

## **The Ludwik Solski State Drama School in Cracow**

**(Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła teatralna im. Ludwika Solskiego w Krakowie)**

by Ela Wtulich

### **HISTORY**

The school was founded in 1946 by merging three schools: The Acting College at the Old theatre, The Acting College at the Słowacki Theatre and the Iwo Gall's Drama Studio. Since 1962 it has the status of academic institution. The school was always shaped by the teaching staff – present and active in Polish theatre. From the beginning, the school was strongly connected with Krakow's professional theatres and maintains these connections. Many of the graduates are now shaping the image of contemporary Polish theatre and play important cultural roles.

#### Acting Department

MA Specialization: dramatic acting

MA Specialization: dramatic acting, Major: music theatre

#### Drama Directing Department

MA Theatre directing dramaturgy

MA Theatre directing

### **EXTERNAL DEPARTMENTS in Wrocław**

#### Acting Department

Dramatic acting

Pantomime and movement

#### Puppetry Arts Department

Postgraduate Studies in the Theatre for Children and Youth

Postgraduate study of small theatrical forms and cultural animation

### **Drama Directing Department**

#### **MA THEATRE DIRECTING**

#### **Contact:**

Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Teatralna

im. Ludwika Solskiego w Krakowie



ul. Straszewskiego 21-22  
31-109 Kraków

tel. 012 422 18 55, 012 422 57 01

Fax 012 422 02 09

[e-mail: sekretariat@pwst.krakow.pl](mailto:sekretariat@pwst.krakow.pl)

**Date of opening:** The Drama Directing Department was created in 1955 and existed until 1967. It was re-established in 1973.

**Professions the degree prepares students for:** director in dramatic and musical theater, feature films, television, performances; artistic director of cultural institutions, screenwriter and dramatist.

**Specificity:** Those studies are marked by very individual character and approach. Each student works individually on his artistic and intellectual progress. There are few activities requiring teamwork. Students are working alone and are treated in an individual way, without comparison to others. The school enables and supports extracurricular artistic work in theatres. Theoretical subjects are oriented to measure up future directors' expectations, not theoreticians'. Respect and reverence to the dramatic texts is extant and results in a focusing on textual analysis. The acquired theoretical knowledge always should be used in the creation process. Studies also focus on the specificity of work with actors and their personality as well as on cooperation with various artists – also from the abroad - resulting in international workshops and festivals.

**Aims:** To develop individual and original theatrical approach and language, to focus on the methods concerning work and cooperation with actors; to enable students' intellectual progress.

**Student's profile:** Very selective process affords candidates who are able and willing to express themselves through theatre, who have their own original artistic vision and possess the necessary means to work and communicate with actors. A certain maturity is also required – candidates newly graduated from secondary school are rarely admitted. Students are usually characterized by their original, visible personality which fosters productive 'clash' of personalities and different approaches to the theatre.

**Average number of admitted students per year:** 6-9



**Duration of the program:** 9 semesters (this case represents exception made by Ministry of National Education – acting and directing departments are not organized in a three-cycle structure – bachelor’s-master’s-doctorate - because of their specific nature)

**Total number of ECTS:** 300

**Credits distribution:** All courses are obligatory therefore credits distribution does not depend on students’ choice.

**Admission requirements for regular students:** Bacculaureate Diploma

**Selection procedure:**

Candidates are to prepare written work presenting their staging concept on the basis of a production or adaptation of another text. This paper should include: reflections concerning the author, drama and its topic (regarding historical context); presentation of staging outline – stage design, music, lights etc.; analysis of particular scenes and themes (relations between characters).

Selection procedure is composed of four phases:

1<sup>st</sup>: The committee evaluates written work. This part is selective, no points are given.

2<sup>nd</sup> phase consists of:

- Evaluating candidates’ theatrical sensitivity;
- An interview, during which candidates defend their concept

3<sup>rd</sup> phase: Preparation of the scene with actors.

4<sup>th</sup> phase: An interview checking candidate’s suitability to study theatre directing.

Each phase is selective.

**Evaluation criteria:** The condition of acceptance is to have Bacculaureate Diploma and obtain positive results in the competition testing candidates’ competency.

