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"ACTING IN CONTEMPORARY TELEVISION SERIES: SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS"

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Annotation: This article examines the characteristics of acting performances in modern TV series, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses. Key criteria include acting skills, individuality in character portrayal, emotional expressiveness, and the ability to engage the audience. The study also critically addresses common issues such as artificial acting, stereotypical characters, and insufficient professional training.

Keywords: modern TV series, acting skills, character portrayal, performance, dramatic art, strengths and weaknesses, emotional expression.

Cinema is a unique and complex art form. Naturally, it demands a high level of skill, knowledge, and talent from actors. Both theater and cinema rely fundamentally on the actor's craft. Just as theater requires significant responsibility from performers, cinema equally expects a dedicated and professional approach. Modern technology, such as the possibility of reshooting a scene or correcting a poorly performed role, does offer some convenience to actors. Additionally, cameras and other technical tools can conceal certain flaws. However, this should not lead to the mistaken conclusion that any novice actor can create art in cinema.

An actor is, fundamentally, a creative individual who, by virtue of their craft, becomes part of the artistic world. Accordingly, they are expected to achieve a level of expertise in their field. An actor (male) or actress (female) (from the Latin *act* – "to perform") is a creator who brings a living artistic character to life through body, voice, intellect, emotions, and abilities.

The art of acting encompasses performance in theater, cinema, television, and radio, where the actor brings artistic characters to life. When portraying a role, the actor immerses in the character, expressing their personality, emotional world, and behavioral traits. In doing so, they enrich the script, libretto, or screenplay with their creativity and personal experience, animating it. Key tools for character creation include speech, body language, facial and eye expressions, emotions, and perception. Actors may also use makeup, costumes, masks, gestures, tone, and movement to harmonize inner and outer elements. Acting reflects performers' worldview, personality, and creativity while portraying reality.

The history of acting in Uzbekistan is long-standing, tracing its origins to primitive societies, nature worship, ritual performances, group hunting games, and pantomime. Acting as a distinct art form developed in the 5th century BCE in India and Greece and later evolved in Ancient Rome. With the rise of early states and cities, early forms of acting also emerged in Turkestan. In these early stages, emphasis in character creation was placed more on expressive speech, exaggeration, and physical gestures than psychological analysis.

A notable example of contemporary Uzbek serials is *"Tutash Taqdirlar"* ("Intertwined Destinies"). The serial's plot and characters immediately engage the viewer. Directed by Zamira Haytmatova, the work addressed complex personal dilemmas and was awarded the "Best Screenplay" prize by MTRK in 2009, based on audience feedback. Screenwriters Nazar Eshonqul and Zamira Begimqulova previously collaborated, and the success of *"Gulxan atrofidagilar"* laid the foundation for this series.

During production, cinematographer Hotam Fayziyev's protégé B. Qodirov and award-winning artists K. Qozoqov and A. Ibrohimov, along with composer D. A'zamov, collaborated

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closely. The series consists of fifty-three episodes, filmed over six months, with an additional six months for editing and sound. It represents Zamira's first major work and the longest national serial she directed. In an interview with *O'zbekiston adabiyoti va san'ati* (2009), she stated:

"I want audiences to experience this as a truly Uzbek serial, to live with the characters, breathe with them, and derive moral and emotional nourishment from the story."

Initially, the series was titled *"Chorraha"* ("Crossroads") but was later renamed *"Tutash Taqdirlar"*. Leading actors Yulduz Hamidova, Gulbaxor Yo'ldosheva, Hoshim Arslonov, Mehriddin Rahmatov, Mahmud Ismoilov, Shohida O'zoqova, Shodiya To'xtayeva, Shohida Ismoilova, Ma'rifat Ortiqova, and Jafar Mo'minov portrayed key roles, while debut actors such as Nilufar Hamidova, Asatulla Nabiyev, Nodira Boboxonova, Feroz Burxonov, and Nafisa Rahmatova demonstrated emerging talent. Overall, nearly 200 actors participated in the serial.

Haytmatova reflected on the state of Uzbek television:

"As an ordinary viewer and TV director, I often wondered why so few films portray our life, history, and relatable stories. National serial initiatives answered many of these questions. I am delighted to have contributed to the implementation of this program."

The reception of *"Tutash Taqdirlar"* highlighted audience engagement with complex, serialized storytelling. Each episode revealed new plot twists, character strengths and weaknesses, and moral dilemmas. The series addressed themes not previously explored in Uzbek serials, such as the fate of a dancer girl, reflecting universal human relationships and cultural values: love, family loyalty, compassion, parental and filial bonds, pride, trust, friendship, and duty.

Key characters exemplify these themes:

- **Ra'no (the dancer)**: sincere, diligent, intelligent, and steadfast in her pursuit of her dreams, including performing the traditional *Tanovar* dance. Her journey illustrates dedication, sacrifice, and fulfillment of both personal and familial aspirations.
- **Nargiza (the teacher)**: a spirited, charming English teacher whose portrayal by Nilufar Hamidova emphasized national characteristics and authenticity.

The post-independence period in Uzbekistan has fostered creative freedom, experimentation with hybrid genres, and deeper expression in acting. Actors gained opportunities to explore diverse genres and fully develop their skills. Unfortunately, contemporary cinema has seen a rise of performers lacking formal training or understanding of acting, often gaining visibility through social media or personal connections rather than professional merit.

Professional acting is a discipline requiring conscientious preparation, continuous practice, and engagement with one's craft. The goal of acting transcends mere fame or recognition; it is about embedding oneself in the narrative, understanding human experience, and conveying it convincingly. Success requires talent, sustained effort, and resilience, as well as alignment of personal aptitude with artistic ambition.

The modern acting environment presents both challenges and opportunities. Some actors may lack formal training, enter projects for financial gain, or rely on connections rather than skill. Conversely, professional actors bring depth, credibility, and authenticity to their roles. Audiences are discerning, expecting naturalism, emotional truth, and expressive performance. Actors must continually refine their craft, overcoming both technical and personal obstacles to leave a lasting impression.

In conclusion, acting is a demanding and noble art. Mastery requires dedication, discipline, and an understanding of human nature. Only through persistent effort and genuine commitment

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can one achieve professional excellence and contribute meaningfully to the cultural and artistic landscape of contemporary cinema and television.

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