

**THE ROLE OF UZBEK THEATER IN MODERN SOCIO-CULTURAL PROCESSES*****Kamoliddin Umarov****teacher of the department "Art History and Cultural Studies"*

**Annotation:**In recent years, along with all spheres of national culture, a number of measures have been taken to support theatrical art, in particular, to improve its material and technical base, to stimulate creative workers of the stage. This article analyzes the significance of Uzbek theatre in contemporary socio-cultural processes.

**Key words:**Globalization, theatrical art, performance, culture, socio-cultural process, history, socialization, transformation, integration.

**Annotatsiya:**So‘nggi yillarda milliy madaniyatning barcha sohalari qatori teatr san‘atini ham qo‘llab-quvvatlash, xususan, moddiy-texnik bazani yaxshilash, sahna ijodkorlarini rag‘batlantirish borasida qator sa‘y-harakatlar amalga oshirilmoqda. Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy ijtimoiy-madaniy jarayonlarda o‘zbek teatrlarining ahamiyati xususida tahliliy fikr yuritilgan.

**Kalit so‘zlar:**Globallashuv, teatr san‘ati, spektakl, madaniyat, ijtimoiy-madaniy jarayon, tarix, ijtimoiylashuv, transformatsiya, integratsiya.

**Аннотация:**В последние годы наряду со всеми сферами национальной культуры предпринимается ряд мер по поддержке театрального искусства, в частности, улучшению материально-технической базы, стимулированию творческих работников сцены. В данной статье анализируется значение узбекского театра в современных социально-культурных процессах.

**Ключевые слова:**Глобализация, театральное искусство, спектакль, культура, социокультурный процесс, история, социализация, трансформация, интеграция.

The role and significance of theatrical art in the life of man and society, in raising the spiritual world, consciousness and thinking of the people are incomparable.

**President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev**

If we look at the history of Uzbek theater, it becomes clear that socio-cultural processes have had a direct impact on stage art in all periods. In particular, at the beginning of the last century, the emergence of written dramaturgy and European-style professional theater in Turkestan was undoubtedly dictated by the times themselves through the efforts and initiatives of Jadid enlighteners. The main goal of the Jadids was to put an end to such vices as ignorance, spiritual poverty, and to bring Turkestan into the ranks of the most advanced and developed countries of the world. To accomplish this task, they turned to new educational schools - "usuli jadid" schools, along with the press, and the theater - a living and impressive art form. Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, a great representative of Jadid enlighteners, writes about this in his famous article "What is Theater?": "What is Theater? In response, the theater is a lesson, the theater is a lecture hall, the theater is a moral lesson. A theater is a mirror in which the visually impaired see and the deaf and hard-of-hearing hear and are

captivated by the general state of affairs. Conclusion: the theatre serves as a preacher and admonisher, vividly demonstrating harmful customs, traditions, and rituals, as well as their ugliness and harm. He who speaks the truth without respecting anyone, and He who reveals the clear truth."<sup>1</sup>.

At the beginning of the century, Russian and fraternal national theaters frequently visited Turkestan on tour, which naturally strengthened the interest of Uzbek intellectuals in theatrical art. It was the age-old dream of the intelligentsia to create a theater of the same, perhaps even higher quality and level in our country, to show on stage the state of the nation's psyche, its pain and experiences. The study of the transformation and modernization processes in the field of theatrical art of Uzbekistan during the period of independence, based on the analysis of its features, main trends, role and priorities in the cultural life of society, issues of management and marketing, the repertoire of theaters, and performances, is of current importance.

As Uzbekistan embarked on the path of development based on a market economy, it chose an evolutionary path of development. This required the phased implementation of reforms and the gradual implementation of market laws. Building a free, democratic state and civil society in the country has been defined as a priority task. As a result, positive changes were observed in various spheres of art and culture. "Creative teams freed themselves from the shackles of false methodology, such as the creation of a single Soviet culture, and began to organize their activities independently. That is, thanks to independence, true creative freedom has emerged."<sup>2</sup>.

