

OLEKSANDR IRVANETS: STAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “THINKING NATION” IDEAS*

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Native prose is gradually replenished with circle of outstanding writers who not only demonstrate the wealth of creative thought, but also directly or indirectly touch acute socio-political issues. In the condition of crisis of Ukrainian national identity, art (visual, musical, artistic) should encourage people to unity, appeal to universal ideals, the authority of individual virtues. In this context, we cannot ignore work of Lviv lyricist, satirist, poet, translator, honorary representative of Ukrainian elite Oleksandr Irvanets. His work "Three plus two" reveals author in the perspective of talented playwright, although he is known in Ukraine, to a greater extent, as poet. The stage embodiment of at least two of five plays included in mini-collection has already seen eyes of theaters. In remarks, the author turns not to the reader, but to future (potential) producers and directors, but to the ancient times when directors corresponded to dramaturgs (Oleksandr Irvanets Three plus two, p. 162).

As a rule, stage performances based on Irvanets can be attended outside country in amateur studios of directors, but there they take place with unprecedented success. The main independent work, which is actually trademark of the collection, is "Small play about betrayal of one actress". Small in volume, the work leaves quite ambivalent sensations with recipient. Inside image is endless maze of duplicity of the main character Ona. In the certain part of the work, we see in her the victim of historical rearrangements, not detailed by the author. This technique is used for universality of the work to convey to the reader: the world in the 21st century is civilized from the standpoint of culture, art, rules of behavior, but it remained barbaric in its feelings, desires, methods of achieving goals. Anyone can fall under the locomotive of preoccupied crowd under any conditions, an example of this is the modern protests in Belarus, Kazakhstan, war in the Eastern part of Eurasia and in fact what is happening now in Ukraine.

Correspondingly, the description of unfortunate events evokes emotion of compassion, empathy, hope for Ona's further healing. The excitement is enhanced by monologues voiced by the girl, because in them we see cynicism of other people and at the same time - strength of the heroine's character. Certain colour is formed by vocabulary, which is operated by the author. There are many pointing pronouns (this one, that one, there that), from time to time there are deminutives. Irvanets is dominated by short syntactic constructions, much information is presented fragmentally, but with complete opinion. Ukrainian spirit is reflected in the description of village house, appeal to folk art: "Approaches to the table, clicks on the start of the tape recorder. The folk song "The pine is burning, all aglow" is heard (Oleksandr Irvanets Three plus two, p. 13). In "Small play about betrayal of one actress" pathos of any total change is discovered, transitional period that requires on the one hand - reasonable and balanced decisions from hostages of circumstance, and on the other - inability to find the golden mean between optimal reality and cold pragmatism.

Completely different range of emotions causes the play "Recording" in the readers. This is classical example of anti-utopia with gleam of kings of this genre, namely George Orwell, Aldous Huxley, Yevhen Zamiatin, Herbert Wells. Recreating political structure of fictional state or society, dystopia resorts to "shift" poetics, focusing on fiction. There are all classic "attributes," which are hallmark of literary utopia: All-planet Computer, Big Computer, World War Four, transcontinental hypersonic liner, Single Voter, etc. Constantly does not leave the feeling of architectural ranking, which is transmitted by the following sentences: "Suddenly for me, the elevator did not go up, but down, to another secret, unknown floor, 38-A, as it turned out. Although there may have been 38-B and 49-Yu, how do I know? After all, it is not interesting." (Oleksandr Irvanets Three

plus two, p. 32). In the general colour palette grey is dominating, which is quite symbolic. Ceiling of the Electoral Hall is painted in grey, the "metal voices" of the announcers are captured, the elevator has silver doors, police officers are dressed in grey uniform, even teeth of stewardesses were pink and grey. Oleksandr Vasyliovych selects for the play two-act form of person's confession from totalitarian, bipolar world. His fate is attempt to participate directly in absurd Electoral Action, "leading to death of human civilization, and loneliness and life in the bunker - stimulates attempts to film their own history. In general, anti-utopia is unique phenomenon in literature. Its uniqueness is due to the number of factors: first, genre specifics itself, which is at the junction of literature, sociology and philosophy; secondly, variety of opinions that exist about this phenomenon. In fact, practicing in this genre, Irvanets makes challenge for himself, preparing in advance for ambiguous reaction of reader. Author experiments and manages to form positive impression of himself as innovative playwright. Such leitmotifs resonate with "Live Broadcast," dedicated to the memory of the director Andrii Kritenko.

In the production of the latter, modern works of modern writers prevailed (including L. Podervianskyi, Yu, Andrukhovuch, R.Bayer). In due time, he also staged performances by O. Irvanets: "Small play about betrayal" (1995), "Liars" (2001). Kritenko radically changed the approach to understanding theatrical art, based on usual and acceptable: in his plays you could find obscene vocabulary with inclusions of pidgin, oversaturation of witty satire, compositional accompaniment from among modern pop music, lack of clear regulations. Despite the fact that Irvanets creativity "did not sin" by such things, artists were close to each other, their thoughts were organically embodied in creative workshops. Actions of "Live Broadcast" unfold around multiplandism - unfavorable phenomenon invented by

author, with which the majority of population is "sick". It should be noted that this is not the first "innovation" of Irvanets in terms of creating individual nouns of author (he also owns the token Babaika and Mamaika, Chornenia, Khrobachenia, Molvisty, Meps, Tryck, Targanivochka). Negative attitudes are indicated by associative series, to which the presenter includes multiplandism: "Following drug addiction, prostitution, inflation, and interference, it turned out that it is also inherent in our society, although this has remained silent for a long time" (Oleksandr Irvanets Three plus two, p. 42), "destructive and voluntary content" is also assigned to him (Oleksandr Irvanets Three plus two, p. 51).

