

Statement

by Prof. Dr. Veselin Ivanov Koychev, PU "Paisii Hilendarski",

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of "associate professor"

of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

in: the field of higher education 8. *Arts*

professional direction 8.4 *Theater and Film Art* (Acting for the Dram Theater)

The candidates in the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 39 of 02.05.2023 and on the Internet page of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the department "Aesthetic Education" at the Faculty of Pedagogy are: Krasimira Tsvetanova Ivanova, PhD from NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov", Sofia and Chief Assist. Petar Zapryanov Odazhiev, PhD from BAN, Sofia.

General presentation of the procedure and candidates

With order No. PD-21-1417 of 30.06.23 and order No. PD-21-1470 of 12.07.23 issued by the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been elected as a member of the academic jury of a competition for the academic position of '**associate professor**' in the PU in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional direction 8.4. Theater and Film Art (Acting for the Drama Theatre), announced for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education as part of the Faculty of Education.

The following candidates have submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

1. Krasimira Tsvetanova Ivanova, PhD from NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov", Sofia;
2. Chief Assist. Petar Zapryanov Odazhiev, PhD from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia.

Candidate Krasimira Tsvetanova Ivanova, PhD has submitted 1 dissertation, 1 article published in a scientific journal, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 6 articles published in specialized journals in the field of the arts, 7 completed original works in the field of the arts, 4 completed short original works in the field of the arts, 2 supporting creative appearances, 3 citations in specialized publications in the field of the arts, 6 reviews for completed original works in the field of the arts, 4 participations in national artistic and creative projects, 9 participations in international artistic and creative projects, 1 management of a national artistic and creative project, 4 guides to master classes, 14 creative performances in master classes, 4 awards from national professional forums and organizations. Documents are also presented (in the form of recommendations from teachers at NATFIZ and students) in support of her personal organizational qualities, knowledge and skills for artistic, research and teaching activities, etc.

The candidate Chief Assist. Petar Zapryanov Odazhiev, PhD has submitted 2 dissertations, 1 habilitation work - monograph, 1 monograph which is not presented as a main habilitation work, 19 scientific articles. Eight of them have been published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 2 articles are published in specialized journals in the field of the arts, 6 completed original works in the field of the arts, 2 completed short original works in the field of the arts, 2 citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes, 13 reviews of completed original works or creative contributions in specialized journals in the field of the arts, 2 guides to a national artistic and creative project, 3 master class guides, 3 awards from national professional forums and organizations, 4 awards from international professional forums and organizations. Not subject to review are 6 scientific papers that were not included in the competition for associate professor. He also presented documents (in the form of official notes and references) to prove his work experience, scientific-research, artistic and creative activities, etc.

General characteristics of the candidates' activities:

1. Candidate Krasimira Tsvetanova Ivanova, PhD studied and graduated in 1991-1995 Specialized High School "Prof. V. Zlatarski", with an "English language and literature" specialty; 1995- 2000 SU St. Cl. Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy – Bachelor's degree in "Cultural Studies" and Master's degree in "Intercultural Dialogue"; 2000-2003 NBU, Master's Faculty - Master of "Drama Theater Directing"; 2002-2006, NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov", Faculty of "Screens Arts" – Bachelor's degree in "Dramaturgy"; 2007-2009 – Master's degree in "Film and Television art"; 2011-2014 Faculty of "Performing Arts" – PhD in "Theater Studies and Theatrical art".

During her studies, she worked to improve her professional qualification: 2002-2004 in the Youth Theater Formation "Yunia" - director; 2003 NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov" - screenwriter; 2004 BNT Sofia comedy show "Shash" - screenwriter; 2005 National Theatre "Ivan Vazov" - assistant director of Leon Daniel; 2006-2010 22nd Secondary School "G. S. Rakovski" - Head of "Studio for Audio-Visual Arts". It should be noted that Krasimira Ivanova is the recipient of a special diploma from the school for merit in teaching. The quality of her work is indicated by the fact that among the students of that period, who played leading roles, there already are professionals including a director, actors and a vocal artist.

