



# HOW TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE?

One of the most discussed topics at the Big Pulse Intensive that took place in September 2024 was the upscaling of mid-career artists' work. How can the transition from smaller to larger productions be supported? What is needed? What could help the most? Is it necessary to upscale to survive?

These questions raise important considerations about artistic careers today. How should artists think about the future in the face of severe budget cuts, increasing competition, and growing hostility towards art and culture? The art scene is constantly evolving, and artists need to be prepared to adapt and consider their future from a long-term perspective.

Is it time to prioritise thinking, reflecting, and asking yourself important questions? Here is a five-step exercise for future visioning and planning:

## Step 1: Reflect on your current path

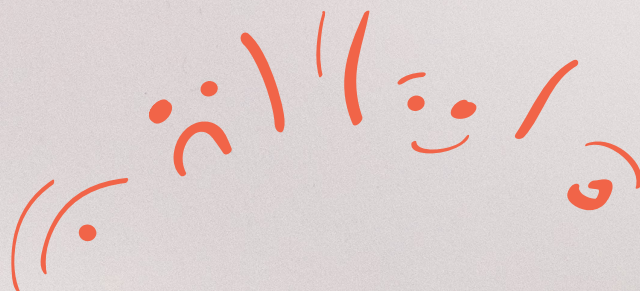
- Ask yourself why you are doing what you are doing.
- Write down what excites you most about your work as an artist and identify your key strengths.
- Who is your audience?
- Next, consider the challenges or limitations you are currently facing. What is stopping you from reaching the next level?

## Step 2: Dream big

- Imagine where you want to be in 5, 10, and 20 years as a choreographer and as a person.
- What is your dream project or process?
- Who would collaborate with you on this project or process?
- Where would this work be presented?

## Step 3: Break down your vision

- Now take your vision and break it down into smaller steps. What are some milestones you can aim for over the next few years?



#### Step 4: Identify opportunities

Based on your intermediate goals, list specific opportunities you can pursue in the short term. These could include:

- Planning how to cultivate personal contacts to build lasting relationships.  
Retaining good collaborators and finding new ones.
- Considering working with networks and collectives.
- Researching venues, festivals or residencies that align with your artistic work.
- Reaching out to a mentor or peer for reflection and feedback.
- Investigating funding opportunities for new work.

#### Step 5: Take action

Finally, choose a goal that you can start working on this month. Break it down into actionable steps and set a timeline.

*Example:* If your goal is to apply for a residency, your steps might be:

1. Research residencies (week 1)
2. Gather materials for application (week 2)
3. Submitting your application (week 4)

#### Reflection

After completing this exercise, take a moment to reflect on how you feel about your future. What actions do you need to take to bring this vision closer to reality?

This exercise can help choreographers to visualise their future while translating their ambitions into actionable steps.

MY NOTES

# MY NOTES