

# OPINION

by

**Assoc. Prof Biser Petrov Grigorov, PhD**

on dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”,

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art,

Doctoral program Choreography,

**Author:** Riolina Petkova Topalova

**Topic:** *Development of modern dance in America and Europe.*

*Comparative analysis of the established techniques*

**Academic supervisor:** Prof Daniela Dzheneva, PhD

## **1. General presentation of the procedure and the presented materials**

This review is prepared on the grounds of Order RD-27-082/ 24.06.2024 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, regarding the opening of a procedure for the defense of the dissertation work of Riolina Topalova.

For this purpose, all materials are provided, including the dissertation work, publications by the doctoral student, abstract and the cited order.

All of them fully meet the legal requirements and the current practice of the Bulgarian universities.

## **2. Brief biographical data of the candidate**

1987 – graduated The National School of Dance Art. Joins the ballet of the Sofia Opera.

2004 – Master's degree in Ballet Art and Ballet Pedagogy.

2008 – Master's degree Ballet Directing at AMDFA – Plovdiv.

2006 - 2022 – tutor, choreographer and ballet teacher at the Sofia Opera and Ballet.

Since 2011 - teacher-lecturer at AMDFA - Plovdiv.

Since 2012 - teacher and head of the "Classical Dance" department at National School of Dance – Sofia.

Since 2016 – leads master classes at the Center for Choreography and Modern Arts - Pozzuoli /Naples/ - Italy.

Member of international juries, teacher in national and international seminars and master classes.

Author of curricula for specialized schools.

2017 and 2023 - Winner of the "Golden Lira" of the Union of the Bulgarian Music and Dance Artists.

## **3. Relevance of the topic**

We fully agree with the doctoral student's opinion that the analysis of the changes in the contemporary trends of the dance art still represents a collection of fragmentary studies. This applies with particular force to the publications of Bulgarian authors. We admire the author's ambition in the present study to trace the formation, development and spread of modern dance, as well as its inevitable navigation with other dance genres and types of arts.

#### **4. Expediency of the research methods used**

The research methods used by the author are appropriate, although not specifically mentioned in the work. They are the following:

Empirical;

Descriptive;

Analytical;

Comparative-analytical.

#### **5. Evaluation of the dissertation work**

Riolina Topalova's dissertation is a study devoted to the development of the contemporary dance in North America and Europe. It is well structured and well presented.

The work consists of 175 pages. Contains: introduction, four main chapters, conclusions and bibliography. It is noteworthy that the introduction and the conclusions are numbered as separate chapters. We think this is not very justified, considering their volume too!

The literature used includes 45 titles – mostly foreign authors are indicated, as well as Bulgarian, but in Latin.

In her research, Riolina Topalova demonstrates a high professional culture, mastery of specific terminology and indisputable knowledge in the field of modern dance.

#### **6. Contributions and significance of the thesis and the publications on the subject of the dissertation**

On pages 170 – 171, the author presents the main conclusions of her work, specifying the contributing points in it. It could be argued to what extent the study of the specialized literature is a contribution. Perhaps the author has her good reasons?

#### **7. Critical notes and recommendations.**

The work would have a more valuable appearance if some grammatical and punctuation errors were avoided /e.g. "the definite article" in the title, etc./.

#### **8. Conclusion.**

In view of the above, we have a definite reason to express a positive opinion and propose that Riolona Topalova be awarded the educational and scientific degree "doctor", in field 8. Art, professional field 8.3. "Music and dance art"

17.09.2024

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