From 2010-2023 she worked at NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov", as a specialist in international cooperation, project work, "International Activity" expert, guest lecturer, assistant in the disciplines "Fundamentals of Dramaturgy", teacher of foreign students as part of the "Erasmus" program, "Theatrical Dramaturgy", "Dramaturgy for Musical Stage forms", "Modern Dramaturgy", "Basics of Screen Directing". Along with teaching, she actively takes part in organizational, project and artistic-creative activities. She facilitates the participation of students, teachers and films in various festivals; the organization and PR of international events, workshops, seminars and conferences; she is the organizer of 3 editions of the International Student Film Festival "Early Bird", she has scripted and directed some of the opening and closing ceremonies at the festival. She has participated in a number of international projects, in a project on creation and management of a specialized e-library with a scientific, textual and visual archive in the field of performance arts and screen arts at NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov". She

has worked on the project of the Ministry of Education and Culture "Student practices" - phase 2". She is a screenwriter, animator and mentor in the preparation and filming of short films under the project of the Ministry of Education and Culture "School without violence". She has worked on a number of projects some of which have won prizes!

She also works in the National Musical Theater "Stefan Makedonski", in the "Full Moon Wolf" producer company and as a jury member in the children's "Kinomania" 22-23.

She received additional qualification in dozens of workshops and seminars, including: Puppet Drama Workshop (NATFIZ 2006, with Lilyana Bardievska - Polske), Workshop "Learning a Foreign Language through Theater Techniques" with Giampiero de Cristofaro from Naples, she participated in the Seminar "The Method" of Prof. Mikhail N. Chumachenko from GITIS at NBU, dedicated to modern approaches to Chekhov and the latest applications of Stanislavski's method at training and working with actors (2014), Workshop "The subject and how to use it" (based on the methods of Tadeusz Kantor, in NATFIZ) with Teresa Velminska and Andrzej Velminski, Workshop, seminar and course "Social Documentary Cinema" with Mira Nyagulova, from the USA and Canada, Workshop, seminar and course "Writing and editing a script, method of directing the film" with Israeli playwright Arik Kaplun; "Makeup for Special Effects" workshop with world the recognized specialist Lidia Milinkovic from Serbia and many others. etc.

2. The candidate Chief Assist. Petar Zapryanov Odazhiev, PhD studied and graduated in 1987-1992 the State Academy of Music, Master's degree, Opera singing; 1993-1998 NATFIZ "Kr. Sarafov", Master's degree, Film and television directing; 2012 State Academy of Music, Bachelor's degree, Directing; 2009-2013 New Bulgarian University, PhD in directing and working with the singer-actor in the academic discipline "Musicology and Musical Art"; 2013-2016 Institute for Study of Arts at BAN, PhD in the academic discipline "Cinematography, Film Art and Television"; 2017-2020 State University of New York, Master's degree, Art Management.

Already during his studies, he worked from 1998 to 2014, preparing and implementing projects in the field of theater and screen genres, educational projects, seminars and workshops. He is the director of his own producer company "Odavision". From 2016 to 2019 he taught "Acting in Front of the Camera" and "Psychophysical Training" at the New York Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, while running his company Odavision LLC, with the same subject of activity. From 2019 to 2022, he worked at AMTII "Prof. Asen Diamandiev", as a part-time teacher of "acting", "stage speech" and "plastics". From 2019 to 2022 he was a senior assistant at the "Institute for Art Research", BAN, where he developed pedagogical and research activities in the field of stage and screen arts. He published scientific articles and monographs; participated in international and national scientific forums, in educational and research projects, supervised doctoral students. In 2020-2021, he also worked in the "State Music and Ballet Center" as a project manager, where he planned, organized and coordinated all the activities of the artistic creative and educational projects of the theater. From 2021 until now, he works as the director of the production house "Cinema Inc" where he leads and is responsible for the overall activities of the company in the field of artistic, creative and educational affairs. From 2021 until now he is a teacher of the academic disciplines "acting for a musical", "stage

movement", "singing", "psychophysical training", "stage speech", in the "Sofia Academy for Musical Theatre'.

Here it may be noted that all activities of the candidate are related to art, culture and education, for the most part to managerial positions, affinity for project activity, management, pedagogical work and research.