**Financial aspects:**

There are two types of scholarships available for students:

- social scholarship
- fellowship for students with best results

It is not possible to receive budget for the final project.

**PROGRAMME**

**Learning approach:**



Fostering individual expression; Relation between students and pedagoges is very open – this enables each student to lead his own, individual artistic path and to make progress.

### **Learning methodologies:**

#### **THEORETICAL SEMINARS**

There are no conventional lectures for theoretical subjects. They all take the form of a seminar which enables open discussion and student interactivity. (Introduction to theatre directing, world theatre and drama, Polish theatre and drama, history of art and material culture, music in theatre, philosophy and aesthetics, psychology and psychiatry, theatre management and administration, contemporary theatre).

#### **SEMINARS ON THEATRE PRACTICE:**

The majority of directory subjects take the form of seminars. Students' discussions concerning themes and ideas is followed by creative process - directing and staging. (Directing seminar, dramaturgical seminar, set design, work with actors, diploma seminar).

#### **PRACTICE – TRAINING:**

Those classes are common for students from the Acting Department. Students at Drama Directing Department follow the same educational path regarding such subjects as speech training, elocution, verse, basic acting (I SEM), pantomime and dance (II SEM).

#### **PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION:**

- Assistantship: beginning from the second year, students are to carry out two assistantships in theatres which includes helping professional director on preparing staging, observing his work, working with actors. Students' area of responsibility depends on the director. Students are free to choose the directors and theatres they want to work with; the school can also help them on this matter.

- INTERNSHIP – 80 hours of internship in cultural institutions (art, theatre) during the study period is compulsory for every student

**INDIVIDUAL WORK:** students work individually on their own project which includes

- DIPLOMA PRODUCTION
- WORKSHOP PRODUCTION



WORKSHOPS: once a year different drama workshops with artists from abroad are organized, their theme and duration vary.

### **Detailed description**

#### **DIRECTORY SEMINAR (DIRECTION AND STAGING): (I-VI SEM.)**

Classes with theatre directors, usually consist of choosing the author and text at the beginning, analyzing it, and afterwards choosing the actors and working on stage. Individual work and ideas are consulted and talked over with the pedagogue. During the first semester students use their own acting potential, afterwards professional actors are hired. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> year they work with students from Acting Department and attend common classes in order to explore acting techniques and recognize better actors' needs.

#### **PROPAEDEUTICS / INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE DIRECTING (I-II SEM.):**

This subject consists of reading and analyzing texts concerning drama and theatre in different contexts; especially focusing on the impact of The Great Theatre Reform at the turn of the 19th century. Those are theoretical classes but based on students' interaction and group discussion; there are no traditional lectures for this subject.

#### **DRAMATURGICAL SEMINAR: (I-VI SEM.)**

Profound analysis of a text is followed by creating artistic impression on the basis of the written piece. The form of a concept is not imposed in any way; it can range from a workshop and film to a sculpture, etc.

#### **SET DESIGN: (III-VI SEM.)**

Classes conducted by professional set decorator; consist of searching for artistic themes and discussing them. Classes result in preparing exhibitions and performances in urban space or in school. Cooperation with students from Acting Department takes place also in this matter.

#### **WORLD THEATRE AND DRAMA (I-IV), POLISH THEATRE AND DRAMA (I-IV):**

Theoretical subjects conducted by professors from the Department of Studies in Drama (Jagellonian University); consist of analyzing and discussing dramas, critical and theoretical texts on literature and theatre.

#### **HISTORY OF ART AND MATERIAL CULTURE (I-IV):**

Classes take place in art galleries, museums, cultural centers etc. The viewing of exhibition is followed by group discussion.



#### MUSIC IN THEATRE (I-IV):

Watching music theatre, operas, documentaries on music theatre followed by group discussion.

#### PHILOSOPHY AND AESTHETICS (I-II):

Based on discussion and reading texts, those classes are strictly connected to director profession (they do not aspire to cover the history of philosophy). Their aim is to prepare (on the basis of texts and topics covered in class) a vision of a dramatic character.

#### PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY (V-VI):

Classes consist of studying characters and the actors' way of working on the role in order to better understand character mechanisms. The bases for students' observations are psychological texts.

