

OPINION

by Prof Dr Lubomir Ivanov Karadjov,
Professor of Art Theory at
AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev“- Plovdiv

on the application of Dr Dimitar Vodenicharov in the competition for academic position
Associate Professor, announced by AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev“
in field of higher education 8. Arts
professional field: 8. 2. Fine Arts
scientific specialty History of Costume and Scenography

In the competition for Associate Professor in scientific specialty History of Costume and Scenography, announced the Academy of Music Dance and Fine Arts, for the needs of the Faculty of Fine Arts, there is one participant – Dr Dimitar Lyubenov Vodenicharov.

In 1993, the applicant obtains Master’s Degree in Scenography at the National Academy of Art. In 2018, he receives Doctor’s degree by successfully defending dissertation work on “*Aesthetic and Technological Practices in Stage Lighting in the European Theatre (from the last quarter of the XIX to the second half of the XX century)*”.

The artistic work of Dimitar Vodenicharov is impressive. The applicant provides information on more than 25 productions in which he authored scenographic, costume and lighting designs. These include *The Schmuck*, *Underground Seagulls* and *What the Butler Saw* at the Plovdiv Drama Theatre; *Cinderella* and *Easter Wine* at the Plovdiv Puppet Theatre; productions such as *Immortal Song* with a nomination for costume design by the Union of Bulgarian Actors, as well as numerous realized projects at the theatres in Haskovo, Smolyan, Pleven, etc.

Dimitar Vodenicharov has participated in numerous exhibitions in Bulgaria, including in 1996 and 2007 at the Plovdiv City Art Gallery; 1997 - exhibition at the Lucas Gallery-Plovdiv, 2012 - at Resonance Gallery-Plovdiv, participation in the National Autumn Exhibitions *Poetics of Image* in 2019; graphic symposia in Plovdiv; exhibition at Bogoridi Gallery – Burgas; participations with his works in galleries in Sofia, Kyustendil and others cities, as well as international participations, including exhibitions in the Czech Republic, Belgium, France and Austria.

In 1993 Vodenicharov becomes a part-time lecturer in Stage Lighting at the National High School of Stage and Film Design, Plovdiv. From 1996 to 2015 he teaches Costume

History and Stage Equipment and Technology at AMDFA. Since 2018, he is Assistant Professor in Costume History and Stage Equipment and Technology at AMDFA, making him one of the longest serving teachers in the Faculty of Fine Arts of the Academy. In addition, for the period 1997 – 1999 he works as stage designer at Razgrad Drama Theatre.

In the competition for Associate Professor in the scientific specialty History of Costume and Scenography, according to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff, Dimitar Vodenicharov presents evidence of artistic achievements in the field of arts, namely, stage and costume design for the play *Undress!* Based on *What the Butler Saw* by Joe Orton, staged at Plovdiv Drama Theatre, season 2014-2015, directed by Krasimir Rankov, as well as a set design for the musical *The Schmuck* of Petar Radevski and Leo Capon, by Iva Perzhikova, staged at Plovdiv Drama Theatre during 1995-1996 season directed by Leo Capon.

The comedy *Undress!* is a high level production, with which the Plovdiv Drama Theatre participated at the International Theatre Festival Stage at a Crossroad in 2014. The author of the stage and costume design Dimitar Vodenicharov presents, in the documentation of this competition, the poster of the production with the actors Troyan Gogov, Ivana Papazova, Aleksey Kozhuharov, Ivaylo Hristov, Radina Dumanyan and Venelin Metodiev, a certificate for the direction of Krasimir Rankov and factual and visual evidence for the stage and costume design Dimitar Vodenicharov.

The documentation also includes two reviews. One is by Rada Stoykova, where she notes that the production is a fact regardless of the difficulties of the Plovdiv Theatre, which at the time was without a main stage because of a fire. Another review in the newspaper *Dnevnik* gave direct positive evaluations of the overall impact of the theatre product.

Dimitar Vodenicharov illustrates his work on the stage and costumes design with 22 colour photographs, depicting different moments of the performance. The photos allow to get an idea of well-mastered stage space, adequate colour solutions and interesting backlight effects in the set design. The costumes of the actors are attractive and adequately subordinated to the “frenzied action that leaves the audience breathless”, as noted in the quoted article in the newspaper *Dnevnik* in the issue of 29.10. 2016.

Dimitar Vodenicharov's work on the set design of *The Schmuck* is presented and proved through 10 photographs - working models characterizing the visualization of the stage. There are also 8 pictures with the actors in the musical, from which it is evident that the stage solution is influential and creates its own visual text.

The table attached by the applicant for the supporting information on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements, shows that Dimitar Vodenicharov has published a book *Aesthetic and Technological Practices in Stage Lighting in the European Theatre* (from the last quarter of the XIX to the second half of the XX century), based on his dissertation work, ISBN 978-954-2963-47-9, Plovdiv, 2019.

He is author of three articles in specialized editions in the field of arts, the supporting information also mentions an important watercolour exhibition in Vienna in 2018, and the necessary number of citations of his works and the management of an international scientific project in 2019. It should also be noted the Plovdiv Award won by Vodenicharov in the Fine Arts category in 2017, awarded for his joint exhibition with Vasil Margaritov at the City Art Gallery in Plovdiv.

The presented scientific, practical and artistic work meets the minimum national requirements for an Associate Professor, and the quality of the activity is indisputable. It speaks of a vast teaching experience at the Faculty of Fine Arts, AMDFA, serious and in-depth research and practical implementation of numerous stage solutions in productions of reputable art institutions.

Considering all this, and in my evaluation of the abovementioned production, I find it quite reasonable to give my positive assessment to the applicant, recommending to the scientific jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty of Fine Arts at AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, for the election of Dimitar Lyubenov Vodenicharov of the academic position Associate Professor in field of higher education 8. Arts; professional filed 8.2. Fine Arts; scientific specialty History of Costume and Scenography.

5 November 2019
Plovdiv

Prepared by:
Prof Dr Lyubomir Karadzhov