

**КУЛЬТУРОЛОГІЧНІ РОЗВІДКИ**

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**INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AS AN INSTRUMENT  
OF NATIONAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION APPROVAL  
(BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE KYIV MUNICIPAL ACADEMY OF CIRCUS AND  
PERFORMING ARTS)**

**Abstract.** The article summarizes the experience of the educational institution of the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts (КМАЦПА) in a context of intercultural dialogue in the education and training of specialists in the sphere of performing and circus arts of Ukraine in conditions of Russian military aggression 2022. Based on scientific research of the theoretical and historical activity of Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts, modern scientists in the field of studying the phenomenon of

dialogue as a meaning of personality formation and intercultural dialogue in the national self-identification of students as future ideological specialists-culturalists. The authors show the ways of real cooperation of the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts with the leading art and cultural institutions among Europe and the world in organizing a joint intercultural educational process and holding art performances on the territory of European countries, as an example of intercultural dialogue of different national communities. The conducted scientific research and practical generalization of the experience of the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts in the context of intercultural dialogue in the professional training of a modern specialist in the sphere of performing entertainment showed its relevance, importance and effectiveness as an instrument of communication with leading world artists, cultural and educational institutions from all over the world. As a result of establishing branches in different countries the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts provided a big support and the opportunity to carry out the educational process for its students and employees at the time of the start of military aggression against Ukraine. In return students with their supervisors gave powerful feedback with concerts, shows, presentations and performing activities that not only popularized the Academy in a positive way but also Ukraine in general.

**Key words:** dialogue, intercultural dialogue, national self-identification, performing art, circus art, educational process in the extraordinary conditions of Russian aggression 2022.

**Introduction.** Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Performing Arts was founded in 1961. It is a unique place for getting a higher education with a bachelor and master degree. The Academy prepares specialists of international level in

different areas – singing, dancing, acting, producing and of course – circus arts (juggling, clowning, gymnastic, acrobatic, equilibristic, pantomime, illusion and manipulation). For 60 years of work, it had many former students who now work in leading circuses, theaters, global pop shows of the planet, many of them have become celebrities of European and Ukrainian show business.

There are many former students of our Academy who became famous singers, we are very proud of them, they are: Svitlana Loboda, Max Barskih, Vitaliy Kozlovskiy, Natalia Mogulevska, Svitlana Tarabarova, Mykola Mozgovyi, Kamalia, Mika Nyuton, Alina Pash, Group “Alibi”, Alina Grosu, Vasya Demchuk and many others. Circus arts: International festival of circus arts in Monte Carlo (Monaco): Golden clown – Anatoliy Zalevskyi, Silver clown – Oleksandr & Viacheslav Iroshnikov, Viktor Kee, Victoria Dzuba, Evhen Pahalovych, Max Golovchenko, Vladyslav Gapanovych. International festival of circus arts “Circus of the Future” (Paris, France): Golden medal – Yuriy Shavro, Diana Oleshenko, Ruslan Fomenko, Anatoliy Zalevskyi, Oleksandr & Viacheslav Iroshnikov, Dmytro Bulkin, Sergiy Timofeev, Oleksandr Koblikov. Contemporary dancing: Winners of World Dance Championship: Karina Zueva, Violetta Nguen (became champion of Ukraine 12 times). Ukrainian competition TV show “DANCE”: Kateryna Barvynska, Olena Goloval, Anastasia Lebedeva, Oleksandr Leshenko, Maryna Mazepa, Evgeniy Kot. Ukrainian competition TV show “DANCING FOR YOU”: Anriy Matviyenko.

Nowadays Academy is located in a historical building in the city center: Kyiv, 88, Zhylyanska Street, Ukraine. It also has a separate training base for circus artists.