#### THEATRE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

The aim of these classes is to present the legal aspects connected to theatre – i.e. agreements and contracts.

#### WORKSHOP PRODUCTION:

Workshop production is an individual work which consists of preparing drama performance after finishing 4<sup>th</sup> semester of studies. This case represents very autonomous production and its aim is to develop students' independence in artistic creation. The assessment is based on the analysis of the product.

#### **FINAL WORK**

**DIPLOMA SEMINAR (VII-IX)** The aim is to discuss and observe student's progress in preparation of written diploma work (Master thesis). The subject of this work should concentrate on theatre, dramatic theory, dramatic practice, philosophy, psychology. Students work under the guidance of a chosen professor (thesis advisor) whose specialization covers the subject of written work.

#### **DIPLOMA PRODUCTION (VII-IX)**

Last three semesters are devoted to autonomous diploma production of each student. Students are to prepare a diploma performance in a theatre; it is also possible to prepare the diploma performance with students from the Acting Department.



**Evaluation criteria:**

Evaluation criteria follow the usual standards: they consist of continuous analysis of the process (i.e. how students work with actors, how are they trying to achieve their goals) and eventual analysis of the product.

Students who follow the **Dramaturgy specialization** attend the same classes until the third year. From the 7<sup>th</sup> semester they focus on theoretical subjects.

**Frequency of education:**

Courses take usually 27-30 weekly hours.

**Infrastructure:** rooms for theoretical subjects, rooms for practical subjects, experimental and classical stages, recording studio

**The Acting Department**

**Specialization: DRAMATIC ACTING (MA)**

**Specialization: DRAMATIC ACTING, MAJOR: MUSIC THEATRE (MA)**

**Contact:**

Jadwiga Szczerbowska

ul. Straszewskiego 22, 31-109 Kraków

tel. (+48) 012 422-27-89, (+48) 012 422-18-55 (extension n°) 20, 21

Fax (+48) 012 422-02-09

**Date of opening:** Acting Department was founded in 1946. Since 1949 the studies last for four years.

**Professions the degree prepares students for:** This Department prepares young actors for theatrical performance; to work in television, radio, film and music theatre.

**Specificity:** There is a strong focus on practical subjects. The pedagogues are usually professionally active in the theatre field. Theoretical subjects form the base for practice and



theory should be naturally used in the process of creation: sometimes even evaluation of theoretical subjects is carried on as the basis of practical work in order to make use of the acquired knowledge. The studies focus on the group work – as actors in their professional career are obliged to work in groups. Assessment takes place mainly on the basis of team not individual work.

**Average number of admitted students per year:**

Specialization: dramatic acting: 20 (exact number approved every year) Specialization: dramatic acting, Major: music theatre: 5-10 (approved every year)

**Duration of the program:** 9 semesters

**Total number of ECTS:** 300

**Credits distribution:** All courses are obligatory therefore credits distribution does not depend on students' choice.

Admission fee:

All the lectures are in Polish.

**Admission requirements for regular students:**

The condition of acceptance to PWST is to have Baccalaureate Diploma and obtain positive results in the competition testing artistic abilities.

**QUALIFICATION PROCESS:**

The qualification process is in the Polish language but students can perform a piece of prose, verse or a song in a foreign language. In the course of the qualification the candidate is evaluated and may obtain up to 85 credits (as the average number of points awarded by the evaluation board). There is also an interview for candidates with international secondary school program of International Baccalaureate Diploma.

**SELECTION PROCEDURE AND EVALUATION:**

Candidate has to prepare at least:

- 3 classical verses (syllabic or syllabic-accentual) including obligatory pieces by Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Cyprian Kamil Norwid or Stanisław Wyspiański
- 3 contemporary poems
- fragment of prose from the early modern Polish literature (including satirical movement)
- 3 fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century prose





- 3 songs (including one folk song and one piece chosen among: aria, chant, „song”, couplet, cabaret (gaiety) song)
- Candidates for Major: music theatre should also prepare at least 6 songs representing different styles

During the examination candidates are also asked to present emotional reactions and some other activities. Candidates should know how to dance one of traditional polish dances.

