

OPINION

by

Prof Anton Hristov Andonov, PhD

on

Dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “Doctor”

Professional field (code 8.3) Music and dance Art

Doctoral program “Choreography”

Doctoral candidate: **Sun Xiofang**, doctoral student at the Department of Choreography, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography of Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts

“Prof Asen Diamandiev”

Topic: *Principles of Teaching in Choreography - Theory and Practice*

Academic supervisor: Prof Zhelka Tabakova, PhD

This review is prepared on the grounds of Order RD-27-144/ 21.10.2024 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, regarding the approval of a scientific jury and presented by the doctoral candidate a dissertation, an abstract, a report on the contributions of the dissertation, publications on the topic of the dissertation, meeting the requirements of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), and the Regulations for its implementation, for obtaining educational and scientific degree “doctor” and scientific degree “doctor of sciences”.

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EVALUATION OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation consists of 197 pages and includes introduction, an exposition in four chapters, conclusions, contributions, bibliography.

The proposed structure of the study is well thought out, clear and logical. The content of each chapter is divided into separate paragraphs, with conclusions drawn at the end of each chapter. The main text contains numerous quotes and links, as evidence for the text of the dissertation. After the presented structure, the author offers a general characteristic of the study, in which she presents her view on the relevance and significance of the chosen topic, the object and subject of the study, the research problem and thesis, the pursued goal with the tasks arising from it, as well as the methodology of the future scientific research.

The list of literary sources used consists of 79 titles in Bulgarian and English and 5 electronic sources.

The biography and professional career of the author of the dissertation presented for review clearly suggests the reason why he focused on the researched topic: *Teaching principles in choreography – traditions and modernity*.

The development of Sun Xiaofang is connected with the stage dance, through her studies at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music, majoring in Dance Education and the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, majoring in Performing Arts.

An important part of her creative biography is her work as a teacher and assistant director of international dance competitions and teaching courses for Improvisation Training in Liaoning Province.

Parallel to Sun Xiaofang's development as artist is her successful performance in modern dance seminars in Guangzhou and the Xiexin Dance Workshop.

The experience gained as a performer, assistant director and teacher over the years gives her the opportunity to present a serious, large-scale study that finds its place in the scientific-theoretical basis of contemporary research trends and carries with it inherent theoretical and practical significance.

The **introduction** points to the basis of the scientific work for the study and analysis of choreography as a profession and its key role in the development of the dance art. The main emphasis is placed on the methods of teaching choreography and the requirements for teaching skills, examining the problems that arose during teaching related to inspiring students' dance thinking, the ability to structure and deconstruct dance works, and the mastery of the characteristics and steps of the dance work.

The goal specifies the tasks presented in a theoretical and applied aspect. The stated methodological framework, formulated clearly and precisely, finds expression in the following methods: historical, empirical, statistical - data processing method.

In the **first chapter**, *Professional characteristics of the choreography teacher*, the author analyzes in great depth the professional characteristics of choreography teachers, making a thorough analysis of the uniqueness and significance of this profession from different perspectives. A choreography teacher is a dance performer who must not only have solid dance skills and extensive experience in choreography, but also skills in creating, rehearsing and directing dance works. In addition, he must have the skills to teach, guide and train talents in dance choreography, have professional pedagogical skills and a unique artistic vision. The author also tracks and analyzes the achievements of the main choreography centers and professional art academies in China, as well as the need for future trends in their development in relation to the professional positioning in the era.

In **Chapter Two** - *Professional skills that a choreography teacher must have*, Sun Xiaofang very specifically analyzes the tasks of the choreographer and teacher, who must have solid professional skills to lay a solid foundation for choreography teaching and multi-faceted professional skills, including the ability to understand the dance expression of art, the ability to create choreographies of various dance styles, master dance thinking and know the structure of dance. In addition, he must have solid knowledge of choreography theory, dance history, dance aesthetics, dance psychology, choreography methods, including dance concept, structure design, movement arrangement

and music selection, as well as interdisciplinary knowledge, including in the fields of literature, music, theater and fine arts, that is, the practical and theoretical skills of the choreographer and teacher.

Chapter Three *Skills for professional practice that a dance choreographers must have* provides comprehensive information on the role of choreographers in the training of future dance directors. The author's research approach allows her to emphasize the various professional practical skills that dance choreographers should possess. This chapter provides valuable theoretical support and practical guidelines for dance training. A significant contribution is the extensive analyses of classical and contemporary dance works from world choreographic practice and in particular Chinese classical drama.

II. SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS AND EVALUATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS

There are real scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation research, which are important for enriching the art of dance and pedagogical science. The research successfully achieves its goals not only in the theoretical issues, but also in achieving applied results. I fully accept the stated contributions of the work, which are analytically presented and reliably highlighted.

My assessment of the reports related to the dissertation is positive. The **abstract** meets the standards and accurately conveys the essence of the dissertation, and the relevant conclusions have been drawn.

The reviewed dissertation work has a serious scientific-practical value. It meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the regulations for its implementation.

The author presents a valuable dissertation text, which is an achievement in her individual scientific and practical work.

III. CONCLUSION

In the context of everything said in this Review, I give my **positive** assessment of the dissertation work *Principles of Teaching in Choreography – Theory and Practice* and I propose to the respected scientific jury **to award Sun Xiaofang** the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, doctoral program Choreography.

17.11.2024

Plovdiv

Reviewer

Prof Anton Andonov, PhD