Summarizing the experience of KMACPA cooperation with cultural and artistic institutions of Kyiv, Ukraine and Europe (Monte-Carlo, Budapest), Australia as well as the organization of a joint educational process with the institutions

of Prague, Marseille, Berlin, Verona, in forced, difficult historical conditions of 2022, inspired us to examine the study of the intercultural dialogue phenomenon as a meaning of national self-identification of students' personality in the proposed scientific research.

**Problem statement.** We consider intercultural dialogue as an active meaning of improving the qualifications of our former students, who in the process of exchanging artistic experience with audiences and famous artists around Europe and the world, affirm the cultural self-sufficiency of our country as a carrier of progress, peace, beauty and hope for effective international collaboration.

Studying dialogue as a scientific problem, we turn to works that allow us to develop an existential-dichotomous (dialogized) approach to the study of culture (R. Barthes, G. Gadamer, P. Ricker, V. Romanets, U. Eko, O. Samoilenko, others), a noological approach to identifying the image of a person in the context of the semantics of culture (V. Frankl, E. Fromm, M. Heidegger, J. Huizinga), the function of mass media in the social and communicative network of modern Ukraine (A. Skoryk). A certain historical period is ascertained by each culture in its own way. It is during the formation of statehood that national forms of thinking, syncretism of common human and national traits, achievement of national art at the world level, expansion of the entry of national art into common human culture, spiritual unity with it while preserving national forms of common human ideas are stabilized.

We understand the existential dimensions of the human figure as its location in the immediate vicinity in the modern cultural and historical environment for it, in the reality and dynamics of life. Approaches to dialogue as a value-meaning phenomenon are used by representatives of cognitive psychology of the Kyiv school of V. Romanets. The concept of dialogue allows you to use existential approaches at all dialogic

levels, to learn how a person learns about the content of his consciousness, finds ways to adequately assess not only the external, but also the internal features of his life, the value limits of human existence, his self.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The famous Ukrainian musicologist O. Samoilenko singles out the main features of the dialogic approach and the dialogic form of communication: the dual attitude of a person to himself and his own consciousness, which requires the presence of the Other in order to be able to look at oneself through the eyes of the Other, enter into a dialogue with him [6]. The basis of intercultural dialogue is the dialogue between culture and life, the interaction of cultures, when it is culture that becomes the subject of dialogue. The concept of “national style” is defined by us as a complete system of artistic thinking in the interaction of general cultural norms of artistic creativity and special ways and methods of implementing these norms in the national continuum. The typology of common human ideas and problems allows, through a comparative study of national cultures, to reveal their individual deviations from the reference paths of cultural semantics, which correspond to national forms of thinking. Agreeing with the definition of the type of culture, the concept of style and the means of its formation within the framework of a holistic culture contributes to the gradual consideration of the evolution of cultures, the determination of their national features, in particular, cultural self-identification in various types of arts – in our study of performing and circus.

**Purpose of the article.** Summarizing the experience of using intercultural dialogue in the formation of professionalism and artistic skills of the students of КМАСРР, we turn to the analysis of scientific works and historical researches of scientists of the Academy: V. Kornienko, A. Paliichuk [10], O. Pozharska [4], Yu. Romanenkova [5; 10], O. Yakovlev [11], others who were published at the academic scientific publication “Art-

Platforme” describe the activities of the specified educational institution as a world center for the development of performing art on a national basis in the direction of cultural self-identification of Ukraine. We believe that this aspect is very relevant in the conditions of Russian aggression in Ukraine in 2022.

**Presentation of the main research material.** During severe difficult circumstances of Russian aggression, starting from February 2022, the rector and staff of the Academy realized that for an indefinite period of time our students will remain without theoretical and practical classes, a training base and practice. That is why, already on February 25, 2022, the Academy sent an official letter to the “Global Alliance of Circus Schools” with a request to help provide our students a shelter and an opportunity to study and continue training. In further communication regarding the help to the Academy, we are extremely grateful to Jasmin Straga, a member of the board of directors of the Federation Mondiale du Circus and the head of the committee of the Global Alliance of Circus Schools. Thanks to the activity of the mentioned Federation, students of our Academy were accepted in the corresponding educational institutions around Europe and over the world: Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Italy, France and Australia.

