

Theater in my hometown

Theatre is an art. It is a sociocultural institute. Theater brings not only joy and positive emotions but also gives people an opportunity to develop culturally and spiritually. As in other parts of our huge country our hometown Rtischevo has its



own theatrical history. Do you want to know how it all began? It started in those far-off days of last century. The main architectural construction of our town is the Cultural centre of railwaymen.

It was established in 1931. This centre was endowed by the Ryazano-Uralskaya railway. There was a 1000 seat theater, cinema, dance hall and two libraries. Thanks to its size, amenities and

opportunities for cultural and educational development it was regarded as a unique building in Saratov region.

In 1937 performance hall was built on the main part of the Cultural centre.



A lot of plays were staged by Victor Nikolayevich Grigoriev and Andrei Ilich Malakhov here in war and postwar time. Poltava medical evacuation hospital was disposed in the Cultural centre from 1941 till 1945.

The workers of the Cultural centre of railwaymen tried to encourage and raise the morale of the injured and evacuated people who were placed there. This centre did not stop working even tough in the hardest years of war. In summer of 1941 labour collective decided to donate to the Fund of Defense one-day wage monthly. Artistic collectives and children`s clubs kept working all that time. The centre was never empty. It was the second home for girls and boys that lived in Rtischevo.

Years passed... The Second World War had finished. Our country had celebrated the victory and then began to restore after the long years of war. Taking into account the great interest of the most residents of Rtischevo in the performing arts, especially among the youth, it was decided to form Rtischevsky Folk Drama Theatre in 1960. To manage this theater troupe the qualified Saratov director Vladimir Zlatorunsky was invited, who had higher theatrical education. In the staff of the theater an artist-decorator was also accepted.



Arrived from Saratov Zlatorunsky and Gusev in 1960-1961 gathered all those who had ever played in amateur dramatic performances in Rtischevo, and opened the first season with the play "The Prodigal Son". Along with the constant work carried out in the process of

preparation for performance, everyone could attend classes on acting, speech technique, make-up and other special disciplines.

The Rtischevsky Folk Drama Theatre belonged to the number of trade union theatres of railway workers and was the first on the Volga railway. It was assisted by the staff of Saratov drama theatre named by Karl Marks.

The first season had a great success that was achieved by both experienced amateur actors: S.S.Khorokhin, E.S.Malakhova, A.P.Gorenkova, Yu.S.Malakhov, I.V.Guseva, A.M.Ludkova and E.H.Melehina and young actors A.Zhelunitsina, L.Poapov, Yu.Dyakin, B.Korobeinikov, V.Kyznetsov, V.Zdobnikov, Z.Medvedeva, V.Samohin and R.Prohorova.



A significant role in this success played qualified directing. Faced with completely inexperienced actors the theatre's directors V.V.Zlatorunsky and I.V.Guseva were able to reveal the creative personalities of the collective members. For active participation in the cultural life of the workers of Rtishchevo and collective farms of the district, the town's department of culture awarded the theater with the Certificate of Honor.

The play "Stryapuha" was staged on the 4th of March 1962. Honored actor of



Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic V. I. Spelov and actress L.S.Muratova played together with amateur actors. The magazine "Theatre" wrote about the great success of this play. It was said to be staged more than 20 times. In 1969 radio show was devoted to the the Rtischevsky Folk Drama Theatre.

A new collective was formed in City's Cultural Center in 1986. This collective is called «Time» and T.P. Kuzmina led it. Then Shugaeva Olga Yuryevna had changed her teacher and gave start to a new theatrical studio «Carousel». Working in the cultural and educational sphere since 1987, she absorbed a lot from her grandmother Semenova MN, who worked in the Palace of Culture as an assistant of the director, and costume designer, she was also a leading actress in the theater team under the direction of V.V. Zlatorunsky. The studio "Carousel" got the title « Amateur folk theatrical collective» in 1991. Olga Yuryevna was regarded as a bright and creative person, talented director. She also organized a lot of different town's

events. For example, the Festival of soldier's songs, the concert devoted to Cosmonaut's Day, a festive event dedicated to the Day of Rtishchevo. This troupe is known not only in its hometown but also in Saratov region.



Theatrical studio «Carousel» repeatedly became the winner of regional competitions, was awarded a special Diploma "The best artwork", "The best music, "The best director's work diplomas for participation in regional and zonal festivals – parades. And the actors of the productions were repeatedly awarded the Diploma "for the best acting role". In its

theatrical history and today's life, the studio has many works, but the most memorable ones are such as: the play " It's all about us...", awarded at the Regional competition of theater groups Diploma of the 1st degree; monodrama "Leningradka"; theatrical program "About that war"; miniature " What to give my mother?"; "On the Golden porch sat..."; theatrical performance "the Alphabet of my city"; Christmas performance "Glory to the born, in a poor manger put"; "Tale Of Princess Nesmeyana, Emel-slacker and magic pike word"; "Bethlehem star", Christmas performance " What kind of children...?"; "In search of the Golden key"; "Memory, which will not be forgotten", "Baby and Carlson" and much more.



It doesn't matter how much time has passed, no matter how the forms of work of this or that collective have changed, but the theater is and will be an integral part of the leisure of the population, cultural development and contact to the highest - to Art!

Reference

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