

PEER REVIEW

under competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, Choreography Department

under professional field “Music and Dance Arts” – Code 8.3, scientific specialty “Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing” (State Gazette, Issue 12, 11.02.2020)

with candidate: **Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov**

by **Prof. Ventsislav Dimov Dimov, Doctor of Sciences**, Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

One candidate participates in the competition for “Associate Professor of Music and Dance” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (State Gazette, Issue 12, 11.02.2020), who submits all the necessary and required documents and materials according to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its Regulations, formed as two folders (“General” and “Additional”). The first contains several arrays: the obligatory documents for participation in the competition (application, creative CV, diplomas for completed higher education and for obtaining the scientific and educational degree “Doctor”, certificates – medical and criminal record, certificates for internship in the specialty and teaching activities); table for the implementation of the minimum national requirements under Art.26 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria with evidentiary information about the candidate; evidence in the table, grouped in 13 folders; as well as a reference file in connection with the candidate’s contributions. The second includes reports on artistic activity; reviews in printed periodicals and specialized publications; thank you letters, etc.; as well as a list of the candidate’s tours as a leader and participant in artistic formations. The materials contain correct and comprehensive information about the artistic, teaching, and research activities of the candidate and are the basis for my assessment as a reviewer.

I. Artistic and creative activity in the field of arts

The reviewed habilitation materials submitted under the competition show that the artistic and creative activity of the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov is a leader in his academic and creative activities as a choreographer, author of dance compositions, and lecturer in Bulgarian Folk Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Here, the activities of the candidate in several areas, following the groups of indicators under the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff, will be considered – indicators group D (items 7, 9, 12, 13, 14). The candidate has published a book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the scientific and educational degree “Doctor”: *“Processing of Bulgarian Folk Dances as a Basis for*

Their Stage Transformation”, 2019, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (D.7. – 75 points). Yordanov presents two articles published in specialized publications in the field of arts (D.9. – 30 points). As a realized author’s product in the field of arts, the candidate presents choreography in the theatrical production of Boryana Drama Theater – Plovdiv by Yordan Yovkov – directed by Krasimir Rankov, choreographer Stefan Yordanov, music by Kostadin Buradzhiev, 2017 (D.12. – 30 points). As a leading or independent creative performance, the candidate presents his choreography in the performance “*Memory of Perushtitsa*”, 2017 at the Historical Museum – Perushtitsa (G.13. – 35 points). As a supporting creative performance and participation in a collective product, the candidate presents the choreography in the film “*Voevoda*” (Bulgaria, 2017), directed by Zornitsa Sofia, screenwriter Nikolay Haytov, composer Darko Markovic, choreographer Stefan Yordanov (G.14. – 10 points).

The analysis of the artistic and creative activity of Stefan Yordanov documented in the table shows that he has an active, significant, and highly recognized participation as an artist in artistic stage and screen performances. As a choreographer, author of the dance components of many performances and a film, author of a study on the topic of the competition – the processing of Bulgarian folk dances as a basis for their stage transformation, and author of reports and publications, Yordanov has significant results. The numerical expression of his artistic contributions – 180 points – significantly exceeds the requirements of indicator D for scientific publications and creative performances in the field of arts (the minimum national requirements for scientific, teaching, and artistic activity of candidates for the academic position of “Associate Professor” under professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” are 120 points).

II. Educational (pedagogical and teaching-methodological) activity

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov has provided for review documents (creative CV, diplomas, certificate of internship, contributions, etc.), which outline a rich and diverse educational (pedagogical and teaching-methodological) activity, which can be divided into several directions: 1) Participation in and management of a national scientific, educational, or artistic projects; 2) Pedagogical and teaching practice in the field of arts – management of master classes and workshops (creative workshops).

