

PEER REVIEW
for the scientific, artistic and teaching activities
of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova,
submitted for participation in a competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”
under professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, 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

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Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”

This peer review was prepared on the basis of documents received for a competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (State Gazette, Issue 52 dated 05.07.2022) for the needs of the Choreography Department, specialty “Ballet Art”. 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 competition procedure has been correctly followed.

1. General presentation of the received materials

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova, Choreography Department, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. The candidate, Assistant Dr. Elitsa Petrova Lukanova, presented 1 monograph, 3 publications in Bulgarian scientific publications, participation in an artistic team during the implementation of 2 collective products in the field of art – Annual concert of the Choreography Department in 2021 and 2022, and 1 workshop for rhythmic gymnastics competitors. All other required documents are also presented: diplomas and certificates confirming the qualification of the candidate, a certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art.2b of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, report on the activity of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova according to the criteria and indicators for assessment of the candidate in connection with the teaching activity, in connection with the scientific and research activity, and her other achievements, list of scientific publications, reference for the citations, author’s reference for scientific contributions, as well as other necessary documents for participation in the competition. The presented materials for habilitation do not repeat the scientific and artistic production of the candidate for the acquisition of the educational and qualification degree “Doctor”. The minimum national

requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria have been met. In view of the above, I consider that all prerequisites are present and all conditions for participation in the said competitions are met.

2. Data of the candidate

In 1979, the candidate Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova began her ballet education at the State Choreographic School (today National School of Music and Dance) in Sofia, where she studied until 1984 in the class of Prof. Liliyana Draguleva. In 1984, she was admitted to the Agrippina Y. Vaganova Leningrad State Choreographic School (today Agrippina Y. Vaganova Academy of Russian Ballet – St. Petersburg), Russia, where she graduated in 1987 with secondary special education as an Artist-Ballerina in the class of Prof. I. A. Trofimova. In 1995, Dr. Lukanova graduated from Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Arts in Sofia with a Master's degree in Ballet Pedagogy. In 2019, she defended her doctoral degree in Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts with dissertation work: *“Creation, Development and Comparative Analysis of the Italian, French, Danish, and Russian Ballet Schools”*. Her professional path goes through a Dancer-Ballerina at the Sofia Opera and Ballet, an Assistant Teacher at the National School of Dance Art in Sofia, and currently a Ballet Pedagogue-Choreographer of the Bulgarian Women Rhythmic Gymnastics National Ensemble and an Assistant at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

3. General characteristics of the scientific production of the candidate

The main emphasis in the research activity is placed on the monographic study *“Influence of the Russian Ballet School on the Development of Ballet Art in Bulgaria in the 20th century”*. In a well-structured and logically justified exposition of five parts, a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of various aspects of the influence of the Russian Ballet School on the development of ballet art in Bulgaria is presented. The period from the 10s to the 70s of the XX century is followed chronologically, and the author manages to bring out those elements useful for her research, which lead to expanding the scope of knowledge about the beginning and development of classical dance in Bulgaria and the influence the Russian school had thereon. Detailed information and highlighted aspects of the personal contribution of well-established ballet masters and teachers of the Russian Ballet School, as well as Bulgarian specialists involved in the creation and professionalization of classical dance in Bulgaria, are also presented.

Apart from the monographic research, Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova is the author of 3 publications related to the scientific field of her research. The submitted materials meet the requirements for academic publications.

The creative and artistic activity of Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova covers two directions: as a Performer-Soloist in the ballet “Giselle” and as a member of the artistic team that realized the annual concerts of the Choreography Department in 2021 and 2022.

4. Characterization and assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activity

Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova carried out her educational and pedagogical activity at the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. She teaches the basic disciplines "Fundamentals of Classical Dance" and "Methodology of Classical Dance Teaching", which proves a high academic level and responsibility towards the training of future professionals in the field of dance art. She also actively participates as a member of the artistic team in the implementation of the Annual Concerts of the Choreography Department. Her high level and expertise of a specialist has also been appreciated as a Ballet Pedagogue-Choreographer of Bulgarian Women Rhythmic Gymnastics National Ensemble, which makes her repeatedly a member and chairman of international juries of various dance and ballet qualifications and competitions in Bulgaria. Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova is also a member of expert groups at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency on accreditation of higher education institutions.

5. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidate

A leading result of the research activity of the candidate, Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova, is the monographic study *"Influence of the Russian Ballet School on the Development of Ballet Art in Bulgaria in the 20th century"*, relevant for the current 21st century and significant in presenting extremely valuable information about the birth and the development of classical dance in Bulgaria, with detailed information on many Soviet and Bulgarian specialists and their fundamental work. In the **first part**, the contribution of the most prominent creators of dance art, Ruska Koleva, Aleksandar Dimitrov and Pesho Radoev, is highlighted with great precision. Following the logic of the narrative in the **second part**, quite naturally, the emphasis is placed on the activities of Anastas Petrov, as one of the founders of Bulgarian ballet and a figure for professional training in ballet school. Following the chronological aspect of her presentation, in the **third part**, the author pays attention to Bulgarian ballet after the Second World War, emphasizing the activities of two choreographers, Nina Anisimova and Nikolay Holfin, who strengthened ties with Russian ballet specialists. The **fourth part** of the monograph is dedicated to professional ballet education in Bulgaria. As a serious contribution, I can point out the extremely valuable information presented about the Russian teacher Vladimir Belyi – the first head of the ballet school in Sofia, as well as about laying the foundations of training in a professionally organized structure in Bulgaria – the creation of the State Choreographic School /now National School of Music and Dance/. In the **fifth part**, attention is directed to Russian and Bulgarian choreographers who contributed to the development of modern classical ballet in Bulgaria. The attached list of all ballet graduates in Moscow and Leningrad (today Saint Petersburg) is another proof of the influence and serious contribution of the Russian Ballet School in the development of the Bulgarian ballet art.

"Influence of the Russian Ballet School on the Development of Ballet Art in Bulgaria in the 20th century" is a research of high value. Chronologically and analytically presented, the wide volume of information undoubtedly has the qualities of a scholarly

work and useful reading for all students, doctoral students, and specialists in the field of classical dance.

6. Notes and recommendations

I would like to recommend to Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova to continue her research work, as she herself stated, with an emphasis on ballet art in the modern socio-cultural reality in Bulgaria, and why not on a global scale.

CONCLUSION

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented for the competition, and analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained therein, I give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Scientific Council at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv to elect Assistant Dr. Elitsa Lukanova for the academic position of “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” /Choreography Department/.

24.10. 2022

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