

Studying Cultural Traditions of Russian Country Estates as an Important Factor in Artistic and Aesthetic Education of Students of an Artistic Vocational Education Institution

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ABSTRACT

The article focuses on some aspects of artistic and aesthetic education of students of an artistic vocational education institution (choreography school) associated with studying the Russian estate culture and traditions of Russian country estates, and organizing traditional balls, literary and musical salons. The authors describe the experience of organising an interactive, theatrical reconstruction of a Russian ball at the Gorki Leninskiye reserve museum. The ball contributes to the goal of the Gorki Leninskiye museum modernization, which is to develop a multifunctional museum and park ensemble and culture centre and introduce interactive forms of educational and outreach activity.

Keywords: *Russian country estate, Ball traditions, Gorki Leninskiye reserve museum, Artistic and aesthetic education of students, Choreography school, Interactive forms, Educational and outreach activities.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Cultural education is an important aspect of educating modern youth. The development of a cultural mindset is essential, as it forms the basis for young people's socialization and education. What is meant is that past is retranslated to the following generations through historical memory, is imprinted on the mind and is manifested in modern social interactions and communication. Accumulation and retranslation of cultural heritage define the socio-cultural potential of a society. In this respect, taking into account the dialectic between past, present and future, we consider it necessary to strengthen research into the sphere of concepts of cultural heritage.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL MEMORY

According to the federal state educational standards of Russia (for general secondary education, vocational education), cultural heritage is a basis for the development of historical memory, socio-cultural and civic identity of young people. Cultural heritage is comprehended through images, with the help of verbal and non-verbal texts of culture that have their own axiological meaning. This contributes to young people's awareness of their belonging to a socio-cultural community and allows unlocking their emotional potential.

As stated in the federal law On Education in the Russian Federation, "education is a single dedicated process of education and training, which is a socially significant benefit and is performed in the interest of a person, family, society and the state".

Education as a part of the educational process implies “activities aimed at personality development, creation of conditions for self-identification and socialization based on the socio-cultural, spiritual and moral values, rules, and standards of behaviour accepted in the Russian society”. [1]

The role of cultural heritage in the life of modern Russian society was emphasized by Russian President Vladimir Putin in his speech at the meeting of the Council for Culture and Arts on December 21, 2017. “It is an undeniable fact that competent, careful use of cultural heritage and its preservation are a key factor in the development of the state and its strengthening” [2].

3. CREATIVE PROJECTS OF THE MOSCOW PEDAGOGICAL STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE MOSCOW CHOREOGRAPHY SCHOOL AT THE GZHEL DANCE THEATRE

All the issues mentioned above are highly relevant to us, as they are directly related to the joint creative work performed by the Moscow State Pedagogical University and the Moscow Choreography School at the Gzhel Dance Theater, within the theatrical project in cooperation with the Gorki Leninskiye State Historical Reserve Museum. At the Moscow Pedagogical State University, there is the New Dialogue student theatre which brings together students from different faculties and has been working fruitfully for several years. The Moscow Choreography School is represented by the faculties of classical dance and folk dance. The Gorki Leninskiye reserve museum is of particular interest to us because it is a unique multifunctional historical, cultural, educational and recreational complex. It is centred around the architecture and park ensemble of the Russian estate of the 19th - early 20th centuries which has preserved the original collection of arts and crafts, sculpture, and painting.

“The Gorki Leninskiye reserve museum, which encompasses the real history of different eras, from Finno-Ugric tribes to the period of perestroika, serves a valuable function of preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Russia and fostering a sense of respect for the history and culture of the country in its people.” [3]

4. A RUSSIAN BALL AT THE COUNTRY ESTATE

Following the primary goal of the Gorki Leninskiye museum modernization, which is to develop the multifunctional museum and park ensemble and culture and education centre, it has been suggested to develop and introduce an interactive (theatrical) form of educational and outreach activity, a Russian ball at the estate.

In modern conditions, it is essential to promote national social and cultural traditions in classical and folk dance. The issue of the historical and cultural traditions of balls at Russian country estates has been researched from different perspectives but has not been a subject of a comprehensive analysis in the context of studying the socio-cultural space of a Russian country estate in connection with the aesthetic and spiritual development of students.

It is gratifying to see that modern society is becoming increasingly interested in the revival of Russian traditions and has an attitude of care towards cultural heritage that has survived difficult times but has not lost its spiritual significance today. Performing a historical reconstruction of a Russian ball at a country estate allows choreography students to understand the interconnection of the traditions of Russian classical ballet and folk dance within the context of the Russian estate culture, since, in the process of reconstruction, both of these types of choreographic art are adapted to ballroom dancing. In addition, the project includes studying decorative and applied art as an important aspect of comprehending the Russian estate culture and Russian balls at country estates (e.g. interior, costumes, hairstyles, make-up, etc.)

