

Dora Bittau

Short Artist Biography

DORA NIKOLOVA BITTAU has graduated from the Fine Arts Academy in Sofia, with a degree in production and costume design with professors G. Karakashev and G. Ivanov. The artist has worked in cinema, television and many theaters in Bulgaria. She has designed sets and costumes for over 250 television programs, 17 feature films (Bulgarian, Hungarian and Italian productions) and over 50 theatrical shows by classical and contemporary authors, such as Shakespeare, Schiller, Brecht, Lorca, Goldoni, Gogol, Tolstoy, Coldwell, Bulgakov, Saltykov Shchedrin, Tennessee Williams, and others. She has also participated in about 10 animated films, as animator.

OTHER CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: fashion designer, preservation and restoration of murals, paintings, book illustrations, humoristic graphic art, tapestries, projects for publicity posters, metalplastics, stained glass windows. She wrote exhibition reviews for the Bulgarian magazine "Art", fashion and films articles, collaborates with the Italian online magazine "Girodivite", and more.

Her work has appeared in over 90 exhibitions of paintings, set and costume design, puppets, humoristic graphic art, etc., in countries such as Brazil, USA, Canada, Russia, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Malta, etc.

Several paintings of the artist have been selected for illustrations and covers of books and magazines in different languages. Dora's paintings have been published in the History of Architecture, german edition: ak "Architecturgeschichte", Bahmeier Martin, "The Chapel of St. Ignatius, Seattle, 1994-97, Steven Holl".

PAINTINGS: Dora has created a series of paintings on historical and religious themes: "Bulgarian medieval kings", "The holy brothers Cyril and Methodius", "St. Ignatius Loyola", "The Road to Emmaus", "The Wedding at Cana", etc.

FASHION HOUSE "Rila", Sofia - as costume designer.

BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER, Boiana in:

ANIMATION STUDIOS:

* The hero and the golden apple - director: Roman Meitsov, 1969 * Happy End - director: Donyo Donev 1969 * The unfortunate hunter - director: Georgi Chavdarov 1969 * The Three Fools - director: Donyo Donev, 1970 * The Lying Shepher - director: Stoyan Dukov, 1970 * Heirs - director: Ivan Veselinov, 1970 * Dressage - director: Zdenka Doycheva, 1970 * Zaiko and Baiko - director: Georgi Chavdarov, 1970

FEATURE FILM STUDIOS

PRODUCTION DESIGNER * Zadacha s mnogo neizvestni /Problem with many unknowns/ - director: Lilyana Pencheva, 1977 * Izlozhba /Exhibition/- director: Proiko Proikov, 1976 * Nedelnite machove /The Sunday Games/, part I, II - director: Todor Andreykov, 1975 * Predi vsichko chovek /First of all man/, part I, II - director: Rumen Markov * Zaharij ikonfesto

bunös zerelme /The sinful love of the icon-painter Zacharias/, hungarian film, part I, II, III - director: János Dömölky, 1973.

SET DESIGNER on the Bulgarian side in the Italian film: * L'Amante dell'Orsa Maggiore /The lovers of the Great Bear/, part I, II, with the participation of Giuliano Gemma, Bruno Kramer, Senta Berger - director: Valentino Orsini, 1971.

COSTUME DESIGNER

* Zadacha s mnogo neizvestni /Problem with many unknowns/ - director: Lilyana Pencheva, 1977 * Izlozha /Exhibition/ - director: Proiko Proikov, 1976 * Nedelnite machove /The Sunday Games/, part I, II - director: Todor Andreykov, 1975 * Dnevna svetlina /Daylight/- director: Margarit Nikolov, 1974 * Predi vsichko chovek /First of all man/, part I, II - director: Rumen Markov, 1974 * Zaharij ikonfesto bunös zerelme /The sinful love of the icon-painter Zacharias/, hungarian film, part I, II, III - director: János Dömölky, 1973 * Zarevo nad Drava /Dawn Over the Drava/, part I, II - director: Zako Heskia, 1973 * Byalata odiseya /The White Odyssey/, preparatory period - director: Vasil Mirchev, 1973 * Mazhe bez rabota /Men without work/ - director: Ivan Terziev, 1973 * Chetirimata ot vagona /Four Men in a Boxcar/ - director: Atanas Traikov, 1971 * Vruzkite mi s Bulgaria /My relations with Bulgaria/ - director: Georgi Ganchev.

