



Virtual Dance Room (VDR)

The Dancing Plague of 1518

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Ethnic Dance Chicago / Door County Folk Festival



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The Dancing Plague of 1518



- **The Story**

- The dancing plague (or dance epidemic) of 1518 was a case of dancing mania that occurred in Strasbourg, Alsace (now modern-day France), in the Holy Roman Empire in July 1518. Somewhere between 50 and 400 people took to dancing for days.
- The outbreak began in July 1518 when a woman began to dance fervently in a street in Strasbourg. Some sources claim that, for a period, the plague killed around fifteen people per day; however, the sources of the city of Strasbourg at the time of the events did not mention the number of deaths, or even if there were fatalities.
- Historical documents, including "physician notes, cathedral sermons, local and regional chronicles, and even notes issued by the Strasbourg city council" are clear that the victims danced. It is not known why.





1518 Dancing Plague Videos



- **Mass Hysteria And The Dancing Plague Of 1518**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEM_GNIAWxg
- **A Dancing Disease KILLED People: The Dancing Plague Of 1518 | Earth Lab**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Es3hXUQLQgg>
- **The Dancing Plague Of 1518 – The History Channel**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8zve4sRV70>





1518 Dancing Plague Sources - 1



- **Wikipedia**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dancing_plague_of_1518

- **The History Channel**

- <https://www.history.com/news/what-was-the-dancing-plague-of-1518>

- **Encyclopædia Britannica**

- <https://www.britannica.com/event/dancing-plague-of-1518>

- **BBC Future**

- <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20161028-the-town-the-nearly-danced-itself-to-death>





1518 Dancing Plague Sources - 2



- **Science Direct**

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0160932708000379>

- **The Public Domain Review**

- <https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/the-dancing-plague-of-1518>

- **Interesting Engineering**

- <https://interestingengineering.com/the-dancing-plague-has-got-to-be-the-weirdest-outbreak-ever-experienced>

- **Digital Journal**

- <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/258521>





1518 Dancing Plague Sources - 3



- **Open Culture**

- <http://www.openculture.com/2019/01/the-dancing-plague-of-1518.html>

- **Wikipedia – Dancing Mania**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dancing_mania

- **The Psychologist**

- <https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-22/edition-7/dancing-plagues-and-mass-hysteria>

- **Mental Floss**

- <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/28371/dancing-plague-1518>





End

Virtual Dance Room (VDR)

The Dancing Plague of 1518 ...Restarting...

Download this document:

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This will help us survive this period of social distancing when all of our events have been postponed.

You may donate using a PayPal account or a major credit/debit card at: www.virtualdancerroom.net/donate/

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