Dr. Yordanov presents evidence of participation in a project supported by the Ministry of Education and Science (Contract No 16/2014, headed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anton Andonov) – three concerts on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Choreography Department, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (F.22. – 15 points); and for management of a national scientific, educational, or artistic project (F.24. – 30 points): “Participation of the Academic Folklore Ensemble at the Academy in the XXIV International Folklore Festival Plovdiv 2018”, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Academic Folklore Ensemble (Financing organization MES, Contract No 9/2018, headed by Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov). The candidate presents evidence of pedagogical and teaching practice in the field of

arts – information for the management of three master classes in the field of arts (F.28. – 60 points): master class “Thracian Ethnographic Field” (2019, Veliko Tarnovo); workshop “Folk Dances from the Dobrudzha Ethnographic Region” (2019, “Ludi Mladi” Folk Dance School, Plovdiv) and workshop “Bulgarian Traditional Folk Dances” (2019, Plovdiv Youth Center).

The indicated activities of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov in the field of pedagogical and teaching activities summarize a score of 105 points, which exceeds the minimum required number of points under the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff, indicators group F (50 points).

III. Research activity

The candidate submitted for review papers and citations, which characterize his research activity according to the group of indicators from tables A, C and E, which can be divided into the following groups: 1) Dissertation work (group A); 2) Realized author’s products in the field of arts (group C); 3) Citations and reviews (group E).

Stefan Yordanov defended his dissertation in 2016 for the award of educational and scientific degree “Doctor”: *“Processing of Bulgarian Folk Dances as a Basis for Their Stage Transformation”* (A – 50 points). The realized author’s products in the field of arts, presented by the candidate, are three: concert-performance “10 years of Academic Folklore Ensemble at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts” (01.08.2018, Plovdiv Ancient Theater, choreographer and director Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov); performance “Budna Perushtitsa” (09.05.2019, Historical Museum – Perushtitsa, choreographer Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov) and performance “Rhodope Wedding” (07.09.2019, Nedelino Square, choreographer, director and screenwriter Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov). The total amount of 150 points exceeds the minimum required number of points under the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff, indicators group C (100 points). In the columns of the table from group E, as citations and reviews of scientific publications and realized author’s products, Yordanov applies evidence for 3 citations and 2 reviews with a total of points under this indicator covering the minimum requirements (E. 17, 18, 19 – 40 points).

Summary and conclusion

The artistic, creative, scientific, and educational-methodological contributions in the work of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov stand out in several directions. Undisputed and categorical are the artistic achievements of the candidate as a creator of stage dance art, choreographer with practical and theoretical contributions to the research and creative realization of the processed Bulgarian folk dance, teacher and methodologist, and leader of formations and projects. The written evidence in the candidate’s documentation, the visualizations of the productions presented by him (filmed performances, posters, certificates, reviews, and press reviews, etc.) and the reference on the contributions allow to outline several fields in which Yordanov appears as a prominent artist and researcher of Bulgarian dance folklore and

choreography. With his work he proves that Bulgarian folk dances are the basis of the stage transformation of Bulgarian dance folklore in contemporary dance productions and performances, where they are subject to the laws of choreographic drama, that folk dances are suitable for compositional intertwining with other genres and arts, and that traditional Bulgarian dances in their original form are the basis and inspiration of generations of choreographers and an inexhaustible source for various artists who draw from tradition ideas for creating new dance compositions. With his work Stefan Yordanov shows that getting to know, preserving, developing, popularizing, and promoting Bulgarian folk dances is the main task of the young generation of choreographers who have a mission to present traditional music, songs and dances from all regions of Bulgaria on stage and in the media. As a lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, choreographer and leader of academic formations, the candidate has contributed to the realization of performances and other artistic events that train and develop performers in the Ensemble, most of whom are students, and their stage performances contribute to raising the image of the Academic Folklore Ensemble and the Academy, and carry out effective public communication, public relations, and advertising of the creative resources of the Academy, respectively of the regular specialties in it, such as “Bulgarian Folk Choreography”, and others.

Ch. Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov deserves high praise for his overall professional activity and has the qualities to acquire the academic position of “Associate Professor”. Eloquent proof of this is the fulfilled scientometric requirements according to the table under the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff under professional direction 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”. In the spirit of the law (Art.15, para.(4) and Art.27, para.(5) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria) are the outstanding high indicators for creative activities of the candidate. These arguments give me grounds to give a positive assessment of Dr. Stefan Yordanov as a candidate in the competition and to propose to the scientific jury to choose him to occupy the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under professional field “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing”.

19.07.2020

Reviewer:

(Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, Doctor of Sciences)