



I'm sure that poetry now has an important role to play in this world, role of great hugger in this sea of pain.

Anna Akhmatova, Russian poet

In Brodsky`s shadow

Four stories of five poets with declaiming poetry

Leningrad underground of 60s-70s

November 19, 2019 a premiere of a new performance.

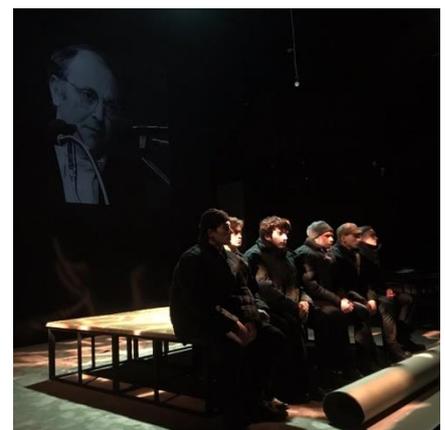
The director Svetlana Zemlyakova released a new performance with third-year students, class of their master Konstantin Raikin. They showed a very interesting performance about lives of forgotten poets of time bans.

“In Brodsky’s shadow” is an unusual performance. You cannot describe it like a poem or a play which you know. It is a strange mixture of 5 poets’ fates. You do not know them. You know only one or two of their verses, but you have never thought before, whose rhymes they were. You can see stories about people that were as talented as Brodsky, but the story did not save their names. No one of these great poets, that you meet “In Brodsky’s shadow” were never heard, they were never learnt at school. No one will hear their poetry. Why? Soviet censorship? Soviet people, who did not understand their poetry? Or maybe these poets themselves spoilt everything with their attitude to art? Who is guilty in their obscurity? What is the measure of art? The answers can be found “In Brodsky’s shadow”.

The first thing spectators can see is few people in big padded jacket sitting in the center of the stage and intently watching at us. And it is not clear who are spectators now.

The action begins and we can hear Brodsky’s voice reading one of his famous poems. This intonation transports us in past and it accompanies us during the whole performance. We discover that era of Brodsky is not only Brodsky, it is also a great number of talented poets and some of them are still unknown. We go on a trip through their lives. Each part has its own style and intonation. The visual solution of each scene helps us to feel the atmosphere of the life.

At the beginning we find ourselves in the standard Soviet flat with people drinking vodka and singing thieves songs. In such flats poetry fighting takes place. In the part devoted to Leonid



Aronzon there is a grass carpet on the stage. It symbolizes the garden where birds sing and where love lives.

And we feel that each poet looks for the place to hide from Soviet reality. For example, last part settings represent a famous cafe, where all 'underground' poets came to read their poetry, to chat, to have an illusion of freedom. Settings change for every novel but only wooden floor and a light bulb remain unchanged.

After the performance we talked with students and they told us about their work:

«In 2018, our teacher Svetlana Zemlyakova proposed to study the work of Leningrad poets of the 60s-70s. Our director is interested and attracted to poetry. There were many different poets in our work, but we left only 5 poets, whose work made a significant contribution to Russian poetry.

We knew nothing about them but after reading and studying their biographies we fired up this work. These are unique people, with unique verses! And we started our exciting work!

We were divided into groups and each group chose a poet, whose work should be studied. There were two ways to research:

There was a problem with shortage information in the Internet and we had to go to libraries and bookstores and read a lot of best poems. We had to look for the letters, notes of their friends, briefs from the biographies of other poets and we got the inner world of the poets.

Collecting the story about the poets we had read a lot about the time which they lived, about the complexity of relations with the authorities.

We created a scenario of 4 stories. In these short stories, we were able to reflect the life of every poet, with their features and difficulties. This was an amazing job that we loved so much!».



Poetry like music can exist only where ordinary words end. Poetry is our friend, our cure, our savior. For sure Russia is a poetic center of the world: here people always need their light. Of course there is a lot of good poetry in different countries, but the poetic culture is so important and popular only in Russia. So these genius poets remain practically unknown for us, but their contribution in our culture is inexpressible. So this performance puts not only recreational character, but also really educational. Now more people can know their names, their poems and histories of their lives. So go and watch!

Team of journalists: Asya Voytovich, Mila Ershova, Maria Zolotukhina, Daniel Teplov, Elizaveta Potapova, Denis Nazarov, Yaroslav Zenin, Arsen Khandzhyan, Karina Musa, Vasya Popov, Antonina Rybalovleva, Nikita Grigoriev, Alina Iskhakova