DOCUMENTARIES

* I monasteri bulgari /The Bulgarian Monasteries/ – director: Angelo D'Alessandro. An Italian film series, produced by RAI 3. All paintings in the first part are by Dora Bittau, 1990 * Putyat na Bukvite /The march of the Letters/ - director: Ralitsa Dimitrova. Interview and participation with paintings about the Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius, 2015.

ACTRESS

* Gnevut na ogunya /The wrath of the fire/ - director: Alexander Vazov, (child, about 1950)
* Nedelnite machove /The Sunday Games/ - director: Todor Andreykov, 1975

BULGARIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION

Head scenographer for children's TV shows, and participation in over 250 television productions in all genres.

COSTUME DESIGNER (TV):

* Vampir /Vampire/ - director: Georgi Avramov, 1970 * Snakha /Daughter-in-law/ - director: Georgi Avramov/ * Dzheni zheni po priroda /Jenny by Nature by Erskine Caldwell/ - director: Lilyana Pencheva, 1968 * Deveta sinfoniya /Ninth Symphony/ - director: Angel Valchanov, 1969 * Smurta na Pazukhin /Pazukhin's death/ * Istoriya na otzhivyaloto zhivurkane /A history of perpetual living from day to day/, 2 series - director: Ilya Velchev, 1979 * Platina /Platinum/ - director: Stefan Dimitrov * Pod edin pokriv /Under one roof/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Zaslužil artist Tatyana Lolova /Honored Artist Tatiana Lolova/ -

director: A. Finkova * Atlantida /Atlantis/ - director: Kiril Kamenov, 1980 * Kritichna situatsiya /Critical situation/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Elkhichka /Christmas Tree/ - director: Teofana Presvavska * Knizharnitsa 75 - za i protiv /Bookstore 75 - for and against/ - director: Vasil Minchev, 1975 * Zlatnoto momche /The Golden boy/ - director: V. Garkova * Momcheto - Zvezda /The Star Boy/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Telokhrannitelya /Bodyguard/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Sluga na dvama gospodari /Servant of two masters/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Predavaniya za "Leka nosht detsa", muzikalni, tantsovi i dr. /TV shows for "Good night children", music, dance and more/ and others.

COSTUME DESIGNER (TV) - director Nina Shopova:

Kakvo da se pravi /What to do/, 1970 * Peeshta kamera /Singing Camera/ * Prikazka za tikvata /A Tale for the Pumpkin/ * Arizhka - strakhlivkata /Arizhka - the coward/ * Khrabrite olovni voinitsi /The brave lead soldiers/ * Sreburni stupki /Silver steps/ * Maistor Manol /Master Manol/, 1879 * Gorskite vetrove i praseto Rolka /The forest winds and the pig Rolka/ * Chudesa, chudesa /Miracles, miracles/, 12 series * Trimata yunatsi i zlatnata yabulka /The three heroes and the golden papple/ * Zvezdnoto momche /The star Boy/ * X2 - myusikul /musical/ * Vulshebniyat vlak /The magic train/ * Prikazka /Fairy tale/ * Maistora i Margarita /The Master and Margarita/ * Pesnichka-igra /Song-game/, 1977 * Yunakut i rekata Lena /The hero and the river Lena/ * Prikazka za Koseto-Boseto /A Tale of Coseto-Boseto/ * Pisatelyat G. Ugarov pozhelava "Leka nosht detsa" /The writer G. Ugarov wishes "Good night children"/ * Pisatelyat K. Grigorov pozhelava "Leka nosht detsa" /The writer K. Grigorov wishes "Good night children"/ * Pisatelyat Petur Rudar pozhelava "Leka nosht detsa" /The writer Petar Rudar wishes "Good night children"/ * Kogato kuklite ne spyat /When the dolls don't sleep/ * X4 - myusikul /musical/ * Stuklenata menazheriya /The glass menagerie/ * Valentin i Valentina /Valentin and Valentina/ * Goreshti stupki /Hot steps/ * Margaritka /Daisy/ * Nu, pogodi! /Well, wait!/ * Studio V - myusikul /Studio V - musical/, 1981 * Sunyat na Timofeyi /Timofey's dream/ and others.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER (TV)

