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THEME OF KARABAKH ON THE AZERBAIJANI STAGE

Abstract. The article deals with the embodiment of works on the theme of Karabakh on the stage of Azerbaijani theaters. If Ilyas Efendiyev's "Ruler and His Daughter" and Huseynbala Miralamov's "Shame" on the theme of Karabakh, which were played at our theaters before the Victory, reflected people's cry, pain, and hope for the future, but after the Victory Day, these plays are a source of people's pride and ignite with the love of building and creating even more. After the victory, the appreciation of martyrs, veterans and the families of martyrs was told in the play "Close as Breath" written and directed by Samir Gulamov, staged at the Azerbaijan State Academic Musical Theater, and the play "Victorious Way" written and directed by Azer Pasha Nematov, staged at the Azerbaijan State Academic Drama Theater.

Key words: theme of Karabakh, Patriotic War, Victory Day, "Year of Shusha", in memory of our martyrs.

Introduction. The theme of Karabakh has always been relevant in theater art, as in all fields of our literature and art, and our theaters have addressed to works on this theme on their stage.

I. Efendiyev's "Lonely Oleaster Tree" was staged at the Azerbaijan State Academic National Drama Theater (03.06.1991), H. Mirelamov's "Pain of Memory" (08.11.2004) and V. Alikhanli's "Death Horse" (25.02.2011) at the Azerbaijan State Theater of Young Spectators, Z. Yagub's "The Exileds" (01.06.1992) and Agarahim Rahimov's "Soldier's Mother" (29.12.2000) at the Yerevan State Azerbaijan Drama Theater, A. Hasanoglu's "The Tale of the Burnt House" (10.01.1993) and H. Mirelamov's "Judgment of Conscience"

(11.02.2015) at the Sumgait State Drama Theater, H. Mirelamov's "The Cry of the Shot Monuments" (05.07.2004) at the Shusha State Musical Drama Theater, H. Mirelamov's "Shame" (22.10.2013) at the Fuzuli State Drama Theater, R. Icherisheharli's "The Homeland Needs Brave Men" at the Baku Municipal Theater, etc.

The interpretation of the main material. The premiere of the play "Ruller and His Daughter" written by Ilyas Efendiyev, a prominent representative of Azerbaijani literature, on the theme of Karabakh was on December 25, 1996. The play was successfully staged by the producer Merahim Farzalibayov. This historical drama instilled the feelings of patriotism, independence and national freedom in the spectators and educated our youth in this spirit. The play creates a bridge between the 18th century and the present day by revealing the reasons of the division of our lands, the traitors and treacherous forces during the khanate period.

People's Artists Aliabbas Gadirov (Ibrahim khan), Basti Jafarova (Aghabeyim agha), Sayavush Aslan (Vanya Kokha), Hasan Mammadov (Akhund Mirmohsun agha), Safura Ibrahimova (Tubu khanim), Honored Artists Burjali Asgerov (Javad khan), Majnun Hajibeyov (Kalbali Khan), Shahin Jabrayilov (Mohammed Khan), Sabir Mammadov (Saday Bey) united around the idea of the play through a single ensemble play [3].

One of the facts that ensured the success of the play was the artistic design of the work. Artist Ismayil Asadoglu's design, his presentation of the tragedy of the Azerbaijani khanates in the shape of a heart with a map and the sword of the enemy stuck in that heart became a finding that opened the author's aim. Polad Bulbuloglu and Vasif Adigozelov's works, as well as folk music were skillfully used in the musical arrangement of the play.

This play, which has been staged in a new design and under the name "Garabagname" since March 10, 2011, has been performed on the stage for more than 20 years, and the Academic National Drama Theater opened and closed the season with this play every year.

Huseynbala Mirelamov's work "Shame", which was played on the stage of Academic National Drama Theater, is one of the most interesting plays written on the theme of Karabakh. This work was about Vatan's family, who were exiled from their warm homes and lived in an unfinished hospital building in Baku after the misfortunes inflicted on our people by Armenians in Khojaly 31 years ago.

The premiere of “Shame” was on June 16, 2006. Honored Artist, director Bahram Osmanov presented a completely different play [1]. The stage design of the play was done by Honored Artist Ismayil Mammadov, and the musical arrangement was given by People’s Artist Sayavush Karimi. The roles were played by Nureddin Mehdikhanli (Vatan), Ramiz Novruzov (Murad), Matanat Atakishiyeva (Fergana) and Alasgar Mammadoglu (Kuren).

The play “Shame” attracted attention with its relevance and artistic-aesthetic value for a long time. Academic National Drama Theater has shown this play, which is important in conveying the Karabakh truths to the world, in foreign countries many times. The play “Shame” was presented to the spectators during the days of the occupation of our lands every year. The play “Shame” participated in festivals held in Uzbekistan, Turkey, Iran, Serbia, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania and was awarded prizes.

