

REVIEW

by Prof. Elisaveta Borisova Valchinova-Chendova, DSc,
New Bulgarian University, Professor 8.3. "Music and Dance Art"
For the competition for the academic rank of "Assoc. Professor"
in research area „8. Arts”,
professional field 8.4. „Theater and Film Arts”,
Faculty of Basic Education of NBU, Department of Theater,
declared in the State Gazette no. pcs. 47/14.06.2019,
with sole candidate: **Assist. Prof. Assia Hristova Ivanova, PhD**

I. Information about the candidate

Assia Hristova Ivanova graduated from SMU "Prof. Veselin Stoyanov" – Russe, majoring in piano (1991). She graduated from NBU with a bachelor's degree in "Theater Arts" from the Theater Department (1995) and a master's program in „Folklore Choreography Directing” (1999). She enrolled as a lecturer at NBU and has over 20 years of work experience: from October 1996 to March 2002 she was a part-time lecturer, from March 2002 to present time she is a full-time Assoc.Professor. at the University. In 2012 she defended her PhD with a dissertation on "Music – Dance – Theatrical Action (frontier stage forms)", Doctoral Program in "Music", Department of Music, NBU (diploma No 146/14.01.2013). As one of her doctoral advisors, I have a direct impression of her innovative ideas and their great realization, which continue to be the center of the professional pursuits of Assist. Professor Assia Ivanova.

Her professional training outside of NBU includes a number of practical seminars such as: Laban Technique, Feldenkrais, Mime Corporeal, Theater No, Playing with objects on stage, Light design and other training systems in the field of the physical theater, implemented from 1995 to 2000, as well as the training program for actors "Bit" based on thorough work on Bulgarian folk dances (with author Vazkresia Viharova, 1999–1994). Her professional experience and released performances are impressive. They receive high praise from the critics and also gave her the award „Icarus” of the Union of Bulgarian Artists for her supporting role in the play "The House of Bernarda Alba" by Lorca, directed by E. Panayotova-List (2005), and a nomination for the "Dionysius" award for her leading female role in the Salome

performance, DT – Sliven (1999) and again for the "Icarus" award for the supporting role in the "Blacksmiths" performance by Alec Popov, directed by V. Viharova (2013). Her pedagogical experience includes workshops in Sofia, Skopje, Belgrade on international programs, participation in a student festival in Split, Croatia, leading a training module on "Theatrical Games" under the program "Art for Social Change – Playing Against Violence" (2000–2005) and others.

II. Research (creative) activity and results (outside the activities related to her dissertation) according to the indicators for the various scientific degrees and the academic rank in the competition area: 8. Arts, 8.4. Theater and film art.

The presented materials, with which Assist. Prof. Assia Ivanova participates in the competition, include artistic and creative activities that exceed the minimum requirements for this section in individual groups. I will comment in more detail her activities in these paragraphs with a set of indicators that present her artistic and creative materials for the competition, as well as her teaching and administrative and social activities.

By Indicator Group V: 155 points were collected from the required minimum number of 100 points.

Indicator 4 lists a realized authorial product in the field of arts – this is the mono acting performance "My father who acted through culinary and other periods" by Elizabeth Mazev, „Theatre of the Great Slug”, NBU and the National Association for Contemporary Art, premiered in 2001, National Palace of Culture. It is the result of the work of Assia Ivanova as an actor and researcher with the help of a team of director, set designer and multimedia artist and presents her search for a new, specific theatrical expression of the border between "live performance" and "multimedia art". I will emphasize here that the frontier forms are fundamental to the candidate's research and practical interests. Stage interrelationships between music, dance and theatrical acting, which present original ideas realized through innovative frontier stage forms, have occupied her for more than 20 years and are the subject of her dissertation. Subsequently, the expressive means include movement in general (not just as dance), as well as the new component, image. This one-man show is constructed as postmodern dramaturgy with fragmentation / decomposition of the text of dramatic action – through a set of gestures and sounds and through visual image (narrative text).

Indicator 5 lists **three leading creative appearances – roles in "Bernard Alba's House", Sfumato Theater, 2005; "Blacksmiths" by Alec Popov, UT at NBU and "Good Night, Mom" by Marsha Norman, DT – Sliven, 1998.** The principles of the PHONOPTIKFORM program are embodied in the play "Blacksmiths", directed by Vazkresia Viharova. As Ass. Prof. Assia Ivanova points out, the image here – the video channel, is divided into three subchannels, which are: pre-captured image (quotes from a movie, a clip ...), live stream (live broadcast of the live performance of the cast) and short cartoon clips. Attached is the script of the spectacle (Annex 2 of the Summary), which is prepared at the beginning of the rehearsal process and which is getting more complicated until the premiere. The description of the creation of the orchestra score and its learning is very important for the opening of the creative process. The methodology was used to study a musical instrument, repeated "passages" from the score, to achieve a virtuosity of performance, which also provides freedom of interpretation. The complex artistic role is highly appreciated and is the result of the aforementioned prestigious "Ikar 2013" nomination by the Union of Artists in Bulgaria.

By Indicator Group G: A total of 255 of the 120 points needed were collected.

In Indicator 12. The author's short choreography / movement scores in the performance **"Fiery Face" by Marius von Mayenburg, DT Strumica, Macedonia,** is mentioned as a realized short authorial product in the arts. 2009.