* Mezhdunaroden folkloren festival /International Folklore Festival/, Burgas, 1979 * Zaslužil artist Tatyana Lolova /Honorary Artist Tatiana Lolova/ - director: A. Finkova * Platina /Platinum/ - director: Stefan Dimitrov * Pod edin pokriv /Under one roof/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Tova li e Atlantida /Is this Atlantis?/ - director: Kiril Kamenov, 1980 * Kritichna situatsiya /Critical situation/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Elkhichka /Christmas Tree/ - director: Teofana Presvavska * Knizharnitsa 75 - za i protiv /Bookstore 75 - for and against/ - director: Vasil Minchev, 1975 * Zlatnoto momche /The Golden Boy/ - director: V. Garkova * Momcheto -Zvezda /The Star Boy/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Telokhrannitelya /Bodyguard/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Sluga na dvama gospodari /Servant of two masters/ - director: Angel Valchanov * Predavaniya za "Leka nosht detsa", muzikalni, tantsovi i dr. /TV shows for "Good night children", music, dance and more/.

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TELEVISION PUPPET THEATER

SCENOGRAPHY, MARIONETTES, PUPPETS, ILLUSTRATIONS

* Zayu i gumenoto petlentse /Zayu and the rubber rooster/ - director: Ivan Rachev * Vulchovi nevoli /Wolf troubles/ - director: Albert Angel * Krachetata ne vurvyyat /The legs do not work/ - director: M. Ganev, 1977 * Medun i balerinata /Medun and the Ballerina/ - director: Ivan Rachev, 1980 * Nastpoenieto /The mood/ - director: V. Garkova * Usmivkata /The smile/ - director: V. Garkova, 1977 * Oporata /The support/ - director: V. Godkova * Proslaveniyat borets /The glorified fighter/ * Sunni istorii /Dream stories/ - director: Albert Angel * Umnata kokoshka /The smart hen/ - director: V. Garkova 1977 * Vuzheto se vurti /The rope is spinning/ - director: M. Ganev * Pustro buketche /Colorful bouquet/ - director: M. Ganev, and others.

Representative of BNT (Bulgarian National Television) in the International Festival of Puppet Theaters in Bielsko-Biala, Poland, May 18-23, 1978.

THEATER in Sofia and other Bulgarian cities

COSTUME DESIGNER:

* Mariya Styuart /Mary Stuart/, National Theater "Ivan Vazov", Sofia - director: Krastyu Mirski. 1968/70 season * Bulgari ot staro vreme /Old-time Bulgarians/, State Theater, Sliven - director: Chavdar Krastev, 1970-71 * Zelenata bradavitsa /The Green Wart/, State Theater, Stara Zagora - director: Chavdar Krastev * I nai-mudriyat si e malko prost /Even the wisest is a little simple/, State Theater, Pernik - director: Stefan Dimitrov * Lyut zvyar /Fierce Beast/,

State Theater, Haskovo - director: Evgeni Genov, 1976-77 * Pochivka v Arko Iris /Break in Arco Iris/, State Theater, Yambol - director: Evgeni Genov, 1970-71 * Rimska banya /Roman Bath/, State Theater, Yamvol - director: Lilyana Mecheva * S konya hod napred /Forward with the horse/, Youth Theater, Sofia - director: Gerda Lukanova * Sluchka na tavana /Event in the attic/, Youth Theater, Sofia - director: Gerda Lukanova * Lyut zvyar /Fierce Beast/, State Theater, Dimitrovgrad - director: Evgeni Genov * Smurtta na kralstviya prokuror /The Death of the Royal Prosecutor/, Youth Theater, Sofia - director: Georgi Avramov, 1969 * Chas Pik /Rush Hour/, State Theater, Yamvol,- director: Evgeni Genov * Silata na mraka /The power of darkness/, Samokov - director: Elka Draganova * Fatalnata depesha /The fatal dispatch/, project. Satirical Theater, Sofia * Festival na knigata, Pazardzhik /Book Festival, Pazardzhik/ - over 1200 costumes of literary characters * Snakha /Daughter-in-law/, Samokov - director: Elka Draganova * Edinctveniat svidetel / The only witness/ * Vampir /Vampire/, Samokov Theater - director: Elka Draganova, 1966 * Svekurva / Mother-in-law /, Samokov Theater - director: Elka Draganova, 1967 * Domut na Bernarda Alba /The House of Bernarda Alba/, State Theater, Stara Zagora - director: Chavdar Krastev, 1970-1971 * Elenovo tsarstvo /Deer Kingdom/, State Theater of Pazardzhik - director: Chavdar Krastev, 1977 * Khristo Botev, retsital /Hristo Botev, recital/, Botevgrad State Theater * Shtastie /Happiness/, Samokov Theater – director: Elka Draganova, 1968-69 * Tantsovi spektakli /Dance performances, Trade Union Theater, Sofia – director and choreographer: Asen Gavrilov * Muzikalni i tantsovi spektakli /Music and dance performances/, Pioneer Palace, Sofia - director: Asen Trayanov

