

жанр у нас ще набира все по-широка публика, стига да има опити за неговото популяризиране. „Авеню Q“ е първата стъпка на този процес. Петър Кауков като режисьор, споделя: „Осмелихме се да направим нещо, което не знаехме дали ще бъде прието от хората, които се разхож-

дат по улиците.“ С много положени усилия и напориста работа авторите на мюзикъла поставят началото. Вече е въпрос на време да разберем дали големите кукли, приличащи на тези от „Улица Сезам“, ще останат да съжителстват с останалите от Столичния куклен театър. ■

## Somewhere in New York

Mihail Tazev

Actors, puppets, world problems and modest neighbour pains, dreams and ambitions. All of that in the same building, on the same street, depicted through music. *Avenue Q* is an American musical for adults, which finds successfully public in Bulgaria at the beginning of 2017. That is the first time Bulgarian theatre approaches such a performance as the one directed by West Hyler and Petar Kaukov. Spectators see on stage not only the so called *American dream*, created by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, but the whole day-dreaming – with its positives and negatives.

The performance is an interesting experiment for the local public. It grabs you and takes you so high as to enjoy all the beauties and troubles but lets you down back to the mess all the sudden. Does it tear you apart from your own life in order to show it to you in a better way? No, it rather makes you think by yourself about it. It does not impose solutions to the problems it deals with. Just the other way round – everything serious is disguised by emotion and its best friends – laugh and tears. And that is why I dare to call the performance an experiment. *Avenue Q* is unprecedented for Bulgarian public, foreign but accomplished perfectly. The way that *Avenue Q* deals with individual and personal issues makes people pull back. Not many are prone to look down on their own stories. The good news is that the musical is enveloped in joy, so it quickly becomes public's darling.

The world depicted in the per-

formance is our own. It even imitates it. However, if we have to distinguish them, *Avenue Q* is a fairytale, entrusted with not very enchanting obstacles. Monsters and men are looking for solutions to problems that one usually avoids. Yes, *Avenue Q* deals with racism, deals with homosexuality and attitude toward it, deals with passion and cheap love, wholesale deals with everything we talk about but rather we keep quiet today. Still, the performance faces successfully this silence. It seems forgotten and hidden into the melody. Why music helps us to dissociate from things that embarrass us, perturb us and disturb our daily round? Because precisely music is the way to break all the bumps between us. People communicate, touch, express, find themselves, entertain through music. Music makes us forget the language we talk, where we come from, the colour of the skin... Music drags us into its own world, somewhere between the black notes and the white staff, where raises the greatest feeling. In *Avenue Q* music is the one that gives energy to life. Music brings together men and monsters from different nationalities, with distinctive views and ideas of life and connect them as family, which goes over problems easily thanks to the melody of music.

With regard to the visual, *Avenue Q* seizes you immediately. Such as a very detailed map with many arrows pointing in different directions, the stage is colored, bright and multi-storeyed, exactly as a building. It widely opens its

doors and welcomes warmly its guests – public. But will the public respond to that hospitality?

While waiting to know the answer, musical as a genre will gain more and more public if only there were more attempts to its popularisation. *Avenue Q* is the first step of that process. As director, Petar Kaukov relates: *We dared to do something without knowing if people on the street will accept it.* *Avenue Q*'s authors begin with a lot of efforts and hard work. It is only a matter of time to know if the big Muppets, as the ones in *Sesame Street*, will continue to live together with the other puppets from Sofia Puppet Theatre. ■

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