

OPINION

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On the academic works and the artistic and creative production of

Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Nikolov Gyuzelev, PhD

For attaining the academic degree Associate Professor in professional field 8.4. *Theatre and Film Art*

(graphic design)

Through the contest organised under Ruling No.3- PK-181/24.03.2022 of the Rector of NBU, announced in

SG, issue 14/18.02.2022,

School of Undergraduate Studies, *Cinema Advertisement and Showbusiness* Department

The semesters and the academic decades since the *Cinema Advertisement and Showbusiness* Department was established passed by rather swiftly, especially when it comes to the *Graphic Design* Major, which provoked quite a furore with its very appearance.

For many years now, the name of Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Gyuzelev, PhD has been a symbol of talented creative production in fine arts, graphic design, theatre and is closely related to the academic field of studies.

It is also a brand in its own right within the academic life of New Bulgarian University. This is where Mr Gyuzelev defended his doctoral dissertation with honours; this is also where he attained the position of Chief Assistant Professor and where he has been working actively as a tutor all along.

Therefore, the contest for the academic degree Associate Professor was a perfectly logical next step, despite the fact that Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Gyuzelev, PhD is the only candidate in in this contest.

I. Assessment of the compliance with the nationally required minimum for awarding academic degrees and the requirements of New Bulgarian University.

I am not to discuss in detail the criteria, laid out by the law, which Chavdar Gyuzelev, PhD undoubtedly meets.

It is much more important to review those, in which his achievements greatly exceed the required level.

In group 1, (4). *Realized author's product in the field of arts (film, performance, exhibition, concert, etc.)*, Chavdar Gyuzelev has twice as many points as those required: 100 instead of the required 50.

The same is true concerning para. 5, *A Leading (solo) artistic performance*: 35 points are required, while he has 70.

In Group D (12), *Realized short unique artistic product*, he has four times as many points (120) as the required number (30).

The same is true for para. 14, *Supporting artistic performance or participation in a collective artistic product*: while only 10 points are required, he has earned 40.

To put it briefly, these occurrences are also present in: Group E (19) *Reviews of analysed author products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of the arts*; Group F (30) *Competition awards for creativity and performances, given by national professional forums and organizations* (three times as many points!); para. 36: *Results of research and other intellectual property products or works of art with international recognition applied in practice* - (four times as many points!); Group G (41): *Participation in program improvement and devising courses for the programs* (twice as many as the required points!); Group 3, (48) *Tutoring and reviewing the research work of successful graduates or participation in state exam panels* (twice as many as the required points!).

This quick review unambiguously demonstrates my justified positive assessment of the compliance with the minimum requirements.

II. Research (creative) activities and results.

In this section, we should, of course start with Chavdar Gyuzelev's Dissertation, entitled *Constructing space in Theatre and in Books*, which he defended in 2016. This paper encompasses elements of academic significance and unique empirical creative work alike.

As far as the candidate's artistic performance is concerned, his theatre stage designs for *Waiting for Godot*, by Samuel Beckett and *Liv Stein*, by Nino Haratischwili are two very convincing theatre performances.

We also need to pay attention to both of his solo exhibitions: *Heads in Free Flight* (2021) and *Dangerous Games* (2017), which have been profusely reviewed.

It makes perfect sense that, as a graphic designer, the candidate has ambitions in Typography as well. He is the cover designer of Svetla Hristova's *The Film Script: Writing and Rewriting* (2020), Czesław Miłosz's *Treatise on Poetry* and Lyuben Dilov's *The Paradox of the Mirror* (2021).

The release of the author's photo album by Gyuzelev – "Discovered Installations" (2018) is also worth noticing.

In addition to his solo exhibitions, the candidate has also included the collective exhibitions *Sound and Colour* (2017), *Poems Remain* (2018), and *Chasing Away Evil Spirits* (2018).

He also designs each issue of *Christianity and Culture* magazine from 2006 to 2021, which is a significant contribution.

In this respect, we must also point out his personal contribution to each issue of *ARTizantin* magazine.

In this overview, I cannot but mention his participations in plenary sessions and workshops.

Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Gyuzelev also has three prestigious theatre awards, quite deservedly at that: *The Askeer* Award for *Whatever you want me to be* (2015) by Luigi Pirandello; the *Ikar* award (2015) for the same play and yet again the *Ikar* award for stage design for *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

We should not overlook his contribution when presenting Bulgarian art abroad in exhibitions like those in Prague (2010), Berlin (2011), Vienna (2013), and Paris (2015).

All these creative performances have been adequately reviewed and appreciated by the press and artistic criticism. This is correctly indicated in the references.

III. Teaching and tutoring

As far as these indicators are concerned, Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Gyuzelev's contributions are no less significant:

- He has improved the BA programme *Graphic Design*
- He has devised and taught as many as 11 (eleven) undergraduate studies courses.

His work in these is positively assessed by students.

He has also published 11 modules in MOODLE.

From 2017 to 2021 he facilitated the graduation of 30 students, wrote 40 Reviews and participated in state exam and graduation academic panels.

IV. Administrative and social activities.

It is quite logical that a young, active, and talented author like Chavdar Gyuzelev, has led an active social life.

He has regularly participated in the meetings of the Department Council, attends his office hours duly and regularly conducts his training sessions.

He has been a member of the Accreditation Panel within the School of General Studies.

It is rather difficult to list and review the abundant products of Chavdar Gyuzelev's artistic, academic, and social activities in a brief Opinion like this one.

However, based on as little as was said so far, I claim with clear consciousness that I will vote "YES" for him to be awarded with the academic degree Associate Professor.

Prof. Stanimir Trifonov, PhD.