

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Daniela Kirilova Dzheneva –

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On the dissertation for acquiring the educational and academic degree "Doctor"

Author: Rosen Metodiev Nikolov

Subject: "Development of Ballet Art in Bourgas"

Academic supervisor: Prof. DSc Anelia Yaneva

PF 8.3 "Music and Dance Art"

Scientific specialty: "Musicology and Music Art"

Rosen Nikolov's dissertation is entitled "Development of Ballet Art in Bourgas". The presented academic thesis is a significant and valuable study of different facts for an extended period of 130 years. A huge database of information has been systematized and for the first time the origin and development of ballet art in Bourgas has been fully studied. The topic is definitely relevant and at the moment this is a timely periodization of all stages of this development. It is obvious that the doctoral student knows from the "inside" the processes and applies a differentiated approach in the analysis of the work of each author according to his/her individual attitude to the work and the period of performance. The choice of the topic corresponds to the professional realization and education of Rosen Nikolov. Pursuing his interests, the author has come a long way in training and improvement. In 1999 he received a Bachelor's Degree in "Choreographic Pedagogy", and in 2015 - received his "Master" in "Choreographic Directing" at SWU "Neofit Rilski". Made a specialization at the "A. Vaganov" school of ballet in St. Petersburg and modern ballet in Vienna. For 20 years Nikolov has been a lecturer at NSMSA "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov"- Bourgas in the disciplines: "Classical Dance", "Historical Dances", "Characteristic Dances", "Contemporary Dance Techniques", "Composition and Improvisation", "History of Dance", "Theory and Methodology", "Acting and Pantomime". Founder of the first ensemble for modern ballet in Bourgas in 1974. Over the years as a choreographer Nikolov participated in a number of entertainment programs on BNTV. He has staged ballet performances and is the author of productions in Bourgas, Stara Zagora, Gabrovo, Blagoevgrad, Veliko Tarnovo, Minsk - Belarus and a number of other stages. Thus, the experience gained over the years as a lecturer and artist gave him grounds in 2016 to become a doctoral student in the RG Musical Theater at the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The dissertation we have before us has a volume of 192 pages. It is structured in the following way - introduction, six sections and a conclusion. It includes four appendixes where the ballet productions at the Bourgas Opera and the authors are comprehensively and chronologically described. All dance fragments from operas, operettas and musicals performed on the stage of the Bourgas Opera are listed. The bibliography includes 88 titles. Listed are 189 reviews, articles and announcements, 18 of which have been published in specialized editions and are pointed out separately as more significant. All documentary videos and programs of performances, considered in the different sections for classical repertoire and contemporary choreography, are also described. This large volume of empirical research and analysis is precisely systematized and this most certainly is also a contribution of the supervisor Prof. Dr. Assoc. Anelia Yaneva. An abstract of 31 pages is attached, which quite analytically, without literal excerpts from the main work, introduces us to the content, structure, conclusions and contributions of the dissertation. Seven publications on the topic have been published, 5 of which have been presented as reports before a diverse audience at universities and established academic organizations.

Stated as the main goal of the present study is to achieve: *"a systematized and substantiated work on the initial steps, the establishment and development of ballet in Bourgas in its overall profile."* The academic thesis goes beyond the message stated in the title and impresses us with a variety of approaches and research methods. The formulated conclusions predetermine the contributory nature of the work in terms of historical information about ballet, as well as formation on the various genres and periods. Both the educational and cultural structures that contributed to the development of ballet in Bourgas are covered.

The doctoral student emphasizes the characteristic processes that determine the general aspect of ballet during years. Namely, the fact that opera operetta titles are performed in Bourgas even before the creation of the first Amateur Opera in the city. He emphasizes that the appearance of classical ballets on the Bourgas stage follows its own path of development, unlike the major opera houses in Europe. Due to the remoteness of Bourgas from the representative stage of the Sofia Opera, preconditions are created for more dance experiments in the genre of contemporary dance. World titles are staged, which are not performed in other theaters in our country. *"And when after the 1990s all the troupes turned to modern dance, the ballet troupe in Bourgas seemed to make a U-turn - increasing its interest in the classical repertoire."* All the formulated conclusions are the result of an analytical approach and in-depth study.

Drawn out are 12 contributions, which adequately and accurately reflect the result of the overall study. I believe that one of the most important and perhaps unrealized by the doctoral student's contribution is the fact that his approach has been emotional, assigning a leading position to the Bourgas Ballet among the troupes outside the capital, trying to present all the circumstances. I recommend the publication of the

work, because the book, in addition to a complete historiography of ballet, would be a valuable proof of data and facts about the development of arts and culture in Bourgas over the years. In conclusion, I will emphasize that the presented dissertation "Development of Ballet Art in Bourgas" together with the attached publications on the subject give me reason to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award Rosen Metodiev Nikolov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in PF 8.3 "Musical and Dance Art", doctoral program: "Musicology and Music Art".

March 29, 2021 Plovdiv

Signature:

Prof. Dr. D. Geneva