COSTUME DESIGNER,

Samokov Theater, director: Lyubomir Malinov

* Opera za tri grosha /Opera for three pennies/ - Brecht * Vetriloto /The Fan /- Goldoni * Suzaklyatiето na litsemerite /The Cabal of Hypocrites/ - Bulgakov * Kak pisal Trichko /How the scribe Trichko could not marry Tsarina Kita/ - N. Rusev * Plesnitsata /The slap/ - Kamen Zidarov * Priklyucheniyata na Chipolino / The Adventures of Chipolino/ - Gianni Rudari * Ruchenitsa za okarina i bas /Handkerchief for ocarina and bass/ - Yordan Radichkov, Yuliya Ognyanova * Sboguvane prez yuni /Farewell in June/ - Alex Vampilov * Babinata pitka /Grandma's bread/ - Vasil Mirchovski * Kogato kuklite ne spyat /When the dolls do not sleep/ - Leda Mileva * Priklyucheniya v malkaya grad /Adventures in a small town/ - Leda Mileva * Kristalното surtse /The cristal heart/ - Lev Ustinov * Pepelyashka /Cinderella/ - Tamara Gabe * Chervenata shapchitsa /Little Red Riding Hood/ - Tamara Gabe * Vestnikarcheto /The little newspaperboy/ - Vasil Mirchovski * Timur i negovata komanda /Timur and his team/ - Arkady Gaidar * Snezhnata tsarkinya /The Snow Queen/ - Hans Christian Andersen, Eugene Schwartz * Zaiko-Vseznaiko /Bunny Know It All/ - Sergey Mikhalkov * Dvoino leglo za Adam i Eva /Double bed for Adam and Eve/ - Ivan Radoev * Literaturno-muzikalna kompozitsia "Bulgari" /Literary and musical composition "Bulgarians"/, 1969.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER (Theater):

* Snakha /Daughter-in-law/, Samokov - director: Elka Draganova * Vampir /Vampire/ Samokov Theater - director: Elka Draganova, 1966 * Svekurva / Mother-in-law/ - director: Elka Draganova, 1967 * Domut na Bernarda Alba /The House of Bernarda Alba/, State

Theater of Stara Zagora - director: Chavdar Krastev, 1970-1971 * Elenovo tsarstvo /Deer Kingdom/, State Theater of Pazardzhik - director: Chavdar Krastev, 1977 * Khristo Botev, retsital /Hristo Botev, recital/, Botevgrad State Theater * Shtastie /Happiness/, Samokov Theater - directed by Elka Draganova, 1968-69 * Tantsovi spektakli /Dance performances, Trade Union Theater, Sofia – director and choreographer: Asen Gavrilov * Muzikalni, tantsovi i teatralni spektakli /Music, dance and theater performances/, Pioneer Palace, Sofia - director: Asen Trayanov.

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ACTRESS (Theater):

Theater of Samokov: * Krazhba /Theft/, by Jack London, as Connie - director: Ivan Stefanov * Zaiko -Vseznaiko /Bunny Know It All/, in the role of the mother - director: Z. Taneva * Pod igoto /Under the yoke/ - as a child of Chorbadi Marko.

