

## OPINION

By Prof. Violeta Decheva, PhD, New Bulgarian University, Sofia,

scientific direction 8.4 Theatre and film art

on the papers submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional direction 8.4 Theatre and film art, as announced in SG no.

50/01.07.2022,

with candidate Ch. Assistant Prof. Antoaneta Hristova Petrova, PhD

The materials and outputs of the research, teaching and artistic-creative work of Chief. Assistant professor Antoaneta Hristova Petrova, PhD is in accordance with the set minimum requirements under the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the requirements of New Bulgarian University for the occupation of the academic position of Associate Professor.

In the extended summary that Petrova presents in the competition, namely Improvisation and play in the training and practice of the actor, she describes her theoretical foundations and the conclusions she reaches in her own practical and teaching work, as well as through her participation in a variety of projects. Special attention is paid to the methodology she uses in the work process.

Petrova's active participation and contribution to the development and application of teaching methods is clearly visible as early as the first chapter. It has been based on her experience in projects such as PHONOPTIKFORM and the show "*Blacksmiths*", as well as later in *Discover Theatre* or *Reticently told - Your story (you) in me*, initiated and led by Vazkresia Viharova.

What I find particularly useful is the detailed presentation in the second part of her long-term work in the field of playback theatre as an attempt to systematize the principles of this kind of theatrical practice - its functions, goals, its significance for contemporary theatre, particularly on the basis of her immediate acting and teaching experience. In this sense, I consider the part of her presentation dedicated to modern theatre practices and their inclusion in the

education at NBU, especially the part dedicated to playback theatre and improvisational theatre in general, to be the most essential one in the presented paper. It illustrates to the fullest and most convincingly Antoaneta Petrova's ability to combine teaching and performing, while persistently exploring the possibilities of improvisational theatre and those of playback theatre in particular. I find it particularly useful that she systematizes the basics of this kind of theatrical practice, examines chiefly the Bulgarian experience in it, as well as its central characteristics and the principles of creating theatre history in interaction with the audience. Along with this, the description of the set of exercises in teaching improvisation in the theatre is a practical summary of her teaching experience.

The third part of the paper illustrates her dedication to theatre projects, oriented towards the so-called applied theatre and especially to its use in secondary school through the application of various acting methods.

I have closely followed Antoaneta Petrova's teaching work and acting performance for more than 10 years, not only in the projects mentioned in her CV. I highly value her dedication to students and the teaching profession; I admire her loyalty, integrity and team spirit demonstrated in every project she engages in. I particularly appreciate her no-fuss approach but at the same time deeply engaging effort in experimental cause-driven projects to non-traditional audiences. Her merit in the development of a modern type of theatre education in the Bachelor's programme of the Department of Theatre at NBU is indisputable.

Ch. assistant professor Antoaneta Petrova, PhD enjoys an excellent rating from students; furthermore, she is active on in student project work, assists with their internships, participates in the setup of programmes and numerous projects with external and internal funding. Former Programme Board director (2016-2017) and current coordinator of the Erasmus programme, she carries out her administrative duties in a consistent and conscientious manner.

Given the facts laid out above, I recommend awarding Ch. Assistant Antoaneta Hristova Petrova, PhD the academic position of Associate Professor.

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Sofia