If the works staged at Azerbaijani theaters reflected people’s cries, pain and hope for the future before the Victory that we won in the 44-Day Patriotic War, after the Victory Day, these plays are a source of people’s pride and ignite the love of building and creating even more. Many festivals and competitions were organized on this occasion. On November 1, 2021, the Ministry of Culture and the Teatro.az art portal held a Festival of 4.4 Short Plays on the occasion of the anniversary of our historic Victory in the 44-Day Patriotic War. Due to the long and boring pandemic period, the Festival plays were shown online in a 15-minute video format. 22 plays were presented to the festival by 11 state, 6 private theaters and 5 independent men of art from Baku and regions [4].

Plays reflecting the brilliant victory of our army and dedicated to the memory of our martyrs were performed on the stage of the Azerbaijan State Academic Musical Theater from November 1 to 5. Besides state theaters, independent theaters also participated in the festival, and 3 of the 22 plays on the theme of Karabakh, war and victory presented to the festival were awarded by the jury.

The 3rd place at the festival was awarded to the play “The Last Meeting”, authored and directed by Tarlan Abdullayev, a young director of the Lankaran State Drama Theater. The character of “The Last Meeting”, one of the most touching plays, does not want to live because her husband was martyred in the Second Karabakh War. But when she found out that she was pregnant, she decided to give birth to her child and raise him happily by living with her husband’s dreams. Guler Karimli and Sayad Aliyev played the roles in the play.

The 2nd place of the festival was given to the play “44”, written and directed by Zaur Aliyev, the director of the Azerbaijan State Academic Musical Theater. Irana Karimova and Mahammad Abdullayev, the unspoken characters of Z. Aliyev’s play “44”, were able to convey their pain and bitterness to the spectators with musical language and body movements.

The grand prize of the festival was awarded to the play “Neighbor” written and directed by Nihad Gulamzadeh, the director of the inclusive ASA Theater. The events are taking place in one of our regions that were occupied 30 years ago. Our national army liberates the next village in the Second Patriotic War. An Armenian family occupied the house of their Azerbaijani neighbor and lives there. The son of this family escaped from the occupier Armenian army and came home. They ran after hearing that our soldiers liberated the village. At that time, a young Azerbaijani officer enters the house and it turns out that this is the house where he was born. Although the Armenians lied to him and wanted to kill him, but they were shot by Azerbaijani soldiers; the treacherous, evil inner faces of the Armenians were revealed once again.

At the same time as the 4.4 Festival of Short Plays, the Union of Theater Workers started the festival of plays “Azerbaijan – the Winner” in our country [3].

The plays of the festival were presented on the Abbas Mirza Sharifzade’s stage of the Academic National Drama Theater and on the big stage of the Union of Theater Workers of Azerbaijan. The spectators watched “Ticket to Heaven” (author and director İlhamə Əhmədova) by Baku Children and Youth Theater, “The Value of Happiness” by Sahib Mammadov and Raulya Türkkən as an independent project and “Genghis Epos” (author Abdulla Gurbani, director Faiq Kərdəşov) by Gusar Lezgi Drama Theater at the festival, which lasted until November 5.

The glorious victory won by our country during the 44-Day Patriotic War, the bravery of our martyrs and their incomparable heroism were talked about in each of these plays.

One of the works dedicated to the theme of Karabakh and Victory, the martyrs and veterans who gave us this joy and our proud mothers who brought them up is the play “Close as Breath” of the Azerbaijan State Academic Musical Theater. The premiere of the play written and directed by Samir Gulamov was held on November 9, 2021. The stage conductor and music composer of this play is Honored Art Worker Fəxrəddin Atayev, stage

designer Vusal Rahimli, stage balletmaster Honored Artist Leyla Aghayeva, concertmaster Kamil Hasanov.

It is talked about the desire of sick people in the rear of the Patriotic War in September-October 2020 to go to the front in the play “Close as Breath”. Vatan’s heart is sick, Azer has asthma. But, they go to the Mobilization Service and go to war sometimes by begging, sometimes demanding, laughing and singing. Hundreds of our patriotic sons say goodbye to their mothers saying “don’t cry if I die” and go to war.

Vatan, who settled in Nakhchivan when he was forcibly exiled from his native Lachin 29 years ago, went to protect his motherland. Brave and proud mother Lachin blesses her child and sends him off to battle. This is the mother who says, “If you are shot in the back, my milk is forbidden for you!”

Mother Lachin is waiting for her son and believes that Vatan will return one day. Just as our homeland Karabakh returned after 30 years. My son will also return. One day mother Lachin had just dozed when her son Vatan came to her dream with his martyred comrades and said: Don’t worry about us! Our place is much more comfortable than there! These words are mother Lachin’s last consolation!

Azer, who returned from the war as a veteran, is mother Lachin’s neighbor. He often visits mother Lachin, takes care of her, does not let her stay alone. Here is the appreciation given to the martyrs and the martyr’s mother in Azerbaijan!

Amrah Dadashov (Vatan), Gulnara Abdullayeva (Lachin), Ibrahim Alizadeh (Azer), Nahida Orujova (Zarifa), who played the main roles in the play, play their characters with their inner feelings and sincerity.

People’s Artist Azer Pasha Nematov is the author and stage producer of the play “Victorious Way”, which was dedicated to the historical victory of our people in the 44-Day Patriotic War and premiered on May 28, 2022 by the Azerbaijan State Academic National Drama Theater. The stage design of the play was done by Honored Culture Worker Ilham Elkhanoğlu and the music by People’s Artist Siyavush Karimi.

