

Thesis Advisor's assessment

Directing for Devised Theatre

From practice, to theory, to practice again

Evangelos Lalos

The Theses *Directing for Devising Theatre* is conceived not as a handbook summarising first and second hand knowledge on Directing in this specific kind of theatre but rather a self-reflecting narrative covering the most important professional milestones experienced by its author.

As is very much the case in reflecting the personal experience the theses covers autobiographic traits starting from the very initial childhood encounters with the phenomenon called theatre to practical amateur and semi-professional productions, study experiences and back to professional directorial practice.

No doubt Evangelos Lalos is an interesting authorial actor with specific sense of humour that works very well in both individual and collective performances, but his main focus, the one he brought to his studies is the directorial perspective. Therefore I consider his theme well chosen and offering interesting connections between KATaP studies and his prospective professional theatre path.

Evangelos however does not depend on self-reflection only, it is evident that he knows his capacities that have published on devising theatre and is well read in this respect. The second Chapter in his thesis is well written summary of what devised theatre is, what is its short history, how it is done and what is the role of director in this specific field.

Third Chapter covers his substantial experience with amateur/semi-professional theatre in Denmark, his struggles, achievements and frustrations. Portrayal of this period reads as a compact picture that is not just an artistic but a life period, closed in its development and at the same time offering core of future development.

This development is inconceivable without the period of studies, which form the fourth chapter of the thesis, covering KATaP Studies, internship in Cyprus National Theatre and stay in RESAD, which again opened the path to self-confident professional directorial practice. This process Evangelos convincingly depicts in the fifth chapter.

I really appreciated the collaboration with Evangelos, as he delivered the chapters quite finished, I had little to suggest or comment on. It was consistent in style and so I suggested only minor amendments and elaborations.

I consider the thesis as a very compact and authentic testimony of Evangelos' development, his path in the theatre and I fully recommend the thesis to defence process.

In Prague, 13th September, 2018

doc. Jan Hančil