

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Lyuben Dosev from

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, regarding the documents submitted by **Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov** for participation in the competition for the academic position of **“Associate Professor”** in **“Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing”** under field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” at the Department of Choreography, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

1. Data of the competition:

Dear Mrs. Chairman of the Scientific Jury, with Order No ПД – 27 – 022/09.06.2020 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury on the occasion of the announced competition for occupation of the position of “Associate Professor” in “Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing”. At the first meeting of the jury, it was chosen and voted which of the members of the jury will write a peer review or opinion. The date for the final meeting of the jury was also set and approved. I believe that the competition procedure so far fully complies with the requirements of state and university regulations regarding the occupation of academic positions.

Only one candidate – Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov, has submitted documents for participation in the competition. After a thorough review of the same, I found that they are in order and fully comply with the regulatory requirements from the point of view of the Higher Education and Human Resources Development Act. There is a detailed creative autobiography, unfolded in five A4 pages, diplomas for completed higher education, Master’s degree, diploma for educational and scientific degree **“Doctor in Choreography”**, and the monograph “Processing of Bulgarian Folk Dances as a Basis for Their Stage Transformation”.

2. Data of the candidate:

Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov was born on 11.05.1984 in the City of Veliko Tarnovo. The performance activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov dates back to 1990, when as a dancer he went through various children’s and youth dance ensembles, professional formations and ensembles. He is currently working as: Artistic Dance Director of Geo Milev Bulgarian Folk Dance Ensemble – Plovdiv, the Medik Ensemble at the Medical University of Plovdiv, the Staff Dance Ensemble of the Academy, and is also a Choreographer of the A Academic Folklore Ensemble at the Academy, Bratsigovche Children’s Dance Troupe in the City of Bratsigovo, the Gerene Dance Group in the village of Belozem, and other dance formations and clubs for folk people.

The pedagogical practice of the candidate dates back to 2010 in Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, where he teaches the following practical disciplines – “Processing of Bulgarian Folk Dances” and “Bulgarian Folk Dances”, as well as the theoretical discipline “Samples of Bulgarian Folk Choreography”.

3. Description of research works:

The research activity of the doctoral student on the topic “Processing of Bulgarian Folk Dances as a Basis for Their Stage Transformation” is supported by five publications:

- “Requisite and its place in the Bulgarian folk dance”;
- “The Historical Reconstruction in Perushtitsa”, presented as a musical-theatrical performance’
- “For the Stage Performance of the Bulgarian Folk Dances” and the concert-performance “Swan Dance”;
- “Nikola Kolev and his Contribution to the Development of Bulgarian Folk Dances”;
- “The Place of the Choreographer Ivan Ivanov in the Stage Transformation of the Bulgarian Folk Dance”

For many years I have known the candidate as one of the few prosperous contemporary choreographers who are extremely professional and most of all – very responsible to build their productions based on the authentic Bulgarian dance folklore. Moreover, in his work he makes a huge impression that he builds his own creative style. For the second time I want to emphasize the fact that in all his works, he firmly steps on the traditional Bulgarian dance folklore. That is why in his dissertation and habilitation work he very correctly describes and diligently quotes all the authentic dances he uses. Some of them are his real field findings, while others he has studied very carefully from the publications of our great researchers, choreographers, and folklorists. And something else, Dr. Yordanov, as it has already become known, is a young and ambitious choreographer who is looking for options to be relevant and to develop together with the time. His creative pursuits are not limited to the field of Bulgarian dance folklore. He successfully experiments in other styles of dance and genres as an art form. I quote only a few examples: the performances he realized together with the Plovdiv State Opera:

- ”On the River”
- “Nestinarka”
- “Knyaz Igor”
- “Swan Dance”

He is also the author of five theater and dance productions:

- “To You Sacred Bulgaria”
- “Boryana”
- “The Inebriation, Suffering, and Dreaming of Perushtitsa”
- “Memory of Perushtitsa”
- “Budna Perushtitsa”

There are other stage conversions, the titles of which I cannot list due to the limited pages I have. We are talking about many **divertissements, miniatures, thematic-variational forms, as well as various suite and story forms.**

Extremely hardworking and tireless as an artist, Dr. Yordanov as a choreographer of the Academic Ensemble of our Academy, actively participates with his choreographies in remarkable events for the Academy: “Concert performance on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Department of Choreography”, “Concert performance on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Academy”, “Mega Folklore Concert”, “Jubilee Concert of Trio Soprano”, and many others. We should not miss the moment that for his activity, although still very young, he has won 4 prestigious awards from state institutions, festivals, and competitions in the country and abroad. In addition, for ten years in a row he has been a permanent member of the juries of a large number of festivals and competitions related to the Bulgarian folk dance art throughout the country.

4. Scientific contributions

During the different time periods, the candidate has participated in numerous scientific forums with reports and other scientific developments.

Undoubtedly and visible is the attitude of Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov to art as a philosophical category and as a permanent phenomenon in the lives of people around the world. It is natural for the realization of any art to be achieved through communication with its natural users or the so-called “consumers of art”.

The materials presented by the candidate speak of a serious researcher, focused on the huge variety of our dance folk art. It is obvious that he is not only a registrar of this art, but rather – a serious researcher, who after a thorough analysis of folklore finds, convincingly transfers them to the stage in order to reach a wide audience, eager to meet art in its various varieties and its application in life.

5. Conclusion:

After the many things that I shared with the esteemed scientific jury on the provided documentation, with a deep degree of certainty and conviction I want to say that Chief Assistant Dr. Stefan Yordanov Yordanov has the necessary qualities to occupy the academic position of “Associate Professor” in “Bulgarian Folk Dances Processing” in Higher Education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” at Department of Choreography, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. I emphasize that I personally will confidently vote “FOR” and allow myself to recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to do the same!

Thank you for your attention!

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City of Plovdiv

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Prof. Dr. L. Dosev