Critical remarks and recommendations

1. Candidate Krasimira Ivanova, PhD works with foreign students and teachers, including Asians, Africans, Russians, and Ukrainians; she completed many trips for exchange of experience with academies, such as the Spanish Royal Academy, etc., she has many years of experience in the coordination of national and international projects in NATFIZ; voluntary mentoring of students from various specialties, support for their studies outside of Bulgaria, etc. In the candidate's scientific publications, the main contribution is the interdisciplinary approach to the development of innovative teaching methods in the field of audio-visual arts. Unfortunately, in the materials provided for review, the articles are not presented in their full form, but only with their summaries and conclusions. The monograph is also not presented. The majority of the referral links to materials in text format cannot be opened. Some of the links to video materials also cannot be opened.

2. The candidate Chief Assist. Petar Odazhiev, PhD has skills in organizing, planning, budgeting, leadership and control, much of which he acquired during his specialization in the USA, while he was completing a Master's program in Art Management at the State University of New York (SUNY). A testament to his skills is the successful management of projects in the field of performing arts, as well as his work as a project manager at the "State Music and Ballet Center", Sofia. He also possesses professional performance skills in classical and jazz singing, acting, piano and guitar playing, dramatic text writing for theatre, cinema and television. The skills were acquired at NATFIZ and the Music Academy in Sofia (now NMA "Prof. P. Vladigerov"). Considering the additional music education of the candidate, I think it is an important point in support of his candidacy in the competition. I believe that beyond providing basic training of the students of the ADT specialty, he would be able to work successfully to improve the quality of their musical training, as an important component of their education and to adequately reflect this in the curricula of the discipline. According to my personal observations, students - future actors need more in-depth music education in order to be competitive with their colleagues from other higher educational institutions.

When it comes to the connection between theater and music, the second monograph of Petar Odazhiev leaves an impression. "The Musical from Stage to Screen," deals not so much with general musicology as with the practical nuances of stage direction and the acting methodology. The analysis of the specificity of acting and directing in the musical theater is done by a director, who has solid experience as a performer as well. Basic theoretical and methodological positions have been developed in the training of actors in musical theater and appropriate acting techniques are indicated, which are tailored to the specifics of the musical-stage genre.

The theoretical results of the analysis in the following articles also deserve attention: "The Methodical, Practical and Aesthetic Principles in the Work of the Director Stefan Trifonov: Historical Perception" and "The Aesthetics of Musical Theater in the Work of the Accomplished Director Dragan Kurdzhiev". In these articles, on the basis of a historical review of theoretical works, original texts and interviews, the leading principles and approaches of the interpretive director's toolkit in the musical theatre are brought to light.

Conclusion

Both applicants have submitted documents and supporting evidence which correspond to the individual scientometric indicators and the minimum national requirements, which they have greatly exceeded. They also fulfilled the additional requirements of the Pedagogical Faculty. Their research activity is significant and is in line with the requirements of the current contest. Here I express my preference for the work of Chief Assist. Petar Odazhiev, PhD, based on the number, volume, style, language and clarity of presentation of his scientific contributions. The artistic and creative activity of the candidates is also extremely prolific and worthy of respect. Here again I give priority to the achievements of Chief Assist. Petar Odazhiev, PhD taking into account the public impact, the genre variety and professional level of its production. The pedagogical work of both candidates is also professional and of excellent quality. As I said earlier, I also consider the candidacy of Chief Assist. Odazhiev, PhD to be more suitable, due to the availability of additional musical education, which would contribute to a more complete training of our students. In terms of project activity, both candidates would be useful with their extensive practical experience in the preparation and implementation of projects. In this direction, I once again place my trust in Chief Assist. Odazhiev, PhD based on his "Art Management" degree from the State University of New York and his accumulated practical experience.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I give my positive assessment and I advise the Academic Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the faculty council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the nomination of Chief Assist. Petar Zapryanov Odazhiev, PhD for the academic position of "associate professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 8. Arts, professional direction 8.4. Theater and Film Art (Acting for Drama Theatre).

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Author of the Statement

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