to justify your sentence. Questions about why and how are always important when writing a criticism.

A criticism of performing arts can be based on many elements: direction, text, plays, scenography, music, the room around, the audience, etc. If you try to get everything, the text is rarely good. Try to choose something that interests you and describe and evaluate this further.

Also, remember that the person who read the text has often not been to the show. That you describe what you mean something about is therefore important.

#### LANGUAGE

Work hard to find words that everyone can understand. It is allowed to use vocabulary, only you explain them.

If you type a name, always remember to explain to the readers the role that this person has in the context. This also applies if the person is quite familiar, because you never know who is going to read your text. For example, "actor Ane Dahl Torp". Type full name or surname. Do not use only first names, then you and the one you are writing are close friends.

Be sure not to use the same word, for example, "interesting", several times. A criticism is a rather short text.

#### Format

The text you are writing is called body text. In a critique the body of the text is often about 3000 characters including spaces.

#### fact Box

Facts about the performance (time, place, title, organizer, who participated and what the piece or the music is called) do not require space in the text itself. Collect it next to a fact box.

#### Title and ingress

Once you have finished writing the text, give it a title and an input (1 sentence). Both title and input will tempt the reader to read on. Therefore, they should contain an opinion. Get two good points from the text you have already written. (a given number of spaces with spaces).

#### Impartiality

A criticism must be independent. The theater that made the show can not pay for a critique or edit