Indicator 13. A leading (or self-directed) creative expression in the field of arts, which is not a major habilitation work, presents information and supporting material for the directing of two performances: **"Hoorovod" by Werner Schwab, UT of NBU and "Cherry Sisters" by Michael Green,** as well as leading roles in **4 significant performances – Gilgamesh, UT-NBU, and Theater Studio Persona, 2017; Horowod, Nude Snail Theater – NBU, Sfumato Theater, 2006; Alpine Lights by Peter Turini, National Palace of Culture – Sofia, 1997; "Inge" by Y. Yovkov.**

Indicator 14. Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts, information and supporting material for 5 supporting roles in the performances of **"Beloved" by K. Goldoni, UT of NBU, 2017 are presented; TV series "Stolen Life", 2018, Theater Action "Sound, Text, Melos", French Cultural Institute and UT of NBU, 2017; "Cherry Sisters" – by Michael Green, State Satirical Theater "A. Konstantinov, 2003; Thunder Parts by Daniel Harms, Studio PERSONA, 1999.**

In particular, I will emphasize again on the connection between musical and stage scores, which are equivalent in complex actor expression. This connection is at the heart of her teaching activity, which I will specifically address.

The innovative approaches and the bright artistic presence of Assist. Prof. Assia Ivanova were appreciated. **By Indicator Group D:** Amount of Indicators 16 to 19 – Quotations and reviews, a total of 140 of the required 40 points were collected. 14 reviews were submitted for significant, leading creative appearances and involvement in supporting roles of Ass. Prof. Assia Hristova Ivanova.

Indicator 30. Awards for creative and performance competitions given by national professional forums and organizations.

Data and proof for Assia Ivanova's award „IKAR 2005” of the Union of Artists in Bulgaria for the role of Ponsia in the „House of Bernarda Alba” are presented.

Evaluation of the artistic activity and its results. I highly appreciate the artistic activity of Assist. Prof. Assia Ivanova and her innovative projects. The Summary analytically identifies the contributing aspects of its activity, which represent the accumulated skills and the development of means of expression. Here I will specify the first three contributions that I fully support: 1. Development of tools and principles in the physical theater practice. 2. Research of the interaction between the actor and the contemporary media and new technologies in the theater. 3. Musicalization of the actor's means of expression.

III. Teaching and teaching activities

By Indicator Group J – Collected a total of 105 of the required 50 points. Assist. Prof. Assia Ivanova, has a research program and has actively participated in the Research / Creative Program "Bit" and the Research / Creative Program "PHONOPTIKFORM", which is an "Erasmus +" teaching mobility program at Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University. She has been very active in the creation of the new bachelor's program of the Theater Department and the modules created in it, as a program director and a member of the program council of the department he participates in the improvement of the MP "Theater Directorate in European

Context", BP "Theater", MP "Musical – Musical Drama and Comedy". Together with Prof. Eva Volitzer, she is actively involved in organizing and holding a „National Open Forum for the Youngest in the Trail Theater”. Her activities are important for her work in the department.

By Indicator Group Z – A total of 140 of the 70 required. The average grade of the students for the satisfaction of the courses of the lecturer Assia Hristova Ivanova, has received an excellent 4.63 in the last 10 semesters; she has authored materials in Moodle, working with students in research projects.

According to Group of indicators E. 190 points from the required minimum number of 50 points.

In Indicator 22. Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic creation project: data and evidence of participation in a project "Discover the theater – entrance accessible for people with different abilities" are presented.

Indicator 23. Participation in an international scientific, educational or artistic project: data and evidence of participation in 3 international projects are presented.

Indicator 28 and 29. Data and proof are provided for the leading of 4 training modules and workshops that I have pointed out in the candidate's presentation.

Assessment of teaching related to the method of physical training. These are the mentioned contributions 4. Development of specific university courses at NBU, which bring to the Bulgarian theatrical pedagogy modern world practices in the field of physical training. 5. Development of a specific methodology for musical training of the actors. They have been a major focus of her creative interests in recent years. The specific methodology is entirely authorial and successful in preparing students for their participation in innovative synthesis forms of postmodern theater.

During the whole period of the occupation of the position, Assist. Prof. Assia Hristova Ivanova fulfills the annual norm of study load. During the Spring semester of 2018/2019, she leads major in the following courses: TEAB213 Psychophysical Warming Part II, TEAB604 Interdisciplinary Approaches and Practices, TEAB211 Movement Training Part II, TEAB414 Music and Rhythm, THEM135 The short form of performing arts and visual arts.

IV. Administrative and community service

By Indicator Group I – A total of 110 of 50 required points were collected.

Assist. Prof. Assia Hristova Ivanova regularly participates in the meetings of the Board of the Theater department and takes an active part in the social activities of the department. She actively participates in the candidate campaign, initiates activities and makes presentations to the department and programs. She works with international students and teachers on the Erasmus exchange program.

An extended, 45-page summary of "Music, Movement, Imaging in Practice, and Actor Training" is presented, detailing the theoretical framework of the author's product creation process and teaching methods.

V. Conclusion

As I have indicated, the presented materials exceed the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University for the award of the academic position of "Associate Professor". Based on my overall positive assessment of the artistic and long-standing teaching activity of Assist. Prof. Assia Hristova Ivanova, PhD at NBU, convincingly in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the Regulation for the Development of the Academic Staff of the NBU, I propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury of the competition for associate professors, professional field 8.4. "Theater and Film Art", NBU, Theater Department, **Assist. Prof. Assia Hristova Ivanova, PhD to be offered to the Academic Council to be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Theater Department of NBU.**

Sofia, October 21, 2019

Prof. Elisaveta Valchinova-Chendova, DSc.