

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the lifestyle and relationships among professional ballet dancers. Previous studies that have focused on this group, have not focused on the lifestyle as a complex phenomenon, the goal is therefore to supplement existing knowledge in this matter. Given the recent research coverage problem, the thesis uses explorative approach to the conceptual level based on the concepts of lifestyle and subculture and it uses methodologically a qualitative approach. In particular, the conceptual basis in the form of subculture largely determines the orientation, the process and the structure of the paper. It figures as a tool that allows us to organize a view of professional ballet dancers. After defining the concepts related to ballet and introducing the factual account of events enabling to look into the historical and institutional context in which Czech ballet dancers act, followed by a description logic of its study in this paper, including basic concepts of introducing subculture and lifestyle, and clarification of the used methodology. The results of qualitative research among professional ballet dancers that form the core of the paper, are then presented in the next section. Among ballet dancers there were then monitored various aspects of their lives and lifestyles. As an important dimension of the lifestyle that conceals a number of specifics of this group there are examined relationships among professional ballet dancers. The aim was to describe their own experiences and points of view and based on that provide with a look into the life of ballet dancers respecting their own perspective perception. On the basis of this information it is then possible to provide with a detailed description of the everyday life of the studied group and consider whether there is also present the moment of the internal identification of the subculture as well as how the ballet dancers understand themselves and how they define themselves in their surroundings. Combining the knowledge base gained through the study of literature and qualitative interviews with professional ballet dancers, it is possible to comprehensively portray a complex form of the lifestyle and relationships in the subculture of ballet, as well as provide with factual background for future research studies of this field.

**Keywords:** ballet, subculture, lifestyle, relationships