

## SHORT REVIEW

By Prof. Vera Naydenova Naydenova, Doctor of Art Studies  
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Regarding the competition for acquisition of academic position of  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN STAGE SPEECH, scientific specialty  
Theater Studies and Theater Art, announced by the Kr. Sarafov National  
Academy for Theater and Film Arts in the SG No.85/29.10.2019

CHIEF ASSISTANT LORA VIKTOROVA MUTISHEVA, PhD is the  
only candidate in the competition.

The documents enclosed for the competition show that the candidate  
has successfully passed all the stages of necessary professional  
qualification: a bachelor's course in Acting for Drama Theater, with Prof.  
Plamen Markov as a supervisor; a master's degree in Management from  
the VTU "St.St. Kiril and Metodiy", educational and scientific degree  
PhD (in Theater Studies and Theater Art).

There is a detailed list of the candidate's creative contributions as  
well as another from which her abundant teaching and pedagogic activity  
is evident, but I will get back to them later because, following the good  
tradition for scientific competitions, the leading and essential accent falls  
to the monographic work. According to the generally accepted  
characteristic, it is a work that thoroughly explains a scientific subject  
(phenomenon, problem, issue).

So, the candidate in this competition, Chief Assistant Lora  
Mutisheva, is the author of a monograph entitled "Verbal Action in  
Action". It is published by the renowned Faber Publishing House in 2019.  
Its volume is 172 printed pages. The content is structured in five chapters,  
an introduction and a conclusion. The major component of the actor's  
image in Drama Theater – the verbal action - is thought out in its full  
realization: according to the chronology of developing the performance

(rehearsal process), within the complex of the other elements of the performance, with special attention being paid to the technical effects which get increasingly aggressive as of lately; it goes also beyond the stage footlights to the audience where in fact the effect of the theatrical action is realized. The fifth chapter is devoted to professional voice care (or speech, respectively), although, in my opinion, it could come first in a sense but, according to the exposition logic, this placement is acceptable, too.

As the custom is, the monograph ends with additional materials and applications. In this case – with a series of polls with young actors and quite a rich biography. Though not within the monograph, but on a separate list, the candidate has also presented quotations of her texts.

I read Mutisheva's text with interest, it was implemented with a very good, clear style (clarity is usually begot by competence), scientific but devoid of alienating scientific likeness, inclusive also due to the discreet subjective highlight of the material. The introductory texts of Prof. Raeva and Prof. Bencheva also contribute to the good style. I would like to particularly mention my satisfaction with the fact that competitions with similar qualitative works are conducted in NATFA scientific staff practice.

However, it is exactly the good quality of the work that encourages me to recommend to the author in future to take a view of the “verbal action” characteristics in the so-called one-man-shows performed lately. I'll not hide that in the first place, I refer to the masterly way Marius Kurkinski develops the verbal action.

But I will get even further, by recommending – not to Mutisheva anymore but to the management of Stage Speech Department – to pay attention to the verbal action in the Screen Arts, too. That is, to the speech in the film-acting art which has its own specifics that should not be

presumed as “default” but should be cultivated precisely during the education at NATFA.

As I have noted in the beginning, a detailed list of the candidate’s creative contributions accompanies the documents. They start with roles performed at the Stefan Kirov Drama Theater, Sliven in 2002 and go on with many of them starting since 2005 when Mutisheva already became a professional actress: at the Geo Milev Drama Theater, Stara Zagora, at the SST “Aleko Konstantinov”, at the Sofia Theater – since 2010 and now.

Participations in television productions are also noted down.

The candidate’s creative activity carried out over the years and currently ongoing, is an undoubted asset to her pedagogical activity as it provides direct experience to her and brings in the live pulse of current acting practice. And, here I would note one original moment in Mutisheva’s biography, namely that she holds a Master’s Degree in Marketing – a profile which is especially important in present functioning of the theater and, in particular, in the actor’s creativity in market economy conditions. As the documents for the competition show, the candidate has a more special activity in this regard – both at the Geo Milev State Theater and the Satirical Theater.

Certainly, the pedagogical activity of a candidate in a competition for the award of academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR has great significance. Here again Mutisheva has the necessary score. She has been assistant professor at the Stage Speech Department since 2009, i.e. for ten academic years over which she has collaborated with the corresponding member of BAS prof. Plamen Markov, Prof. Veselina Raeva and Prof. Ivanka Bencheva, Ivaylo Hristov, Ivan Dobchev, Atanas Atanasov, Lyubomir Garbev, Penko Gospodinov. Mutisheva has accomplished a great number of solo compositions and productions as well as a teaching activity outside NATFA, in particular at the Chernorizets Hrabar Varna Free University.

I am pleased to close my short review with my impression from “Bai Balcho Mentions” spectacle, directed by Prof. Plamen Markov, Corresponding Member of BAS, and his 2017 class, in which, together with Prof. Bencheva, she worked on the dialect and speech condition. I have seen it and realized how important (and difficult) the structuring of the verbal action in such complex, vital and stylistically multicolored spectacle has been.

After all the above words, I consider it natural to firmly conclude that Chief Assistant Dr. LORA MUTISHEVA FULLY DESERVES TO BE AWARDED WITH THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.

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