The first location became “Cirk La Putyka” in Prague, Czech Republic. On February 28, 2022, we signed the agreement of cooperation and the first students starting to arrive. In general, at the location there are 30 students who are studying the genre “circus arts”. It is important to admit that Cirk La Putyka in Prague became the first international branch of the Academy. The coordinators of this location became Nina Araya Berrios – first deputy rector of KMACPA and Iryna Pitsur – teacher of KMACPA, area of expertise: hula hoop and balancing act.

The partners from Prague provided students with free accommodation, meals, a place for training, help with paperwork, and medical insurance. Upon arrival, all students were bought new props and uniforms for continuing classes, as they had left theirs in Ukraine. During the month of practicing, the students repeatedly demonstrated their professional skill. The director of Cirk La Putyka Rosta Novar created a show and named it “BOOM” the idea was that Ukrainian and Czech artists from the group named “young blood” will give the performance (photo 1, 2).



*Photo 1*

After that, students participated in another show named “Roads” that was held from April 25 to May 15, 2022. It was important that the show “Roads” visited the Ambassador of Ukraine in Czech Republic Yevhen Perebiynis (photo 3). The last big event was August 1 to 31, students of the Academy toured the show “Boom” to the city of Edinburgh, Scotland. During the month they were performing and getting new professional experience.



While being in Prague, the administration of the Academy managed to open another location for 5 students who are studying acting. They were studying at one of the most prestigious European institutions of higher education in the sphere of performing arts “Academy of Performing Arts in



*Photo 2*

Prague” (HAMU). After successfully graduation, the mentioned students received certificates from HAMU and diplomas from the Kyiv Academy (photo 4).





*Photo 3*

The second location was opened in Budapest, Hungary. Kyiv Academy received an official letter of support from our partner and friend Mr. Peter Fekete – director of the Capital Circus of Budapest and offered 100 seats for our students and teachers. Our institutions signed an agreement and the process of evacuation started. In general, from Kyiv Circus Academy to Budapest arrived 30 of our students with 2 coordinators – Gulnara Savenko, director of the college, Honored Worker of Culture of Ukraine, Honored Worker of Culture of the Crimea and Tetiana Kuznetsova, senior teacher of the department of circus technologies, flexibility of movements (circus genres), productions of graduation acts. This location was supported by such partners: Capital Circus of Budapest, Ministry of Culture, the Budapest Academy of Contemporary Dance – they offered

to our students and supervisors, free accommodations, meals, training facilities and additional studding programs.



*Photo 4*

As a result, 30 students came from the Kyiv Academy to Budapest. Why did 30 students leave the Academy, and not 100? Because when the evacuation of people from “hot spots” started, for instance from such cities as Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kyiv people were relocating to Lviv. At the beginning of march at the Lviv State Circus Oleksandr Yakovlev, rector of the Kyiv Circus Academy, and Nina Araya Berrios, the first vice-rector, personally met students and teachers from Kharkiv who left their city due to the war and had nowhere to go, their city was destroyed, there is bombing every day and night and it is impossible to resume training. That is why Kharkiv students and teachers of circus studies were given 70 places that were intended for the Kyiv Academy. Many applicants from Kharkiv entering KMACPA every year, many of them are becoming our



students in the future, that is why it was important for us not to lose the future young generation of artists.



*Photo 5*

The branch in Budapest provided us with the biggest help: because of the spontaneous collaboration between young Kharkiv and more experienced Kyiv students, was created a show, which was presented in Monaco, Monte Carlo, in the Princess Grace Hall. The show was officially opened by Princess Stefania personally. Our students gave three performances from April 14-16, 2022 in support of Ukraine (photo 5).

