

Review

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in connection with the competition for the award
of the academic position of associate professor in stage speech in
the National Academy for Theater and Film Arts (NATFA) “Krastyo Sarafov”

The candidate: Assist. Professor Lora Viktorova Mutisheva

An information about the competition

In the competition for associate professor of stage speech in which she participates as the sole candidate Assist. Prof. Dr. Lora Viktorova Mutisheva, the legal provisions and the procedure have been observed.

An information about the candidate

Candidate Lora Mutisheva is a PhD student from 2012 to 2014. She defended her PhD thesis in 2015 and the topic is “Voice-Speaking Characteristics in the Contemporary Approach in Staging”. She is a Bachelor of Acting for Drama the National Academy for Theater and Film Arts (NATFA) “Krastyo Sarafov”. Mutisheva is a Master of Marketing in 2008 - VTU “St. Cyril and Methodius” and the Institute of Economics and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The candidate for associate professor Mutisheva has teaching experience at Krastyo Sarafov National Academy of Science in the Stage Speech Department. Lora Mutisheva is an assistant professor from 2009 to 2018, she teaches “public speech”, “stage speech”, “verbal acting”, “speech technique” etc. in classes of well-known names and artistic directors. She has been a lecturer of the course “Fundamentals of Public Speech” at the Master Program “Public Speech” since 2018. The candidate has teaching experience at the Chernorizets Hrabur Varna Free University, where she holds a master class. These facts lead to the conclusion that the candidate has gradual and successful professional development in the field of acting. The candidate combines teaching with acting, plays at the Sofia Theater, Sfumato Theater and Stara Zagora theater etc. Mutisheva has not particularly active publishing activities at the scientific level, taking into account articles and

participation in scientific conferences; an accomplishment, however, is her extensive experience as an actress in theaters, with 37 roles listed.

Scientific and applied elements of the book and materials

The following publications are presented: 1 monograph, list of articles and reports in scientific publications, CV, etc.; there is an information about citations - a total of 6.

The monograph “Word of Action in Action” published by Faber Publishing House, 2019 and it has a volume of 173 pages. The text includes reviews written by Prof. Raeva and Prof. Bencheva, foreword, introduction, five chapters, conclusion, annex, bibliography. The book has a clear structure and synthesises the author's teaching experience at theoretical, methodological and practical levels.

The first chapter (pp. 15-45) presents theoretical statements related to working with text, learning text. The attention is paid to the types of rehearsals: table rehearsal, stage rehearsal, technical rehearsal, costume rehearsal. The arrangement is not on the well-known chronological principle, but on the logic of gradual and sustained preparation during rehearsals is followed. Some of the expressions are instructions, such as “Warm up before rehearsal”, p. 37 and then the information is expanded in details. This intention is appropriate from point of view of a lecturer and from specifics of academic working with future actors.

Chapter two (pp. 46-67) includes an analysis based on Mutisheva’s stage experience and I find not only practical advice, but also concentrated knowledge about a complex activity involving multiple components, working with team members, communicating with creative personalities.

Chapter three (pp. 68-75) summarises the mistakes made and the relation verbal action - space.

Chapter four (pp. 76-118) presents information on underdeveloped topics in theoretical terms so far in our country (from my stand point and my knowledge), among which are the doubles, the replacement of the actor. There are also some elements of the show's management, when and how it has a long stage life. The author emphasis on contemporary parameters, including multimedia.

Chapter Five (pp. 120-143) has been focused on voice and it is particularly interesting to me because theoretical assumptions have been established through the explanation of the experience and advice. Recommendations have been given systematically and clearly.

The author has skills to research and a proof for this is the questionnaire in the appendix. This is a plus, as Mutisheva not only announces her professional experience, but also has a reflection and respect for her colleagues' achievements.

The monograph has a logical structure. This was achieved not only by repeating the “verbal action” in the chapter titles, but also by the gradual presentation of the information. The author Mutisheva has very good theoretical background; it manages to present at the methodological level essential elements of the spectacle - from conception to its realization, from rehearsals through technical effects and problems to its realization.

Summarizing the review of the monograph, I conclude that the author presents his point of view in a structured way as a teacher regarding the teaching of students in the contemporary academic environment.

Contributions

I list the following contributions in the monograph “Word Action in Action”:

- presenting up-to-date terms and statements as well as enriching the theory and methodology of stage teaching;
- rethinking the components of the spectacle again through the prism of verbal action, indicating the role and functions of the set design, props, costumes, as long as important details such as a mask, a wig, a mustache, etc.;
- the focus is placed on the preparation of the actor in the part of overcoming the stage fever, and the range of verbal action has been expanded in contemporary projects, such as multimedia; the peculiarities of the types of audiences, including the noisy and the children's ones, were identified;
- Voice care is described, recommendations and examples, advice and guidance from daily care to care are given.

Critical notes and recommendations

There is a certain imbalance in some of the chapters such as volume, content and division, for example, “A verbal action in space” has two sections (68 to 76 pages).

There are few quotes and quite brief recommendations in some sections, while there is coherence in the text of the book at the terminological level.

Conclusion

Assist. Professor Lora Mutisheva presents monographs and articles, participates in projects, festivals, schools, theater productions. She has acting and teaching experience which is a proof that she meets the requirements for being awarded the academic position of associate professor in stage speech.

The candidate Mutisheva shows an upward development as a teacher at the National Academy for Theater and Film Arts (NATFA) “Krastyo Sarafov”. She demonstrates not only techniques and situations used during the process of students’ learning, but also the original model written by the author and lecturer.

In conclusion, I recommend that the members of the distinguished scientific jury vote “for” the award of the academic position “associate professor” to Assist. Professor Lora Viktorova Mutisheva at the Department of Stage Speech.

Sofia

20th February 2020.

Sign by the member of the jury:

prof. Ivanka Mavrodieva, Doc. Sc., PhD