

**PEER REVIEW**  
**for the artistic, creative and teaching activities**  
**of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Petrova Lukanova, presented for participation in a**  
**competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”**  
**under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”**  
**specialty “Ballet Art”,**  
**announced in State Gazette, Issue 52 dated 05.07.2022 for the needs of Prof. Asen**  
**Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**

**Prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Roslana Ivanova Moravenova-Staneva**  
**Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**

This peer review was prepared on the basis of documents received in relation to a competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv /State Gazette, Issue 52 dated 05.07.2022/and on the website of the Academy for the needs of the Choreography Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography. The documents submitted for the competition correspond to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

The only candidate, who submitted documents in the competition for “Associate Professor”, is Assistant Dr. Elitsa Petrova Lukanova, lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. As a member of the Scientific Jury, I received and familiarized myself in detail with the candidate’s materials, which include both mandatory documentation for the application for participation and a filled-in reference table under the relevant professional direction with accompanying evidentiary material on all points. The production of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova, including a habilitation thesis, a published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, three articles, citations, held master classes (workshops), and participation in educational projects, corresponds to the necessary quantitative and qualitative requirements. The report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art.2b of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (scientific field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”) shows, as follows: **50 points (group of indicators A), 100 points (group of indicators C), 130 points (group of indicators D), 50 points (group of indicators E) and 50 points (group of indicators F)**. The duly fulfilled requirements enable me to objectively and fully assess the candidate.

Elitsa Petrova Lukanova was born on 15.08.1969 in the City of Sofia. In 1979, she began her ballet education at the State Choreographic School – now National School of Music and Dance – Sofia, where she studied until 1984 in the class of Prof. Liliyana Draguleva. Her long-term scientific interests in the field of classical ballet began in 1984

when she entered the Agrippina Y. Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet – St. Petersburg, Russia, where in 1987 she acquired secondary special education “Artist-Ballerina” in the class of Prof. I. A. Trofimova. She consciously sought self-improvement in techniques and figurative expressiveness, which build the appearance of the dancing artist with great effort and persistence. All these elements formed qualities that developed over the years. From 1988 to 2015, Elitsa Lukanova was an Artist-Ballerina in the Sofia Opera and Ballet. She took an active part in the entire repertoire of the troupe. In 1995, Dr. Lukanova graduated from Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Arts in Sofia with a Master’s degree in Ballet Pedagogy. The professional and pedagogical orientation of the candidate developed at the National School of Music and Dance – Sofia during the period 1986 – 2000. At the invitation of the Bulgarian Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation, she became a Ballet Pedagogue-Choreographer of the Bulgarian Women Rhythmic Gymnastics National Ensemble – an ensemble of women who won gold Olympic medals for the first time in the history of the Bulgarian rhythmic gymnastics. Dr. Lukanova also conducts numerous master classes and seminars in the country and abroad. Since 2016, she has been an Assistant at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, where she teaches “**Fundamentals of Classical Dance**” and “**Methodology of Classical Dance Teaching**”. In 2019, she defended the scientific degree “DOCTOR” in Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv with dissertation work: “*Creation, Development and Comparative Analysis of the Italian, French, Danish, and Russian Ballet Schools*”.

The candidate’s **teaching activity** is richly saturated with the development of curricula and methodological materials in main disciplines. Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova participates extremely actively in the educational and organizational activities, professionally organizing both the educational process and the students’ extracurricular activities. Characteristic of her teaching work is the individual approach to each student.

In view of the goals and tasks of her research in the monographic work “*Influence of the Russian Ballet School on the Development of Ballet Art in Bulgaria in the 20th century*”, Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova purposefully pays attention to the historical and social changes since the beginning of the last century, which led to an increase in the interest in dance culture. In its first part, “**The Dawn of Ballet in Bulgaria (up to Anastas Petrov)**”, with an analytical overview, she chronologically dwells on the professional growth of ballet artists.

The second chapter, “**Start of Professional Ballet in Bulgaria – Anastas Petrov**”, is naturally dedicated to the difficult and at the same time blessed creative path of Anastas Petrov – *the Patriarch of ballet art in Bulgaria*.

The third part examines “**Bulgarian Ballet After the Second World War**”, i.e. the path of the Russian ballet artists Nina Anisimova and Nikolai Holfin and their creative scale, which gives the touch of ballet dramaturgy. But a high point in the research in this chapter is set with the unknown data about the staging of the ballet “Haidushka Song”.

The fourth part, entitled **“Professional Ballet Education in Bulgaria”**, contains the most unknown information in a historical context. Therein, for the first time, the initial years of training in the professionally organized structure of the State Choreographic School are traced – 1951. Of particular interest is the interview with the prima ballerina Kalina Bogoeva – one of the first graduates of Vladimir Beliy in Bulgaria. In this chapter of the habilitation, the author proves the undeniable professional and spiritual influence of the Soviet dancers on the ballet education being established in our country.

In the fifth summarizing part – **“Russian and Bulgarian Choreographers Who Contributed to the Development of Modern Classical Ballet in Bulgaria”**, bright stage dance performances from the 60s and 70s of the last century are analyzed, which are presented not only with scientific value, but also with a reader’s passion for the subject. Particularly interesting is the attached “Reference of Ballet Specialists Graduated in Russia”, which provides useful information and a starting point for further research.

With the two scientific works presented as materials in the competition: the published monograph based on the defended dissertation work **“Creation, Development and Comparative Analysis of the Italian, French, Danish, and Russian Ballet Schools”** and the habilitation work **“Influence of the Russian Ballet School on the Development of Ballet Art in Bulgaria in the 20th century”** Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova presents in chronology the essence and characteristics and mutual influence of ballet schools and their reflection in modern ballet. Each artistic type of art requires special ways of scenic expressiveness, both for the external design and for the technique of the performers, and therefore it is extremely necessary to trace and analyze the historical conditioning that determines the essence. Namely: *The Russian school of classical dance, formed on the basis of the Italian, French and Danish, which took the best of them, over the years became a pillar of classical ballet. It is no coincidence that even today Russian ballet specialists are in demand both as performers and as lecturers and teachers all over the world. The pioneers of the Bulgarian ballet perceive the Russian school of classical dance (many times proven to be the best in the world) as their own, and apply it successfully in the development of the Bulgarian ballet art.*

The scientific issues that the candidate explores and examines have significant contributions to the choreographic art. Her studies present us with a particularly promising and important scientific applied topic. The wide range of scientific interests in the field of dance art and related publications give me reason to believe that the works of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova would find worthy practical and scientific application.

After familiarization with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and the scientific, as well as scientific and applied contributions contained therein, and taking into account that the candidate fulfills the minimum national requirements under Art.2b of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for a scientific field, I give my **positive**

**assessment** regarding the selection of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Petrova Lukanova for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in “Ballet Art” under professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, and I take the liberty of suggesting to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to support this application.

22.10.2022

Prepared by:.....

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