Interpretation of this concept until end of the play author keeps secret. As part of talk show, to which pseudo-experts are invited and they try to find out causes of its occurrence, mood of population, the degree of prevalence, but despite appointment of the meeting, each of participants, is taking the opportunity, and lobbies his own interests. Sakharova O.V. aptly notes, characterizing vocabulary used in the television studio: "Template (etiquette) genres that reproduce the hosts belong to professional ritual language, include greetings, temporal markers and intriguing component that draws attention to particular broadcast. The text is filled with all familiar sentences from television: "Good evening, dear to our audience," "Today our broadcast is special," "I must immediately say that I will say what I think." Multiplandism can actually be subject to any modern phenomenon, in which there are ambivalent moods of population, to device, attitudes to sexual minorities, political events, vaccination. In this story, author describes typical perception of new by our society: from media participation to the state regulation. Decisive actions of the Government focused on the fight against Multiplandism are limited to typical practice - creation of the special control and regulatory body of the

Bureau of the Emergency Committee. Amorphous name, in which there is no identification of the intended purpose of the state institution, indicates the current problem in the political arena - increase in the number of inefficient and meaningless public administration and administration bodies, formation of which is the result of imitation of active activity of the authorities. Moreover, the appeal to participate in the discussion of the Head of the educational department of the General Staff of epy Admiral General Momotko looks funny and cartoonish. The opponent of the Committee is member of the Underground Headquarters of Multiplandism with appeals from supporters not to panic and defend their rights and interests. If Irvanets was on the same level with other playwrights and was limited by the general criticism of social constructivism, his work would not look so impressive, respectively, would not cause proper pleiad of emotions from reader. That is why, by distance, author defends his audience and, through the prism of small story, broadcasts virtually all the absurdity of the modern world, to the greater extent, leveling essential purpose of institution of the state.

"Night territory" and "Once upon a time in America", in our opinion, are quite "trendy" works focused on the modern reader, so to speak on the verge of "eternal to comic." In the first case, it is search for oneself and existential reflection, in the next case - commercialization of human values through prism of comic and sarcastic. We can not disagree with position of Kotsarev O., who notes that calling this comedy life-affirming and sunny would be significant exaggeration (Kotsarev, 2021).

"Night territory" from the very beginning adjusts to dynamic note, forms the idea of adventure story, thereby slightly keeping reader in tension. In the play and more actors, at the same time, they all actively join the polylogue. A common problem unites the heroes: the

bus they crossed across Ukrainian-Polish border went to another country without heroes. Each of the involved persons loses their benefit: batch of vodka-tobacco products remains in the vehicle; Professor has risk of being late for an important scientific conference; the purchase of cars does not get the planned income and as a result - do not buy dream Ferrari. Based on the interest of each person - unfolds a short story from the history of their lives; subjective views on certain events, acute socio-political issues are broadcast: from education of children to corruption of public authorities.

At the same time, "Night Territory" can be positioned to some extent as appeal to phantasmagoria, embodiment of which occurs due to the presence, and then the mysterious disappearance of the professor. The work is part of series of plays devoted to "continuing Ukrainian independence," respectively, the playwright touches the most acute problematic issues, the center of which is search for connected link in national unity and identity. Moral and patriotic choice, own interests and observance of "letter of the Law" - heroes are constantly on the verge where it is difficult to distinguish with prejudice what is good and what is not. This is reinforced by the location chosen by Irvanets, where the events of the play unfold.

We see a certain symbolism in the names that the writer chooses for customs officers: Andrii - from the side of Ukraine and Andrzej - Polish version of the name Andrii. Oleksandr Irvanets equals characters, and therefore points to the equality of countries whose borders they protect. The individuality of Andriy and Andrzej customs officers is manifested only in personal qualities, thereby broadcasting Polish restraint and conservatism and Ukrainian "broad soul" and adventurism. Despite fact that author reveals the problems of modern society, he still remains patriot of Ukraine, calls to live on the principle of "where he was born - there he was useful." Once again it is confirmed

that presence of relatives abroad, low level of material well-being and migration experience of relatives and acquaintances lead to strengthening of migration moods among Ukrainians. Important factors of migration are need for professional self-realization, desire for the large incomes, unemployment. Locks out the cycle of plays from the collection "Three plus two" work "Once Upon a Time in America", which is logical sequel to the previous drama, but events unfold in other circumstances. In the first action, Oleksandr Irvanets demonstrates pathos of the funeral of deceased, who has little in common with the custom of decent farewell. Dialogues are far from nostalgic, each of present arrived at the funeral with their own, as a rule, mercantile goals. Roksolana's wedding with cat is absurd

situation, showing quite real consequences, to which the thirst for financial gain leads.

From this it turns out that Irvanets is ruthless in his irony, and his main power as a playwright is reduced to masterful broadcast of skepticism and uncompromising grotesque. The author is fundamental, this is clearly evident in each of the works, thereby tracing the subjective attitude to events (cases), which are actually challenges (sometimes quite realistic) for the modern person, the basis for further reflection. In other words, the value of Oleksandr Vasyliovych's drama lies in the multidimensionality of forms and ways of incenzation of his author's plays, multilayers of thoughts transmitted, including through the iconic system, and versatility and synthetics - certainly one of the strongest sides of pen of Ukrainian writer.

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