UzSIAC Presents a Play about Memory, Love and Connection to Homeland at the “GITIS – Master Class” Festival

At the 9th CIS Countries Theatre Festival “GITIS – Master Class”, held at the GITIS Educational Theatre, fourth-year students of the Theatre Arts Faculty, specialising in Variety Acting, of the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture presented Fulminia, a production based on the tragicomedy Luigi’s Heart, or Execution with a Blunt Sword by Slovak playwright Ivan Bukovčan.

The production was staged jointly by the students and their academic mentors. The artistic director was Professor Mahmud Rashidov. The production also involved Acting Skills instructors Associate Professor Shavkat Rasulov and Honoured Artist of Uzbekistan, Associate Professor Muhabbat Gulomova.

Fulminia is a play about the conflict between a living, feeling human being and a ruthless society in which human emotions and even life itself become subjects of pragmatic calculation. At the centre of the play is Luigi, a man sentenced to death, and those who are interested not in saving his life, but in transplanting his “perfect” heart into another person.

Through this story, the author explores the conflict between human emotions and a technocratic world, draws attention to the danger of turning human organs into commodities, and emphasises the superiority of spiritual values over material interests. Luigi’s heart is presented not merely as a biological organ, but as a symbol of conscience, loyalty and humanity, prompting the audience to reflect on the question:

“What does a human being live for?”

The actors’ subtle and expressive performances, the depth with which each character was developed, the convincing portrayal of the characters’ inner struggles and the precision of their interpretations were particularly noteworthy. The directorial approach stood out for its artistic depth, coherence of stage expression and dramaturgical clarity. The harmony of the stage compositions, movements and the ensemble’s internal rhythm contributed to a deeper раскрытие of the production’s central idea. The lighting, stage design and overall atmosphere also enhanced the artistic impact of the performance.

Following the performance, Zanda Mandjiyeva, a student of the Theatre Studies Faculty, held a discussion with the actors, instructors and audience members.

“The most important thing is the search for truth. Our great teacher Shukhrat Abbasov used to say that anything can be in a performance, as long as it is true. I believe that in this performance everything came together and everything was in its place. I am convinced that one must constantly study the profession, search, discover and, if necessary, work through every obstacle. Then everything will come together,” said Mahmud Rashidov.

Overall, Fulminia was the result of the creative team’s collaborative effort, demonstrating a high level of acting, directorial vision and stage interpretation.

















