

## **OPINION**

by Prof Daniela Kirilova Dzheneva, PhD

on dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”

Professional field (code 8.3) Music and Dance Art

Doctoral program “Choreography”

Author: **Dragomir Valentinov Yordanov**

Topic: *Interaction between the Bulgarian Stage Folk Dance and Contemporary Dance Styles*

**Academic supervisor:** Prof Zhelka Tabakova, PhD

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the materials presented for review**

The author of the dissertation is Dragomir Valentinov Yordanov – full-time doctoral student at the Department of Choreography at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv with academic supervisor Prof. Zhelka Tabakova. The materials presented by him in the procedure meet the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the Regulations for its implementation for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in AMDFA. They contain the necessary orders, dissertation work, abstract, list of author's publications - 3 in number, a creative autobiography and a report on the contributions of the dissertation.

### **2. Brief biographical data of the candidate**

Dragomir Yordanov is born in 1989 in Targovishte, where he started dancing at the age of 4. In 2008, he graduated from the National School of Folk Arts "Filip Kutev" in Kotel. In 2012, he graduated from AMDFA as a choreographer-pedagogue with Bachelor degree, and 3 years later he received Master's degree as a specialist in Contemporary Dance Techniques. He was a professional performer in: 2008-2009 Academic Dance Ensemble of AMDFA, 2009-2013 folklore ensemble Trakia, 2013 Seans Organization Event Company, Antalya, Turkey, 2014 Pasha Dance Theater - Belek, Turkey.

At AMDFA, he teaches classes as a part-time teacher in the disciplines: Popular Dance Techniques, Contemporary Dance Techniques and Folklore Dances of the People.

### **3. Relevance of the topic**

The topic of the dissertation is undeniably relevant. In recent years, there has been an increased desire for collaboration of dance styles in the staging of new stage works. The doctoral candidate researches Bulgarian dance productions that have impressed him with suitable solutions in this direction and finds that the leading role of musical solutions in the compositional construction is of the greatest importance for good success.

### **4. Expediency of the research methods used to achieve the set goals**

The methods used are analysis and comparative analysis of performances built through the symbiosis of the Bulgarian folk dance with other dance styles – both classical and contemporary. In

addition to the comparative analysis used to reach certain conclusions, the doctoral student also relies on empirical studies among established choreographers and educators, and conducting experiments with active dancers is especially appropriate for the researched topic. Under the experienced guidance of the academic supervisor and after a series of analytical consultations, the doctoral student has prepared an innovative methodology that guarantees good and expedient results.

### **5. Evaluation of the dissertation**

Dragomir Yordanov's dissertation consists of 169 pages. It is structured in an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion and results. The used bibliography includes 29 book titles. Attached are 8 links to internet sources of information on the subject and 6 titles of performances analyzed in the dissertation.

In the introduction, the author justifies the relevance of the topic. Defines the object of the study, the subject, the goal and the tasks.

In the first chapter, he examines the approaches used in the processing of Bulgarian folklore when staging dance works. He analyzes in details two dances, then lays out a number of factors that could have different affect on the vocabulary and the form of the work.

In the second chapter, Yordanov thoroughly examines the characteristic stylistic qualities of the folk dance in Bulgaria as a prerequisite for structuring modern dance models and analyzes the different types of dances and their relationship with music. He also analyzes examples from all ethnographic regions as a prerequisite for upgrading the existing models. Here, the doctoral student concludes that, in parallel with studying the specifics of dancing in the individual ethnographic areas in Bulgaria, dancers should have the opportunity to get to know, and why not practice, dance styles from different parts of the world. He draws the conclusion that from the point of view of modern dance techniques, in this way they would become more informed, communicative and flexible in dance expression through body movement.

The third chapter examines the interaction between traditional and contemporary dance approaches in education. The types of exercise, warm-up and development opportunities for the modern dancer are thoroughly analyzed. As a conclusion, it is emphasized that authentic dance folklore must be preserved and the artists with innovative thinking must approach delicately as their main goal must be the development of our folk culture.

The fourth chapter analyzes established stage forms in which folk, classical and contemporary dance interact.

### **6. Contributions and significance of the thesis and the relevant publications**

In general, I would summarize that Dragomir Yordanov knows the problems and has approached analytically and constructively in presenting his thesis. The contributions defined by him clearly and accurately reflect the results of the dissertation in two directions – in scientific and in practical. The included publications also reflect his positive approach to the collaboration between the

established dance styles in our country and his clear message that for creative experiments one should bet on in-depth knowledge and professional attitude.

**7. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I recommend the doctoral student to use the results achieved by him as a basis for the development of the contemporary dance in Bulgaria based on folklore.

**8. Abstract:**

The presented Abstract introduces us briefly to the main chapters, conclusions and contributions of the dissertation. It is 56 pages and in a synthesized form it informs us about the content and the motivation for writing it. It is prepared in compliance with the requirements of the relevant rules and regulations.

**9. Conclusion:**

Considering the above, I am convinced that I give my positive assessment of the conducted research, represented by a dissertation, an abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honourable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Dragomir Valentinov Yordanov in professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, doctoral program Choreography.

08.05.2024

Reviewer:.....

/Prof D. Dzheneva, PhD/