The play stands out for its unusualness. While the spectators were in the lobby, the country’s leader, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev’s information about the front area was sounding. The actors among the spectators entered the hall and went on the stage with shouts “Give us weapons!”, “Send us to the front!”

Azer Pasha Nematov, the author of the work, conveys the events happening in the country in the example of 4 families. These four families represent millions of people. There are also representatives of minority nations here. Spectators follow the events with about 30 participants eagerly. Video footages are also used on stage. The Supreme Commander-in-Chief's speeches, rocket firing on our cities, the liberation of Shusha from the occupation and the scenes of soldiers climbing steep rocks in the finale were shown in these video footages.

The roles are performed by Nureddin Mehdikhanli, Hijran Nasirova, Elchin Efendi, Ali Nur, Matanat Atakishiyeva, Elnar Garayev, Khadija Novruzlu, Ilaha Hasanova, Anar Heybatov, Ilyas Ahmadov, Afat Mammadova, Ayshad Mammadov and others.

Besides the plays of the Academic National Drama Theater and the Academic Musical Theater, the ballet "Javad Khan" by composer Sardar Farajov (09.06.2018) was staged at the Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, the play "Little Men" by the writer-playwright Ilgar Fahmi was produced by Nijat Kazimov at the Azerbaijan State Theater of Young Spectators.

Works on the theme of Karabakh have been staged in other theaters of our country. The play "Mission" (10.11.2021) written by Mubariz Hamidov and directed by Firudin Maharramov was presented to the spectators at the Sumgait State Drama Theater, "44 Days of Justice" written and directed by Anar Babanli at the Lankaran State Drama Theater (16.09.2022), "Free Shusha" by S. Ibrahimli in Karim Hasanov's production at the Aghdam State Drama Theater (13.09.2022), "Victory with the fragrance of inspiration" by Rafiq Rahimli at the Gusar State Lezgi Drama Theater.

Conclusion. 2022 was declared the "Year of Shusha" by Ilham Aliyev's order, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Many events were held in Shusha on this occasion. Many theaters presented their plays to the spectators under the open air in Shusha.

We say goodbye to you with the hope of soon restoring our state theaters and preparing plays in our lands liberated from occupation – in Shusha, Aghdam and Fuzuli with the support of the Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev.

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Mələhət Ağayeva (Azərbaycan)

AZƏRBAYCAN SƏHNƏSİNDƏ QARABAĞ MÖVZUSU

Məruzəmdə Qarabağ mövzusunda olan əsərlərin Azərbaycan teatrlarındakı səhnə təcəssümündən danışılır. Zəfərdən əvvəl Azərbaycan Dövlət Akademik Milli Dram Teatrında oynanan İlyas Əfəndiyevin Qarabağ mövzusunda yazdığı “Hökmdar və qızı” (25.12.1996), Hüseynbala Mirələmovun “Xəcalət” (16.07.2006) əsəri insanların fəryadını, acısını, gələcəyə ümidini əks etdirirdisə, Zəfərdən sonra, yenə də Azərbaycan Dövlət Akademik Milli Dram Teatrında oynanan Azər Paşa Nemətovun müəllifi və rejissoruğu ilə göstərilən “Zəfər yolu” tamaşasında və Azərbaycan Dövlət Akademik Musiqili Teatrında Samir Qulamovun müəllifi və rejissoruğu ilə göstərilən “Bir nəfəs qədər” tamaşası və şəhidlərə, qazilərə və şəhid ailələrinə verilən qiymətdən danışılırdı. Bu tamaşalar yalnız paytaxt teatrlarında deyil, eyni zamanda regionlarda olan teatrlarda da öz əksini tapırdı.

Açar sözlər: Qarabağ mövzusu, Vətən müharibəsi, Zəfər günü, “Şuşa ili”, şəhidlərimizin xatirəsinə.

Малахат Агаева (Азербайджан)

ТЕМА КАРАБАХА НА АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ СЦЕНЕ

В статье рассказывается о сценическом воплощении произведений на Карабахскую тему в Азербайджанских театрах. Если до победы в Азербайджанском Государственном Академическом Национальном Драматическом Театре пьесы Ильеса Эфендиева на тему Карабаха «Правитель и его дочь» (25.12.1996), «Стыд» Гусейнбалы Мираламова (16.07.2006) отражали крики людей, горечь, надежду на будущее, то после победы снова в Азербайджанском Государственном Академическом Националь-

ном Драматическом Театре в спектакле «Дорога Победы», по сценарию и постановке Азера Паши Нематова и в спектакле «Одно дыхание», поставленном в Азербайджанском Государственном Академическом Музыкальном Театре по сценарию и постановке Самира Гуламова, говорилось о цене, которую давали шехидам, ветеранам и семьям шехидов. Эти спектакли нашли отражение не только в театрах столицы, но и в театрах регионов.

Ключевые слова: тема Карабаха, Отечественная война, День Победы, год Шуши, память о наших шехидах.