· 1st ELIMINATION (practice):

General candidate’s suitability for the profession of acting is being examined (in terms of voice, pronunciation, movement and rhythm). This selection is collective, no points are being awarded. The second subcommittee examines candidate’s skills concerning text interpretation. This stage is an individual selection, no points are given. 1<sup>st</sup> elimination is common for both specializations (music theatre and drama).

· 2<sup>nd</sup> ELIMINATION

a) Theoretical

During an interview candidate’s knowledge (on history of culture, drama, theatre, polish and world literature) is tested.

b) Practical

This stage consists of individual assessment. Candidate’s pronunciation, voice, physical ability, textual interpretation, singing, vocal improvisation, performing basic acting tasks and general theatrical sensibility are tested.

**Financial aspects:**

There are two types of scholarships available for students:

- social scholarship
- fellowship for students with best results

**PROGRAMME**

**Learning approach:** In the beginning students work individually (i.e. on the text), but eventually, they join the group and have to become a team, able to collaborate. The goal is to learn how to work with other actors on stage. There are no assessments for practical subjects (song, prose, verse) based on individual work – usually the group prepares a performance collectively. Learning approaches always depends on the pedagogue – as they represent different aesthetics and individual methodologies. From the beginning of the second year of



studies, all exams (performances) are open to the public, so that students can prepare themselves to act in front of the public.

### **Learning methodologies:**

Students are divided into three groups; each one works with one ‘master’ – the leading pedagogue. He has a right to decide whether it is necessary and better to increase the amount of some physical classes which helps him better develop the group and to have more individual approach towards the group. There is strong focus on collaboration with students from the Directory Department (students from Acting Department act in their diploma).

Subjects can be divided into three modules:

- 1. acting techniques :** singing, elocution and speech training, declaiming poetry, reading prose, acting classes
- 2. auxiliary subjects :** rhythm, dance, stage movement, pantomime, physical training, fencing, choir singing, make-up (characterization), radio work, work with films and TV cameras, musical training
- 3. theory:** history of the world and Polish drama, art, film, foreign languages

Academic year lasts 30 weeks (from October 1st) and is divided in two semesters.

### **Detailed description:**

#### **PRACTICAL SUBJECTS:**

The aim of practical subjects is to develop actors’ specialized skills and acting techniques while fostering their own creativity in interpretation. Student undergoes sharp professional training which consists of:

Basic acting (I-II SEM.: while performing basic acting tasks and expressing emotions on stage students learn how to work with others and how to create relations between actors on stage); Interpreting verse (I-V) and prose (I-II), stage movement (I-IV), dance (I-V), rhythm (I-II), singing (II-V), scene study – classical and contemporary drama (III-VI), musical training (III-IV), pantomime (III-IV).

Assessment: for majority of practical subject the basis of assessment is the result of a group work (i.e. short scene performance). Classes usually take form of workshops.

#### **THEORETICAL SUBJECTS:**



The aim of theoretical subjects is to foster critical thinking based on the acquired humanistic knowledge. Thanks to this background, students can participate in contemporary artistic culture more consciously and with appreciation. They usually combine the form of a lecture and seminar. The theoretical background presented by pedagogues is often confronted with students' reflections concerning the subject during the group discussion. Classes often take place outside the school building – in art galleries, museums (world theatre and drama (I-VI), Polish theatre and drama (I-VI), history of musical theatre (II-IV), cultural anthropology (I-III), history of art (IV-VI), intellectual property law (VI), film studies).

## **WORKSHOPS**

Every year workshops with invited artists (mainly from abroad) are organized. They usually last two weeks and finish with preparation of a performance.

## **FINAL PROJECT**

Final project consists of preparing:

- Two performances (two drama performances for specialization in dramatic acting; one drama and one vocal performance for major: music theatre)
- Theoretical paper (Master thesis)

## **DIPLOMA PRODUCTION**

Each group produces two performances. Students together with the director decide what they'd like to prepare as a performance. It is possible to collaborate with various theatres or to prepare the diploma in School Theatre. Rehearsals and preparations take place during 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> semester.

## **DIPLOMA SEMINAR**

Diploma seminars are in progress during last three semesters. They consist of discussing and observing student's progress in preparing his written diploma work. The subject of this work should concentrate on widely understood theatre, dramatic theory or dramatic practice. Students work under the guidance of a chosen professor (thesis advisor) whose specialization covers the subject of written work.