Since 2017, a new page has opened in the cultural life of Uzbekistan. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, paid special attention to supporting other spheres related to literature, art, and spiritual activity. On August 3, 2017, the President of our country met with representatives of the creative intelligentsia, literature and art, where he comprehensively analyzed the problems that have accumulated in the creative sphere, and expressed his proposals for their solution. At the meeting on the topic "Development of literature and art, culture - a solid foundation for raising the spiritual world of our people," topical issues of the development of literature, theater, cinema, music, fine arts and other types of creativity in our country were raised. In particular, the head of our state paid special attention to pressing problems in theatrical art awaiting solutions, made necessary proposals and comments on improving the material and technical base of theaters, supporting theatrical creators, and creating artistically perfect stage works that enhance the spirituality of our people. As our President noted, "The repertoires of most of our theaters are poor in ideological and artistic terms, and the performances featured in them do not reflect today's spirit, serious social problems that concern and excite people. Unfortunately, our theaters are more accustomed to showing frivolous, childish works on everyday topics, performances that provide neither spiritual nourishment nor aesthetic pleasure to people."<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy. Tanlangan asarlar (tuzatilgan va to'ldirilgan 3-nashri). "Tyotat nadur?". – T: Ma'naviyat, 2006. 175-b.

<sup>2</sup> Madaliev A. Bozor iqtisodiyoti va qo'g'irchoq teatri // "Oriental Art and Culture" Scientific-Methodical Journal, Vol 2. Iss 4. 2021. – B.18.

<sup>3</sup> Mirziyoyev Sh.M. Adabiyot va san'at, madaniyatni rivojlantirish – xalqimiz ma'naviy olamini yuksaltirishning mustahkam poydevoridir (2017-yil 3-avgustdagi mamlakatimiz ijodkor ziyolilari vakillari bilan uchrashuvdagi nutq) // "Xalq so'zi". 2017, 4-avgust.

Drawing the right conclusions from these critical remarks, eliminating existing problems, and taking Uzbek theater to a new level became the main task of stage creators.

In 2023, an expanded meeting of the Republican Council for Spirituality and Enlightenment was held under the chairmanship of President Sh. Mirziyoyev. The President of our country expressed the necessary conclusions and proposals for the development of theatrical art, as well as for determining the prospects of the sphere in many spheres of our spiritual and educational life. In particular, the Ministry of Culture was instructed to develop a program for the development of theatrical art. Such tasks were defined as placing creative orders for the best plays, improving the skills of creative and support staff in foreign theaters, and establishing the Mannon Uygur Prize to support young directors. The necessity of declaring one day of the month "Theater Day" at enterprises and institutions and organizing the visits of employees to the theater was emphasized.

In the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev No. PP-399 "On Measures to Increase the Importance of Teaters in the Cultural Life of Society and Further Support their Activities," published on November 22, 2024, it was determined that, starting from 2025, a national rating of theatrical groups of Uzbekistan will be compiled and annually published on March 27 - International Theater Day. At the same time, it was noted that: theater workers are encouraged in accordance with the national rating, as well as the norms for staging and performing performances of creative workers of theaters, established by the Ministry of Culture; the national rating is formed on the basis of assessing the activities of theaters and their creative workers, as well as the attitude of the audience to stage works presented during the year.

The resolution also defines a number of tasks related to the management and economic activities of theaters, the practical implementation of which will undoubtedly serve the development of national theatrical art. In particular, starting from 2025:

allocation of funds in the amount of up to 10 percent of the budget funds planned for the creation of works on the basis of a state order for financing the activities of theaters, including the costs of advertising the works presented in them;

to carry out the sale of tickets on an outsourcing basis;

placement of retail outlets, points of paid services, including advertising media, without negatively affecting the main activities of the theater, organization of excursions for visitors on the topic "Backstage tour";

the use of private sector services is permitted for the creation of theaters' brands, promotion of their activities, marketing, and the establishment of additional paid services.

From January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, as a legal experiment, the State Youth Theater of Uzbekistan and the Alisher Navoi State Academic Grand Theater of Uzbekistan are granted the right to independently resolve financial, creative, and organizational issues. After all, the fact that theaters have the opportunity for self-financing and economic support serves to improve their management.

