



Interpretation of Historical Figures in the Puppet Theater

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Abstract: In this article, we discuss the works performed in the interpretation of historical figures in puppet theaters of the Republic. The analysis of Komila's play "Jalaluddin Vulture" staged by Khorezm Region Puppet Theater is highlighted. At the same time, in 2021, information was given about the performance "Star of Ulugbek" staged by the team of Samarkand regional puppet theater.

Keywords: Puppet Theater, play, performance, dramaturgy, historical figures, repertoire, work, actor, director, hero, image.

Pahlavon Mahmud (1247-1326) is one of our scholars who left a bright mark in our national history, and his life and work are exemplary for today's youth. The puppet theater team of Khorezm region, founded in 1993, brought Pahlavon Mahmud's art to the puppet theater stage. This performance won a prize at the 4th traditional festival of puppet theaters held in Samarkand in 2000¹. Pahlavon Mahmud's dignified and handsome appearance made a deep impression on the young generation.

During 1999-2000, the puppet theater of Khorezm region dedicated to the 800th anniversary of the great warlord Jalaluddin Manguberdi and staged Komila's play "Jalaluddin vulture". The play was staged for the first time by Sherhat Hayitboev, associate professor of the Art Institute named after Mannon Uyghur (now the State Institute of Art and Culture of Uzbekistan). At that time, Yusufboy Yusupov, Rohila Matniyozova, Umid Dosov, Davron Otakhanov, Davron Ismailov, Nukuljon Rahimova, Dilshod Jumaniozov performed the main roles in the play². He came to the play "Jalaluddin Manguberdi" with his thinking and skills polished. In the former Soviet era, such heroes were often portrayed in national dramaturgy and theaters under the conditions that "Soviet historical dramaturgy sought to depict various stages of the struggle for people's freedom³." In the repertoires of the Soviet era in Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Tatar, Kazakh, Turkmen, and Tajik theaters, many of the works devoted to the past depict and interpret army chiefs, khans, and leaders of the El-ulus as defenders of the Motherland and leaders of the struggle. This tradition continued during the years of independence. For several years, historical works have been played on the stages of the puppet theaters of the Republic. If a theater succeeds in this field, other theater creators learn from them. In particular, the traditional viewing festivals of the republican puppet theaters, which are held every two years, allow puppet theater creators to exchange experience and get to know each other's creative works.

The main idea of the play is the struggle of Jaloliddin Manguberdi (artist Diyor Kurbanov) against Chingikhon (artist Pirnazar Imomnazarov) and the fact that the internal conflicts of that time caused the collapse of the Khorezm kingdom to some extent (darvish artist Suhrob Siddikov) is reflected in the play.

¹ Баяндиёв Т., Ўринов, Ижодий камолот сари // Театр журнали. 2002 йил 4-сон. – Б. 15.

² Премьера, премьера, премьера // Театр журнали, 2000 йил 1-сон. – Б. 43.

³ Головауенко Ю. Героика гражданской войны в советской драматургии // «Советский писатель». Л., 1957. – С. 14.

Also, the great patriotism of the great commander towards the Motherland gradually develops during the play.

- This is my first time working on stage with a master director, - says the young actor Shahzod Zoirov, - The process of preparing a new play is a skill lesson not only for me, but for all of us. We learned a lot from the teacher about acting skills, plasticity and stage speech. In this performance, I play the role of Genghis Khan's messenger. Although my role was small, I had a hard time revealing it at first. As a result of the director's instructions, working with me again and again without melting, I fell in love with my character and I am trying to fully reveal the character of my character to the audience.

In fact, during the rehearsal, the talented director Sh.Yusupov repeatedly reminds the actors of the need to reveal the meaning of each word, to develop an inner experience - a task, and deliver it to the audience. Maybe that's his experience and skills.

Thanks to the efforts of the artist Zavkidin Yodgorov, the content of the play was enriched. The moving scenery ensured that it fit the spirit of the time. Bekhzod Rahmanov chose the music based on Scandinavian, Kyrgyz, and Mongolian folk tunes.

Khorazmshah (artist Pirnazar Imomnazarov), Malika (artist Layla Jumaeva), Khayriddin (artist Fatima Habibova), Jaloliddin's messenger (artist Marat Fayziev). It can be seen that the actors worked hard on the characters of Jen Chen Ten (artist Doston Azimov) and Killer (Bekhriz Muhidov).

The play "Jalaluddin Manguberdi" has taken a firm place in the theater repertoire and has become a favorite stage work of young audiences, parents, and teachers. Inspired by this, the Bukhara regional puppet theater team staged the play "Jalaluddin Manguberdi" written by Tora Mirzo for the first time⁴. The work was staged by Shomurod Yusupov, an honored artist in Uzbekistan, using the synthesis direction suitable for the art of puppet theater. In 2022, the team of the Namangan regional puppet theater also tackled the theme of Jalaluddin Manguberdi.

In 2021, the team of the Samarkand regional puppet theater performed the performance "Star of Ulugbek" to the audience. This performance was brought to the attention of young audiences on the occasion of the birthday of our grandfather Mirzo Ulugbek on March 22. From the point of view of historical truth, it is known that almost every action of the image of Mirzo Ulugbek was confirmed by real reality in history. This feature gives historicity not only to the character of the main character, but also to the entire tragedy. In order to adequately describe Mirzo Ulugbek's contribution to world science, it is important to understand his works.

Sometimes, along with the playwright and the director, the actor must realize the importance of this scientific discovery. Only then can he convey to the audience the image of the great figure he is creating. This is considered a complex issue in puppetry. Therefore, the creation of performances dedicated to historical figures has been for several years. During the Soviet era, the figure of Mirzo Ulugbek was depicted more in the form of a tragedy, that is, he was killed by his own son. Since this image process is more preserved in theaters, the team of Samarkand regional puppet theater abandoned this tradition and switched to the tradition of sufficiently revealing Mirzo Ulugbek's scientific discoveries to the younger generation.

On May 15, 2023, the play "Jewel Doctor" staged by the young director Ravshan Rasulov at the Bukhara Regional Puppet Theater was handed over to the members of the artistic council assigned by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This work, written by Munajat Ergasheva, shows the events that clearly show the great works of one of our great ancestors, Abu Ali ibn Sina, who contributed to the science of childhood and medicine. The expert who visited the presentation suggested that some minor defects of the play should be changed, and after these defects were eliminated, it was allowed to be shown to the audience.

⁴ Гулчехра Бону. Жалолитдин Мангуберди пьесаси Бухорода / Театр журналы 2018/3. – Б. 4.

So, historical reality and interpretations of historical figures have been and are being performed on the stage of the puppet theater. In this process, the principle of historicity forces a lot of work, creative thinking, and the creation of historical compositions. Until now, interpretations of historical figures such as Shiroq, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Jalaluddin Manguberdi, Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek have been traditionally presented in the puppet theater. However, we hope that it will be one of the goals of these theater groups to create new interpretations of historical realities and historical figures.

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