



Summary

On the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, the School for Classical Ballet of Zagreb presents a monography entitled "The Fiftieth Anniversary of the School for Classical Ballet". All the events and important persons that have directly or indirectly contributed to the development of the ballet and the education of ballet dancers in Croatia have been presented in chronological order in the monography.

First data on the instruction of the scenic dance in Zagreb date from the mid-19th and relate to performances of the ensembles from abroad. In 1894, the then theatre manager, Mr. Stjepan Miletić founded an independent ballet ensemble and trained the dancers for opera performances as well as formed an independent ballet repertoire.

Young ballet dancers had been trained within the theatre until the very foundation of the Secondary Ballet School in Zagreb on the 22nd October 1949. Such an instruction lacked continuity and systematic pedagogical approach and could not satisfy the needs of the then ever demanding ballet repertoire. The history of the School For Classical Ballet can be divided into four different periods:

- the first period, from the school foundation in 1949 to 1961, encompasses the time during which first experiences were gathered and first attempts made at improving the then teaching methods;
- during the second period, from 1961 to 1971, a systematic reorganization of the school activities started;
- the third period, from 1971 to 1989 was the time of the application and affirmation of the teaching methodology in order to achieve a high quality of artistic performances.

The Section for folklore dances was founded in 1983. The Section has ever since worked on the education and preparation of young dancers for performances in the Ensemble for Folklore Dances and Songs of the Republic of Croatia, LADO.

- the fourth period, from 1989 until 1999, is the period during which the school acquired a complete organizational and pedagogical independence.

The teaching staff has improved their knowledge and experience along with the school development.

This progress has been made possible thanks to a professional help provided by Russian ballet experts and knowledge and experience the Croatian experts have received at prestigious ballet schools in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The actual 9 year-schooling system has been built according to the Russian classical ballet school model. Tradition annual and other public performances have best proven efficiency of the applied methods. Moreover, an ever increasing number of dancers admitted to professional ensembles in the country and abroad testify of a high-quality of pedagogical work of the teaching staff.

The co-operation between the school and the Croatian National Theatre has been very fruitful and manifold. This co-operation has always aimed at improving pedagogical standards in the education of young dancers.

Students of the school have always participated to a professional repertoire of the Croatian National Theatre. This acquisition of a scenic experience is an important component of the co-operation between the Croatian National Theatre and the school along with the constant updating and improvements of pedagogical plans and approaches.

Students of the school have participated in many competitions in the country and abroad have constantly won prizes in all categories.

At administrative and organizational levels, the school has gone through many changes that, on some occasions, even negatively affected normal functioning of the School.

Since 1991 the School has performed its activities under the name of "The School for Classical Ballet".

The results it has achieved are the best proof of the efficiency and high quality work of its teaching staff.

The monography "The Fiftieth Anniversary of the School for Classical Ballet", along with a historical survey of the activities of the school since its foundation includes biographies of all the professors and dancers, as well as lists of all the students and school directors. The monography includes many illustrations as well as a list of all the awards its students have won in the country and abroad during these 60 years of the school's existence.