

PEER REVIEW

**for the scientific, artistic and creative and educational activities
on Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov,
submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of “Associate
Professor”
under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”,
announced in State Gazette, Issue 12 of 11.02.2020 for the needs of
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**
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This peer review has been prepared on the basis of documents submitted in a competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (State Gazette, Issue 12 of 11.02.2020) and on the website of the Higher School for the needs of the Choreography Department, specialty “Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing”. The documents submitted under the competition comply with 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 on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. The competition procedure is correctly followed.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition: Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov, Assistant in the Choreography Department and Head of the Staff Dance Ensemble at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy.

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov presented a list of a total of 5 titles, incl. 3 concert performances and 2 publications in Bulgarian scientific journals. The realized short author’s product – the choreography in the theatrical production “Boryana”, his presence in the artistic team in the implementation of 2 collective products in the field of art – choreography in the performance “Memory of Perushitsa” and the choreography in the film “Voevoda”, 1 master class and 2 workshops, can be accepted as corresponding to the profile of the competition. All other required documents are also presented: diplomas and certificates confirming the qualification of the candidate, reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art.26, para.2 and 3 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, reference for the activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov on the criteria and indicators for evaluation of the candidate in connection with the educational activity, in connection with the research activity and his other achievements, list of scientific publications, summary of the publications, reference for the citations, author’s reference for the scientific contributions, and 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 acquisition of the degree “Doctor”. The minimum national requirements under Art.26, para.2 and 3 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of

Bulgaria have been met. In view of the above, I believe that all the prerequisites, as well as all the conditions for participation in this competition, are met.

The development of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov as a student at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy is connected with the dance folklore – 2007, Bachelor's degree in Choreography with a qualification degree BACHELOR CHOREOGRAPHER – TEACHER, and 2008, Master's degree with qualification degree MASTER CHOREOGRAPHER –DIRECTOR. The creative biography of the candidate is mostly related to his work as a choreographer and leader of the Academic Folklore Ensemble at the Academy. In 2016, Stefan Yordanov acquired the degree “Doctor of Choreography”, and since 2017 he has been the Chief Assistant at the Choreography Department at the Academy. He teaches in the Choreography Department in the disciplines “Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing” and “Samples of Bulgarian Folk Choreography”. He teaches classes in “Bulgarian Folk Dances” within the discipline “Physical Education” for various specialties of the Academy. Chief Assistant Dr. Yordanov successfully combines his teaching work at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy with active artistic activity not only in the Academy, but also in a number of amateur groups. The accumulated creative and expert experience is the basis for his presence as a member of the jury at various forums. His activity was evaluated with the awarding of high honors to the Staff Dance Ensemble headed by him at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy.

The candidate in the competition presents for habilitation artistic production – three concert performances, each showing a different creative approach, according to their content and theme. The author's works of the choreographer Stefan Yordanov fully correspond to the theme of each individual performance and this determines the created dances in a divertimento and active form. The basis of each of them is the Bulgarian dance folklore, transformed through the creative gaze of the choreographer.

The concert-performance “Ten Years of Academic Folklore Ensemble at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts” is an impressive production with its scale both in terms of performance and content. This fully corresponds to the seriousness and dignity of the occasion for the event, namely the celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the Ensemble. The program is arranged presenting the diversity and beauty of the Bulgarian music and dance folklore on stage transformed into works of different form and content. The good balance between vocal, instrumental, dance and ensemble performances is found, as well as the stylistic differences of the different ethnographic areas. **I would recommend looking for a relationship between the performers of the individual units – choir, orchestra, and dance group in the transitional moments between the individual performances. This creates a sense of integrity of the performance and enhances the suggestive power of the art product.**

“Budna Perushtitsa” is the second performance presented by the candidate. The combination of different types of arts – music, dance and theater with the skillfully intertwined modern technical possibilities of the stage present an exciting picture of the Bulgarian history – the April Uprising in Perushtitsa. The performance is composed of 11 scenes in which the choreographic activity of Chief Assistant Stefan Yordanov legitimizes itself in important moments of the overall drama.

“Rhodope Wedding” is the third concert-performance of the habilitation production of the candidate. The choreography shows the author's affinity for creating a large-scale stylistic

canvas entirely on the basis of the Rhodope music and dance folklore. The show immerses the viewer in the tradition and the unique emotional atmosphere of the Bulgarian people from this region.

In the reviewed performances the author's handwriting of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov presents him as a searching artist, whose works fit into performances with different content and themes.

The presented two publications "Nikola Kolev and his Contribution to the Development of Bulgarian Folk Dances" and "The Place of the Choreographer Ivan Ivanov in the Stage Transformation of Bulgarian Folk Dance" outline the parameters of the scientific pursuits of the candidate. The desire to write about personalities who have their place in the development of Bulgarian stage choreography on a folklore basis and who have inspired followers of their creative and aesthetic principles is commendable.

The educational and pedagogical activity of the candidate is related to active participation in the educational process. Chief Assistant Dr. Yordanov teaches in the disciplines: "Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing" and "Samples of Bulgarian Folk Choreography". He also combines his creative work as a choreographer of the Academic Folklore Ensemble. For the last 5 years he has enriched the repertoire with seven author's productions and participated in the artistic team in the realization of 4 joint projects with the ballet of the Plovdiv Opera.

I accept as real the indicated contributions in the various activities of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov. I emphasize the created new author's works, which not only enrich the repertoire of the Ensemble led by him, but also affirm the richness of the Bulgarian dance folklore as a source of creative inspiration.

CONCLUSION

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition and analyzing their significance and the contributions contained in them, I give my **positive assessment** and **recommend** to the scientific jury to propose to the Scientific Council at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts to elect Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov for the academic position of "Associate Professor" under Professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Arts".

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