Theatre art is an art that develops the spiritual world of a person, shapes their culture, elevates their spirituality, and deepens their consciousness and thinking. Theater art, along with the concepts of spirituality, culture, and enlightenment, as an incomparable art form, helps people achieve spiritual beauty, good deeds, unique feelings, and the realization of goodness in the most beautiful form. Theater is like a mirror. Looking in this mirror depends on the way a person looks. As a result of your views, education and upbringing are also manifested in how you look in this mirror. The reflection of good and bad events in life is

also reflected in theater. Theater is an art that develops the spiritual world of a person, shapes their culture, elevates their spirituality, and deepens their consciousness and thinking. Theater art, along with the concepts of spirituality, culture, and enlightenment, as an incomparable art form, helps people achieve spiritual beauty, good deeds, unique feelings, and the realization of goodness in the most beautiful form.

At all stages of the development of Uzbek theater, one can see the direct influence of socio-cultural processes on stage art. After all, the socio-political, ideological views of each period are reflected in literature and art. From the introduction of European-style professional theatrical art into our country to the present day, we witness the development of stage art in harmony with socio-cultural realities, the fulfillment of certain missions by the government and society, and the promotion of ideas necessary for the thinking of the era and the nation. Regarding the role of socio-cultural processes in theatrical art, the chief director of the Uzbek National Academic Drama Theater, Askar Kholmuminov, expressed the following thoughts: "The role of theater must be high in every society, in every process. If the socio-cultural process is alive, know that theater has a role in it. If not, then the crisis began with the theater. Why is that? The reason is that the theater combines several types of art. The services of composers, composers, singers, and musicians are absorbed into the stage work. There was no theater without artists and poets. The best of these fields are in the theaters where they have been creating. Therefore, their level is also determined by the theater. What about us today? This is a pressing question. Adaptation has begun to the process that is rapidly taking place in our society, not only in society, but also in the whole world. I think only classical works adapt to this intensity, and such works have found their place in the repertoires of our theaters."<sup>4</sup>.

Uzbek Theater of the Independence Period by Professor Nodirbek Sayfullayev "Theatrical Art of Uzbekistan of the New Era"<sup>5</sup> is thoroughly studied in the monograph. In this monograph, the activities of theaters during the years of independence are analyzed in all aspects. In particular, in the work of Nodirbek Sayfullayev, "The new era of theatrical art of Uzbekistan is considered in Uzbek theater studies from the point of view of the transition to a market economy, and the issues of theater management and marketing are studied. In the work of N. Sayfullayev, the expenses for performances staged in theaters and the material interest brought by theaters are indicated in specific figures. It should be especially emphasized that although Uzbek theater operates in an era of exacerbation of market economy relations, it would be appropriate to measure the effectiveness of this field's work by its impact on society's spirituality rather than material ones, since a large part of their expenses is still based on state subsidies and the government provides them not for material benefits, but only for their spiritual impact on the people, especially the younger generation. The role of theater, which spiritually educates and morally purifies people, is invaluable in this regard. Although N. Sayfullayev's research mentions the performances staged during this period, it mainly emphasizes the organizational and creative aspects, socio-cultural features, and gives a general assessment of the process.

Culture and art, in particular, theater, play a special role in the socio-cultural development of our country, its active participation in international integration processes, and finding its place and status in the world community. "Today, every social, political, economic,

<sup>4</sup> Rejissyor Asqar Xolmo'minov bilan suhbat. – 2024-yil, dekabr.

<sup>5</sup> Sayfullayev N. *Yangi davr O'zbekiston teatr san'ati*. – T.: Mumtoz so'z, 2011. 260-b.

and international change and reform is evaluated from the perspective of the question of what it will give to universal culture. Global development does not negate national cultures, but implies their further development, strengthening the world community using opportunities."<sup>6</sup>. In this sense, in today's era of globalization, the preservation, development, and international promotion of all types of national art and their transformation into an integral part of universal culture are of paramount importance.

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