Among other rewards, the students and teachers of the Academy from April, 1 – June, 30 participated in the mobility program “Erasmus” in cooperation with “Budapest Contemporary Dance Academy” and got certificates about successful ending of educational courses.

In May 2022, a branch from Budapest headed by Gulnara Savenko arrived to Prague (Czech Republic) to take part in the

international charity evening “Stojime za UKRAJINOU”, which was organized by “TV NOVA”. The purpose of the event: to draw the attention of the international media to the war in Ukraine and to raise funds for war victims. The act of our students represented Ukraine (photo 6).



*Photo 6*

June 15, 2022, the charity gala evening “Children of Hope” was held at the National Theater in Budapest. Students of our Academy, together with pupils of the Kharkiv circus school “Old circus”, showed a powerful synthesis of circus art, choreography and vocal. The star guests of the show were: Bernat Dorina and Noemi Stattner, silver medalists of the World Championship in Sports Acrobatics in Baku, 2022. Alina Pash – a Ukrainian singer, a former graduator of the Academy and the

winner of the Ukrainian selection for Eurovision 2022 personally came to the show and sang her songs. The creative group was headed by: Gulnara Savenko – choreographer-producer, director; Tetiana Kuznetsova – assistant director, scenographer; Svitlana Momot – trainer of circus artists; Christian Kristof – director and producer (photo 7).



*Photo 7*

Since the Academy shared the seats in Budapest, the team continued the search for partners and the next locations. The next destination became Germany – Berlin, Bad Freienwalde, Munich and Potsdam. 35 of our students went to study at Staatliche Artistenschule Berlin (photos 8, 9), Cabuwazi (photo 10) and Circus Montelino in Potsdam the representatives from the Academy became Nataliia Uzhvenko who teaches pantomime and physical theatre and professor Valeriia Shulhina.

Another big creative project is a musical performance in Munich, the director of which was Anna Zotyeva, a teacher of vocal in КМАСРА. In this project the students of the Kyiv Academy took part in online singing event.

“Fachklinik und Moorbad Freinwalde” (GmbH Bad Freinwalde) became the last city that assist their help in Germany. A charitable team of doctors joined to help Kyiv



Academy: Frau Kristin Schroder-Kolew, Mariya Masalova originally from Kyiv. Berlin Central Television was interested



*Photo 8*

in the situation with the education of students of the evacuated Kyiv Academy and the charitable activities of the employees of the mentioned clinic. Berlin TV correspondents made interviews and video shoots with Academy professor Valeriia Shulgina and clinic director Frau Kristin Schroder-Kolev. In the broadcasts prepared by correspondents on the program Brisant (“Brisant”), which were broadcast on March 7 and June 15, 2022, the successful cooperation of the Academy and the German clinic Fachklinik und Moorbad (GmbH) was noted in the arrangement and provision of housing in the "Villa Regina" hotel, food, medical insurance for victims from Ukraine, accordingly the Academy treats its new German friends with great respect and gratitude. In the city of Bad Frauenwalde, in the “Markischer” newspaper, correspondent Steffen Gottman published an article



thanking German friends from the Kyiv Academy. In Germany, there have already made 2 performances for the local audience with the participation of students from Ukraine and and Germany (photo 11).



*Photo 9*

The artists who participated in the performance were the students of KMACPA: Oleksandr Palamarchuk, Diana Matviychuk, Oleksandra Mazur, Maria Suzdalnytska, Anastasia Andrusenko. Our students also participated in the show “Voice of Children”: Oleksandra Myronenko and Valeriya Lysenko; participant of the TV show “Dancing with the Stars” Melania Sushko. The musical performance took place on May 20, 2022 in Munich, Germany.



*Photo 10*

Italy in the city of Verona also provided assistance to the Kyiv Academy. There relocated 30 of our students who is studying acting and theater directing. Our partners La Civica Accademia d'Arte Drammatica Nico Pepe and personally Matteo Spiazzi provided: free accommodation, food, a place for rehearsals, help with paperwork and medical care. We are currently negotiating with universities of performing arts to sign agreements on dual education for students.