Being a unique monument of the Russian estate culture, with its landscapes, objects of cultural and natural heritage, Gorki is a perfect museum and park space to house a chamber thematic event of a traditional ball that can recreate the atmosphere of a “living” manor house.

For the purpose of the project, the educational opportunities and facilities of the Moscow Choreography School are made use of. Students study in detail historical and duet dances, both in classical ballet variations and in concert items performed by students in front of different audiences. Additionally, the school has costume rooms with period-appropriate costumes (e.g. the costumes of the second half of the 19th century). Our students focus on the basics of makeup and

style, fashion history, world art culture, and history of theatre, choreography, music, and literature. In other words, we rely on the capacity of the curriculum, which in turn offers prospects for the implementation of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary links. When studying Russian literature, we turn to Leo Tolstoy's epic novel *War and Peace*, the ball scene, Natasha Rostova and Andrei Bolkonsky's dance. For better visualization, the same scene from a feature film by Sergei Bondarchuk is worth watching. A teacher of acting will definitely help students "feel" the epoch, the atmosphere of a Russian estate, where everything and everybody is ready for the ball.

Students of the Moscow Pedagogical State University (Faculty of Philology) belonging to the New Dialogue student theatre prepare old romances that were often performed in the literary and musical salons in capitals and the province. We also invite the academic choir of the Moscow Pedagogical State University with its excellent vocalists and musicians performing classical works on the piano and guitar.

In addition to joint activities within the Gorki culture, leisure and education centre, within the work of creative laboratory for museum education, the reserve museum can raise extrabudgetary resources for holding graduation parties (in May-June). All this can make a significant contribution to providing a better cultural environment and conditions for creative self-expression and leisure of the population. It is important to highlight that these objectives are set by the national project Culture (federal projects Creative People and Cultural Environment). [4]

There appears an opportunity to participate in the development and introduction of new museum and education programs integrated with the curriculum of general secondary education.

Another form of participation of the Moscow Choreography School and the Moscow Pedagogical State University students is the project about literary and musical salons at Gorki. Artists of the New Dialogue student theatre at the Moscow Pedagogical State University recite poems by Russian poets of the Golden and Silver Age, students of the Faculty of Music perform old romances, and the Moscow Choreography School students dance in the chamberlike setting of the interiors of the Grand Living Room of the Big House, often called the interior garden, which brings a unique charm to the salon. What will undoubtedly attract the guests' attention is an

ancient musical instrument, a unique Crown piano. It is a museum exhibit, and playing it is not allowed, however, it is possible to use recorded piano music to recreate a special atmosphere of the interior garden.

According to B.V. Vlasov, Deputy Director for scientific work of the reserve museum, "a museum exhibit... there is a certain mystery in these words, the expectation that the past is ready to establish a connection with us and tell us about something long gone. Something mysteriously touching the thin strings of our souls. Sometimes a little miracle happens: we look at some "thing with history" and it "uncovers itself". It is particularly interesting when through a historical artefact, we get an opportunity to tell more about the people who made or used it, their life, aspirations, hopes and interests". [5]

5. CONCLUSION

The Gorki museum-estate is a semantic centre and a key object of the Gorki Leninskiye reserve museum. It is rightfully considered one of the most interesting monuments of the Russian estate culture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, both in terms of the beauty of its location, the degree of preservation and the wealth of the concept. [6] The uniqueness of Gorki is that it has almost completely retained its original appearance. The Development Roadmap of Gorki Leninskiye until 2025, produced by museum workers and specialists from the Likhachev Russian Research Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage and adopted in 2019, outlines the basic principles of the museum activity in the most important museum areas: scientific funds, research, culture and education, and provides guidelines for our design activities. We are confident that the joint creative work of the Moscow Choreography School, the Moscow Pedagogical State University and the museum workers will yield results and will contribute to promoting socio-cultural traditions in classical choreography, develop students' knowledge about these traditions and foster respect and love for national culture.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Victoria Bezrukova focused on the activity of the Moscow Choreographic School, educational aspects of working with students, and projects aimed at realizing the potential of artistic and aesthetic education of students.

Lyudmila Mikheyeva discussed the implementation of projects (Russian ball at the country estate, literary and musical salons) in the Gorki Leninskiye reserve museum.

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