ACADEMY OF MUSIC, DANCE AND FINE ARTS
"Prof Asen Diamandiev"-Plovdiv

Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography
Department of Choreography

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof Biser Grigorov, PhD

on dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Topic: **The role of the Russian ballet school in the creation of ballet in America in the 20th century. Comparative analysis between the American and the Russian ballet schools**

Doctoral student: Scientific adviser:

Dushanka Gradishki Ivanova,   **Prof Lilyana Draguleva**

Sofia, 2020

For anyone who has dedicated their life to the art of dance, the proposed scientific topic has an almost sacred significance. We are all, more or less interested and revere many of the listed names, some of which, shrouded in the mythical glory of memories and legends.

In this sense, I fully admire the scientific research of Dushanka Ivanova and her scientific supervisor - Professor Draguleva!

The presented dissertation consists of 193 pages. It is structured in the standard and approved way and includes:

- Introduction;

- Objective, tasks and methods of the research;

- Seven main chapters;

- Conclusions and scientific contributions;

- Bibliography;

The used literature includes 45 titles, of which - one in Bulgarian, 44 in English, as well as 22 internet sources!

The dissertation offers rich photographic material. The lack of numbering is puzzling, and where there is one, it always includes only the number 1 and 2! We assume that the author's logic was, according to the number of photos per page? However, we strongly believe that it would be more appropriate to introduce uniform and consistent numbering, while indicating the source of information!

Chapter one presents the objective and the tasks of the study. Unlike the objective, which is clearly defined, the presentation of the tasks is a bit vague and unclear. It would be good for them if they are more clearly formulated and presented.

We would make the same recommendation for chapter eight, which presents the conclusions and scientific contributions of the dissertation. There are 5 points that are not separated from each other. In our opinion, the lack of exactness and certainty in their presentation, undeservedly takes away from the weight of both the conclusions and the contributions!

In conclusion:

The dissertation, with author Dushanka Ivanova, is dedicated to a relevant and significant problem.

The work is very well designed and illustrated.

The doctoral student demonstrates in-depth professional knowledge, freely using the specific terminology.

Of particular importance is the presented comparative analysis between the American and the Russian ballet schools.

All this contributes to the scientific significance and contribution of the research.

Based on this:

I give my **positive opinion**, vote **IN FAVOUR** and I propose to the scientific jury to award Dushanka Gradishki Ivanova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

13.11.2020   Assoc. Prof. Biser Grigorov, Ph.D