

PEER REVIEW

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Pampulova,
Higher education field 8.3. "Music and Dance Arts"
New Bulgarian University – Sofia

in connection with a competition for occupation of the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in **Ballet Art**

Higher education field 8.3. "Music and Dance Arts", announced in State Gazette, Issue 52 dated 05.07.2022, at the Choreography Department of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

Candidate: Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova

Dr. Elitsa Lukanova is the only candidate in the competition for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in Ballet Art, announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The set of documents and materials provided is in accordance with the requirements and specifics of the competition. The reference meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Ballet Art under Professional field 8. "Arts", as well as meets the criteria for contributions.

Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova participates in the competition with a basic habilitation thesis and supporting documents, which contain:

1. Creative biography of the candidate;

2. Reference of contributions after occupation of the scientific degree Doctor" in Choreography, 2019, structured according to the relevant indicators:

I. Creative and artistic activity –

- Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts;
- Participation in artistic and creative projects presenting the implementation of various dance and stage productions to which the relevant evidentiary material is attached.

II. Scientific activity, containing information about:

- Monographic work entitled "*INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN BALLET SCHOOL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BALLET ART IN BULGARIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY*";
- Articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts;
- Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes;
- Participation in conferences;
- Participation in scientific juries.

III. Teaching activity, which includes:

- Participation in the preparation of study programs;
- Guidance of master's and doctoral candidates;

- Activity with students.

The monographic work of Dr. Elitsa Lukanova entitled *“INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN BALLET SCHOOL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BALLET ART IN BULGARIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY”* is an in-depth study of the development of ballet art in Bulgaria. The dissertation contains 187 pages. The development consists of an introduction, six chapters, conclusions, and contributions. The bibliography includes 13 sources. The list of author’s publications consists of 3 titles.

Dr. Lukanova presents the developing dance and especially ballet art in Bulgaria under the influence of the Russian ballet school and the Russian ballet specialists in the development and validation of this art. The volume of the study is within a sufficiently large period (from the 10s of the XX century to the 70s of the same century). The factology, which is impressive in terms of volume, is arranged chronologically, thus the author distinguishes individual names who had contributed to the development of Bulgarian ballet. Little-known Bulgarian activists in the field of dance are presented in detail, preparing the transition from the rich folklore interpretation to the new, for the time, plastic expressiveness of classical dance.

In the integrity of the work, a large volume of information from various printed publications stands out – precisely referenced, which points to the author’s in-depth research work in library archives.

In the first part – “The Dawn of Ballet in Bulgaria” (up to Anastas Petrov), the author introduces us to the Bulgarian “pioneers”, and describes tours of Russian ballet performers in Bulgaria.

The second part – “Start of Professional Ballet in Bulgaria – Anastas Petrov”, Dr. Lukanova presents the activities of Anastas Petrov in Bulgaria in the 1930s, the first ballet performance in Bulgaria “Coppelia”, as well as ballet artists from the earliest period of Anastas Petrov.

The third part – “Bulgarian Ballet After the Second World War” – presents Nina Anisimova and the production of Ballet 100 “Fountain of Bakhchisarai”, as well as Nikolay Sergeevich Holfin and his productions in 107 Sofia Opera.

The fourth part is “Professional Ballet Education in Bulgaria”.

And the fifth part presents Russian and Bulgarian choreographers who have contributed to the development of modern classical ballet in Bulgaria.

As proof of the strong influence of the Russian ballet school on the development of classical dance in Bulgaria, Dr. Lukanova presents a Reference of graduates of higher

and secondary education in Moscow and Leningrad, proven Bulgarian dancers, pedagogues, and choreographers practicing in Bulgaria and around the world.

In “Conclusion”, Dr. Lukanova shares: “Due to the huge amount of systematized and analyzed material in the present work, in my next scientific work (on which I am already working) I will cover the period up to the end of the XX and the beginning of the XXI century, where, in addition to Russian specialists, who worked in our country, I will dwell in detail on their Bulgarian graduates – significant recognition must be given to their dedicated work, professionalism, and contribution to Bulgarian ballet”.

I find the research work of Dr. Elitsa Lukanova extremely detailed, interesting and useful for future artists and researchers of ballet art in Bulgaria. Bearing in mind the mentioned activities performed after the award of the academic degree “Doctor” in Choreography, her practical teaching activity and the value of her research work in the field of dance, I convincingly give my **positive assessment** of her candidacy and recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, Choreography Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts to select Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Ballet Art.

27.10.2022

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Pampulova
/Program Director of the Theater Department at New Bulgarian University and lecturer
at the same University/