After completing all requirements, graduates obtain Graduate diploma from School and Official title of Master of Arts.

## **Relations pedagogues - students**



Small amount of students and the specificity of school enable close interpersonal relations between students and teachers. Although they are always in correlation with pedagogue's attitude and may differ.

**Infrastructure:** rooms for theoretical subjects, rooms for practical subjects, gym, four stages (among them Stanisław Wyspiański stage – professionally equipped stage with auditorium for almost 300 spectators), audiovisual studio, music studio

### **The Puppetry Arts Department (Wrocław)**

#### **POSTGRADUATES STUDIES IN THE THEATRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (PODYPLOMOWE STUDIA REŻYSERII TEATRU DZIECI I MŁODZIEŻY)**

**Contact:**

Tel. 00 48 71-367- 40-15, fax. 00 48 71-367-16-27

E-mail: [joanna.moroz@pwst.wroc.pl](mailto:joanna.moroz@pwst.wroc.pl); [studium.pwst@wp.pl](mailto:studium.pwst@wp.pl)

Elżbieta Olinkiewicz – 00 48 600 251 447

**Date of opening: 1992**

**History:** First Department in Poland to offer studies in this field.

**Professions the degree prepares students for:** Using theatre, its different forms and elements in education; managing and running theatre for youth and children as well as adult amateur theatre; theatrical and other artistic projects management, therapy through theatre (students with therapeutic and psychological education).

**Student's Profile:** Those studies are addressed to cultural animators, theatrical instructors working in youth theatres and adult amateur theatres who would like to make significant progress in directing drama theatre, puppetry theatre, grotesque theatre, physical theatre, pantomime; candidates wanting to use workshops and creative methods in education and their work with children and disadvantage youth (education through child-constructed games, art, music, theatre, creative play, drama stimulating child development); They have the ambition



to use effective and interesting forms of education through entertainment; are therapists or teachers who seek to know the active and creative forms of work with children, adolescents and adults for possible use in various forms of therapy through art and theatre; Who lead projects related to artistic education. Studies are open for international students with communicative Polish.

**Specificity:** Methodological approach (as well as students' background - previous university education) to working with children enables joining theoretical knowledge with practical experience in the field of theatre and as result to improve students' working techniques with children as well as understanding the mechanisms of youth theatre and provide students with new ideas.

**AIMS:** To build up students' creativity and artistic activity; enable them to develop their own concepts of educational programs, foster realization of creative, educational, multicultural projects.

**Average number of admitted students per year:** 20

**Admission requirements for regular students:**

Completed higher education - degree in humanities (MA); working in theatre for children, youth, or in adult amateur theater; other forms of theatrical activity; it is also recommended to submit a recommendation or certificate confirming candidate's theatrical experience.

**Duration of the program:** 4 semesters

**Total number of ECTS:** No ECTS are given

**Selection procedure:** The selection is made on the basis of an interview with candidate.

**Evaluation criteria:** Candidate's ability to complete the program, his previous experience in theatre and general suitability for this kind of studies.

**Financial aspects:** Registration fee and tuition fee.

## **PROGRAM**

**Learning methodologies:**

Studies are mainly composed of practical classes; based on active, creative workshops and different forms of theatre education. Students' attendance and active participation is crucial as



classes usually are held in the form of workshops emphasizing interactions. Once a year additional workshops covering different themes are organized; Seminars for directing classes.

## Detailed description

### DIRECTING SEMINARS

There are 9 directing seminars which include: physical theatre, working with mask, drama theatre directing, theatre of person and imagination, grotesque theatre, plastic theatre, puppet theatre, theatre of animation, theatre of form, theatre of movement.

### WORKSHOPS covering different subjects:

- Theatre and drama studies;
- Basic theatrical tasks, pantomime;
- Interpretation, elements of orthophony and logopedics in child-constructed games, basic stage movements, rhythm – J.J. Dalcroze's method;
- Introduction to directing: scenes and script, searching for repertoire, text interpretation, analysis and interpretation of drama performances;
- Music in theatre, child-constructed games based on music and movement, set design, puppet design;
- Elements of psychopedagogy
- Art pedagogy, methodology in youth theatre, creative therapy, creative workshops, drama workshops;
- Drama performance production (from idea to realization), diploma production, working on theatrical performances, development of a theatrical program or project;

Possible specializations: youth theatre, therapy through theatre

ASSESSMENT: Exams for directing classes; other forms of evaluation.