SETS AND PUPPETS (Theater):

* V tsarstvoto na zlatnite bairi /In the realm of the golden hills/ - State Puppet Theater, Plovdiv - director: Yana Tsankova * Durzhaven kuklen teatur, gr. Pazardzhik /State Puppet Theater, Pazardzhik/ - three productions.

THESIS AT THE ACADEMY OF ARTS, Sofia

Scenography and costumes of the opera "Sadko" - Rimsky Korsakov, "Rigoletto" - Giuseppe Verdi, "The Power of Darkness" - Leo N. Tolstoy.

DORA'S PAINTINGS ARE LOCATED in:

PUBLIC PLACES:

USA: * The Chapel of St. Ignatius Seattle University, Seattle, WA * The Church of St. Catherine of Siena, Hillside, New Jersey; * Copley Crypt Chapel, Copley Hall, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. * Novitiate, Portland, Oregon * Madonna della Strada Chapel Regis University, Denver, Colorado * Gonzaga Preparatory School, Spokane, WA * Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA * Christ Our Hope Catholic Church, Seattle, WA * Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin /art print/ * Fordham University, New York /art print/ * Dolan Haus, Fairfield University, Fairfield /art print/
Italy: * Abbey of St. Eutitius, Preci, (Perugia); * Marymount International School, Rome
Bulgaria: * University of Tarnovo
Canada: University of Regina, Regina /art print/ and other places.

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

USA (New York, New Jersey, Washington, Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Detroit, Fairfax, Williamsburg, VA, Palm Beach), New Zealand, Australia, Bulgaria, Italy, England, Greece, Philippines, India, Mexico.

CITATIONS:

"Dora Nikorova Bittau has proven to be a multivalent artist in various genres of scenography. Her works bear the marks of high professionalism, and they express a strong individuality, as a result of her great artistic sensitivity and a profound theatrical thought " /1985 /.

Georgi Ivanov
Honored Artist, Professor of Scenography at the Academy of Arts, Sofia.

"Dora's paintings are the synthesis of the most archaic and vivid static world of the Byzantine iconography tradition. She represents this tradition in the newest manner of today's expressionism and surrealism".

Oscar Magnan, S.J., PhD
Full Professor in the Fine Art Faculty of St. Peter's College, New Jersey, USA

Writings about Dora: Cindy Wooden, Desmond O'Grady, Anna Geo Georgieva, and others.

HONORIS:

Member of the Bulgarian Artists Union, 1982, member of the Bulgarian Filmmakers Union
"Academic": Papal Academy "Tiberina", Rome, February 8, 1988; " Academy "Marzocco" (founded by Dante Alighieri), Florence, March 8, 1987; International Academy of the city of Boretto. June 28, 1987, etc.

TO NOTE

1969/70. The costumes, from "Mary Stuart", directed by Krastyu Mirski, are remarkable exhibits in the museum of the National Theater "Ivan Vazov". For the cover of her autobiographical book, the great actress Violeta Bahchevanova (in the role of Mary Stuart) has chosen a costume designed by Dora.

1971/74. Dora was the sole costume designer for the film "Dawn over the Drava", directed by Zako Heskia, for the participation of the Bulgarian army in World War II, with over 300 actors and 8,000 extras. Her abilities as an artist and organizer in an extremely difficult and challenging situation have been put to the test and confirmed.

1983. First exhibition in Italy - all paintings were purchased within a few hours, departing for New Zealand, Australia, USA and other places.

1995. The artist won an international competition. She was commissioned to create 5 large paintings for the newly built modern chapel of St. Ignatius of Loyola at Seattle University. This chapel has been expected for 107 years.

"I don't know where many of my paintings are. It's impossible for me to remember all the theatre and television shows for which I've created sets and thousands of costumes, without taking even one photo and without leaving a trace. In these years of frenetic work, it has not crossed my mind to make a note where, what and with whom I worked. I also used to forget to take the honorary that I deserved. Since the beginning of my career I was working for free, feeling uneasy to receive rewards for something that was giving me so much joy and satisfaction". Dora Nikolova Bittau

To follow: Art galleries, exhibitions, articles from / about Dora, print and online media, catalogs, paintings used for book covers, illustrations, etc.

Translation: Polina Bittau