

#PayTheDancers:

FIA strongly condemns UEFA's actions in seeking to cast a 200 dancer show without pay

The International Federation of Actors (FIA), representing stage and screen performers around the world, has been informed that UEFA is currently seeking to cast 200 "volunteer" dancers to perform for free at the Opening Ceremony for the UEFA Champions League Final.

As is its wont, UEFA is planning an exciting performance to open the Champions' League Final on the 1st of June, with "a world-renowned musical artist and a choreographer of recognized international prestige" and of course a troupe of 200 dancers, who will be expected to work for free. They will need to be available for rehearsals between 15 May and 1st of June, as naturally UEFA will be seeking to ensure a highly choreographed and visual display, to be televised worldwide, contributing to the excitement and the atmosphere of the occasion.

Any claim that no dancing experience is required and that what is planned is some sort of 'citizen mobilisation' falls rather flat in the face of the fact that the call for volunteers was published on the national dance portal danza.es and that the project involves established and veteran artistic production company SoldOUT. The final aim is clearly a polished performance to be watched by millions. It is unacceptable that a resource-rich, international organization like UEFA should continually seek to cut costs in this manner. Large-scale artistic events that are professionally made and professionally paid are the bread and butter of performing artists seeking to make a living from their craft. Engaging dancers on a volunteer basis deeply devalues the years of training and dedication that they put in to their craft and further deprives them of valuable and visible opportunities to exercise their profession. Events that engage dancers as the professionals that they are, are what makes the sector sustainable and allows talent to be fostered and to flourish.

FIA joins its Spanish affiliate ConARTE in condemning this total disregard for the dignity and rights of performing artists. We call on UEFA to make of its Opening Ceremony for the Champions' League Final, the great event of European professional football, an example of good practice in the entertainment industry. We call on sports institutions to respect the working conditions and salary conditions of a sector that is already sufficiently impoverished and fragile, the sector of the performing arts.

The International Federation of Actors (FIA) brings together performers' unions, guilds and professional associations from across the world. Founded in 1952, it represents several hundreds of thousands of performers with some 90 member organisations in more than 60 countries around the world.