**FINAL PROJECT** consists of preparing practical and theoretical work:

- **DIPLOMA PRODUCTION:** Autonomous production of diploma performance shown in school, community centre, artistic centre e.t.c.
- **WRITTEN FINAL WORK**

**Frequency of education:** 500 didactic hours during four semesters (weekend studies) + 140 hours of extracurricular work

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:



Divadelni Fakulta Akademie Muzických Umeni (Prague, Czech Republic)

Institut International de la Marionette (Charleville-Mezieres, France)

Théâtre Jeune Public (Strasbourg, France)

### **EVENTS:**

International Meetings of Theatre School Puppetry Art Departments (Międzynarodowe Spotkania Szkół Teatralnych Wydziałów Lalkarskich) – hosted annually by Department (since 1991).

## **POSTGRADUATE STUDY OF SMALL THEATRICAL FORMS AND CULTURAL ANIMATION (MAŁE FORMY TEATRALNE I ANIMACJA KULTURY W SZKOLE)**

**Student's Profile:** Studies are addressed to teachers and instructors working in Lower Silesia (Poland) willing to improve their work.

**Duration of the program:** 2 semesters

**Total number of ECTS:** no ECTS credits are given

**Selection procedure:** The selection is made on the basis of an interview.

**PROGRAMME:** Staging and directing small theatrical forms, basic staging tasks, basic drama directing, plastic theatre, puppet theatre, physical theatre, pantomime; textual interpretation, introduction to directing, script, individual and group text interpretation, verse, prose and colloquial text interpretation, child-constructed games, cultural animation in school, extracurricular activities for children, educational activities and creative workshops, artistic, cultural and educational projects and their application in education, psychopedagogy, autcreation workshops, elements of public relations and body language

**Financial aspects:** 90 % of tuition fee is financed by the Polish School Inspectorate

## **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

Janáčkova Akademie Múzických Umění (JAMU) (Brno, Czech Republic)

Akademie Múzických Umění (Prague, Czech Republic)

Vysoká Skola Múzických Umění (Bratislava, Slovakia)

Institut del Teatre (Barcelona, Spain)



Latvijas Kultūras Akadēmija (Riga, Latvia)  
Eesti Muusika-ja Teatriakadeemia (Tallin, Estonia)  
Saint Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy (Saint Petersburg, Russia)  
University of Lvov (Lvov, Ukraine)  
Le Conservatoire national Supérieur d'Art Dramatique (Paris, France)  
L'École Supérieur d'Art Dramatique Théâtre national de Strasbourg (Strasbourg, France)  
Università degli Studi di Siena (Siena, Italy)  
Theater 89 (Berlin, Germany)

Participation in the **SOCRATES-Erasmus Program** (since 2000/2001):

**PARTNERS:**

Institut del Teatre (Barcelona, Spain)  
Divadelní Fakulta Akademie Múzických Umění (Prague, Czech Republic)  
Janáčkova Akademie Múzických Umění (Brno, Czech Republic)  
Vysoká Škola Múzických Umení (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)  
Latvijas Kultūras Akadēmija (Riga, Latvia)  
Hochschule der Künste Bern (Bern, Switzerland)

**ANNUAL EVENTS** organized by the School:

- Workshops of Acting Departments of the Polish Drama Schools
- Open Days (February)
- The International Meetings of the Schools of Puppetry Arts Departments (Wroclaw, since 1994)

In 2009/2010 the School is planning to open **INTERUNIVERSITARY POSTGRADUATES STUDIES IN DIRECTING OPERA AND OTHER FORMS OF MUSICAL THEATRE**. Classes will be conducted by pedagogues from The Ludwik Solski State Drama School, The Academy of Music and other invited professors specialized in this field. Studies are open for students with master degree. The selection will be based on candidate's written work presenting staging concept and on the interview.