The incredible partners and true friends of La Maison de Nina Academy located in Marseille, France have accepted our illusionist students for training. Because of the interesting and inspiring program students made incredible progress, they have the opportunity to try themselves with various props, which



allows to maximize their professional growing. As a result of 6 months training students made a magic show for French auditory (photo 12).



*Photo 11*

Thanks to our partners "Global Illiance of Circus School" and personally Jasmine Straga, three of our students who were studying dancing got a chance to continue education at one of the prestigious dancing schools in Australia "Lee Dancing Academy" in Tuggerah. During the time staying there, girls were giving interviews for local TV about the situation in Ukraine and ho their life changed completely. They also participated in a popular TV show "Australia Got Talent" (photo 13).

**Conclusions.** The conducted scientific research and practical generalization of the experience of the Kyiv Municipal



*Photo 12*

Academy of Circus and Performing Arts in the context of intercultural dialogue in the professional training of a modern specialist in the sphere of performing entertainment showed its relevance, importance and effectiveness as an instrument of communication with leading world artists, cultural and educational institutions from all over the world. As a result of establishing branches in different countries the Academy provided a big support to their students and employees. In return students with their supervisors gave powerful feedback with concerts, shows, presentations and performing activities that not only popularized the Academy in a positive way but also Ukraine in general.



*Photo 13*

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**МІЖКУЛЬТУРНИЙ ДІАЛОГ ЯК ІНСТРУМЕНТ  
УТВЕРДЖЕННЯ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ  
САМОІДЕНТИФІКАЦІЇ (НА ПРИКЛАДІ  
ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ КИЇВСЬКОЇ МУНІЦИПАЛЬНОЇ  
АКАДЕМІЇ ЕСТРАДНОГО ТА ЦИРКОВОГО  
МИСТЕЦТВ)**

**Анотація.** У статті узагальнено досвід Київської муніципальної академії естрадного та циркового мистецтв (КМАЕЦМ) у контексті міжкультурного діалогу у сфері освіти та підготовки фахівців музичного, сценічного та циркового мистецтв України в умовах російської військової агресії 2022 р. На основі наукового дослідження теоретичної, практичної та історичної діяльності Київської муніципальної академії естрадного та циркового мистецтв розроблена сучасна наукова розвідка в контексті дослідження феномену діалогу як сенсу формування особистості та міжкультурного діалогу в національній

самоідентифікації студентів як майбутніх митців та ідеологів-культурологів. На прикладі міжкультурного діалогу різних національних культур автори показують шляхи реальної співпраці Київської муніципальної академії естрадного та циркового мистецтв із провідними мистецькими та культурними інституціями Європи та світу з організації спільного міжкультурного освітнього процесу та проведення мистецьких вистав на території країн європейської спільноти. Проведені наукові дослідження та практичне узагальнення досвіду Київської міської академії сценічного та циркового мистецтв у контексті міжкультурного діалогу у професійній підготовці сучасного фахівця видовищної сфери показали його актуальність, важливість та ефективність як інструменту спілкування з провідними світовими митцями, культурними та освітніми установами з усього світу. Завдяки створенню тимчасових філій у різних країнах Європи Київська муніципальна академія естрадного та циркового мистецтв змогла надати велику підтримку та можливість здійснювати освітній процес своїм студентам і співробітникам у час початку військової агресії проти України. Натомість студенти та їхні творчі керівники дали потужний зворотній зв'язок концертами, шоу, презентаціями та виступами, які позитивно популяризували не лише Академію, але й Україну загалом.

**Ключові слова:** діалог, міжкультурний діалог, національна самоідентифікація, сценічне мистецтво, циркове мистецтво, навчальний процес в надзвичайних умовах російської агресії 2022.

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