

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Christina Georgieva Savova, Ph.D.

Full-time lecturer and Head of the Department of Design, New Bulgarian University,
8.2 Fine Arts

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position
"Associate Professor" of the New Bulgarian University, Sofia
in the field of higher education 8. Arts
professional field 8.2 Fine arts (Interior Design)

The "Associate Professor" competition was announced in the State Gazette, **SG 92/18.11.2022**, for the needs of the Department of Design as the only candidate participating in **Ch. Assistant Prof. Yana Oleg Dvoretzka, Ph.D.**, New Bulgarian University.

I. Research (creative) activity and results

Ch. assistant professor Yana Dvoretzka, a staff member of the New Bulgarian University, graduated with a master's degree in "Fashion Design" in 2003 and began her journey as a full-time teacher in 2013 with the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor," professional direction 8.2 Fine art - dissertation work on "Clothes as a sign of identity."

Until now, she has built and established herself as a costume designer, based on and following her artistic style, in which she strives to weave her creative intentions. Her independent, innovative performances related to designing costumes for operetta and ballet productions confirmed this.

For participating in the competition for "associate professor," the materials presented for the habilitation thesis, with which Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Dvoretzka participated in a contest for the academic position of "associate professor" at the New Bulgarian University, an author's product in the field of arts was realized under the title "Design and performance of costumes for the ballet "Bayaderka" by Ludwig Minkus on the stage of the State Ruse Opera House, 2019, production: Academician Kalina Bogoeva". The material has 59 pages, divided into nine chapters. It contains 62 images, including the original author's drawings and

photographs from the premiere performance. In it, Dvoretzka not only designs and creates costumes for the acting characters but manages, through sparing means of expression, to achieve a union between costume and choreographic intentions in search of a specific visual impact for each character. Thus, Dvoretzka's costumes are an expression not only of her creative pursuits but an expression of her nature. In addition, the accompanying accessories are noticed.

In artistic circles, Yana Dvoretzka is known for her clothing projects, in which she strives to balance authenticity and individual artistic imagination, and for participating in a fashion collection in over ten exhibitions. Under the same denominator are her participation in national and local creative projects - two are international (Vienna and Ljubljana), six are national, and seven are with the financial support of the CFSD of NBU. Four of the projects are headed by Dr. Dvoretzka herself.

Ch. Dr. Yana Dvoretzka heads the master class "Slow Fashion: Natural Dyeing" at La Escuela de Arte y Superior de Diseño y de C.R.B.C. de Burgos, April 2019, Burgos, Spain. She has a "CRYSTAL LYRE 2016" nomination for the staging team of the opera "The Barber of Seville" by Rossini (opera-ballet performance) on August 13, 2016, at the "Rousse Opera" stage. Winner of awards for best costume design from the Sarajevo Fashion Film Festival and 12th La Jolla Fashion Film Festival, and International Fashion Film Awards 2021, together with the BIG SEE FASHION COLLABORATION AWARD 2020. Member of the Bulgarian Association of Manufacturers and Exporters of clothing and textiles and coordinator of Fashion Revolution Bulgaria.

The list of presented research and creative performances of the candidate comprehensively covers her creative activity, awards, and honors, participation in seminars and lectures, and organizing and participating in projects. The list is presented in a neat and logical sequence.

Those presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Dvoretzka's materials for the competition and her research, creative and academic-educational activities meet the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor," according to the requirements of Law on the evaluation of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

II. Teaching and learning activities

Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Dvoretzka is active in her teaching activities, involving students in numerous projects and encouraging their participation in various creative performances and projects. She successfully participated in national projects, workshops, creative workshops, and competitions with students from BA "Fashion." She has been actively teaching since 2013 in the programs at NBU after she was appointed a full-time teacher.

III. Administrative and public activity

Ch. Associate Professor Yana Dvoretzka participated in the updating of the "Fashion" BA and minor program-second specialty "Fashion," as well as in the creation of the MA "Fashion and Business Strategies" and the MA "Styling" and their unification into one program.

The candidate's administrative involvement includes participation as a member of the Departmental Council, director of the Program Council at the "Design" department in 2015-2016, and BP "Fashion" program consultant from 2004-2009.

The candidate's public activity should include her assistance and participation in implementing sustainable practices in creating fashion and promoting the contemporary visual reading of historical costumes.

IV. Personal impressions of the candidate

I can express my positive impressions of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yana Dvoretzka as a colleague - teacher, a costume designer with a recognizable author's handwriting—creator, and a teacher with a positive attitude towards his teaching activity and students.

V. Opinions, recommendations, and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

I have no critical remarks about the candidate's overall performance. I recommend that she continue her teaching and creative activities with the same professional spirit and inspiring enthusiasm.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I express my **positive opinion** about the contributions to Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Dvoretzka's Ph.D., creativity, scientific research activity, and teaching activities correspond to the field and professional direction of the announced competition. I recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to unanimously support and vote positively for choosing **Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Oleg Dvoretzka, Ph.D.**, in the academic "**Associate Professor**" position in professional direction **8.2. Fine art (fashion design and stage costume design)**.

15.03.2023

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/Assoc. Prof. Christina Savova, Ph.D./