

жисьорка, Джелсомино е едно-метрова кукла с ярка тъга в погледа, криво носле, изражението му излъчва потиснатост, докато срещу него стои собствения му Глас (Кирил Антонов) приел човешка форма – силен и непоклатим, готов да разруши всичко по пътя си, само за да бъде чул. В тази история куклата и живото актьорско присъствие се срещат, за да намерят път към себе си, за да се помирят и да се превърнат в

едно цяло. Да, това е представление за вътрешния бунт, който не променя само собственото ти „Аз“, но и всичко около теб. Това е представление за достигането на вътрешния мир въпреки недостатъците. И без да се замисля ще кажа, че „Джелсомино в страната на лъжците“ не е спектакъл за деца, със сигурност не е и за възрастни или за тийнейджъри... Всеки може да открие нещо за себе си. Той е качест-

вен куклен театър, който е изграден от много компоненти – анимация, нестандартни кукли, прекрасна музика (която никога няма да избия от главата си!), качествена режисура с послание и естествено с непоклатим проводник – актьорите от КТ-Стара Загора. Всичко изброено дотук е Джелсомино, част по част, дума по дума, такъв, какъвто е – дете, което се справя със самия себе си, за да порасне. ■

Of Puppets and Men – When the Voice Finds its Way to the World

Gergana Traykova

The voice reveals the thoughts, sometimes outstrips the reason but it also expresses our strongest emotions, it is our biggest enemy and our best friend. No matter if the voice is deep, squeaky, quiet or powerful, it tells its own story, which is absolutely unique. In everyday chaos in which a hundred voices can be heard, it is rare to outline one to lead us and we almost never go beyond the surface of another's story. However, one thing is sure – there is one person in everyone's life, whose voice echoes in his mind and sometimes is much stronger than his own. That is how I started to hear Gelsomino's voice much better than my own, while he tried to deaden it. His disparately powerful voice can shake the air, break windows and make fruits fall from trees, can revive chalk drawings, but mostly can tell stories so greatly, so that a full hall of people can hear them. That is how *Gelsomino in the Country of Liars* emerged in State Puppet Theatre – Stara Zagora last season (directed by Elitza Petkova, Scenographers are quite well-known Ivaylo Nikolov and Iva Gikova). And when it comes up to Gianni Rodari, fantasy eases and everyone wishes to be child again, to run and jump and scream... to believe in miracles and in the unexplainable. Almost dreamlike the play seizes the spectator and leads him through the action and before realizing it, you already are in the Country of Liars. Everything there is upside down – cats bark, bread is called ink and can be bought in stationer's store, truth is punished with prison. Ivaylo Nikolov and Iva Gikova's scenography's vision always grabs the attention. Their conception transforms the spectator into dream-reality traveller. The dominant gray colour imperceptibly gives the sensation of prison while the colourful characters, which look just like circus troupe lead you in another illusory

reality where impossible is nothing, even if the good painter has to give life to his paintings.

When I watch *Gelsomino in the Country of Liars*, I believe in miracles and all that fairytales from my childhood become alive in front of me because Elitza Petkova's play manages to carry the spectator in that other world, where imagination becomes reality. Gelsomino is a sad puppet, rejected because of its weirdness, because of its unusually powerful voice, still he is precisely the one ready to rebellion and showing what is he capable of. It is no accident that I say so, because in Elitza Petkova's version Gelsomino is one meter tall puppet with intense sadness in his eyes, twisted nose, while his own Voice (Kiril Antonov) stands in front of him as human being – strong and firm, ready to destroy everything on his way, only to be heard. Here in this story puppet and live actor meet in order to find way back to themselves, to make peace and became eventually one. Yes, it is a play about inner rebellion which doesn't only change your own "Me" but also everything around you. This is a play about reaching the inner peace despite of all defects. Without any hesitation I would say that *Gelsomino in the Country of Liars* is not children's play, neither an adult one nor teenage one. Everybody could find something about oneself. It is quality puppet theatre, built upon a lot of elements – animation, unusual puppets, beautiful music (which I just can't get off my mind!), high quality direction with a message and of course solid conductor – State Puppet Theatre – Stara Zagora's actors. Everything described so far is Gelsomino, part-by-part, word-by-word, just the way it is – a child who copes with himself in order to grow up. ■

Translation by Guergana Ivanova