

## **Academy of Performing Arts in Austria for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Persons established in 1993 (GHI-AV-99)**

In the year 1993 in Austria has been established the Academy of Performing Arts for deaf and hearing impaired persons by Mag. art. Herbert Gantschacher in the legal entity through ARBOS – Company for Music and Theatre.

Mag. Herbert Gantschacher has the necessary teaching qualifications for the fields of directing and acting (diploma and academic degree Mag. Artium through studies 1977-1980 with diploma examination in directing, 1980-1988 supplementary studies with the implementation of practical courses in the subject "Scientific Methods of Role Analysis" - the students in this subject also included the director of the Burgtheater Vienna, Univ.-Prof. Mag. art. Martin Kušej - and the thesis on the topic "The Poet Vasily Aksyonov" at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts, today the University of Art in Graz). Therefore this very special academy could be set up. In 1993 the course for the acting branch was established and put into operation. The course for the directing branch has been set up only organizationally.

The attendance in these fields of studying branches is regulated as follows: The following requirements apply for attending the directing branch, completed schooling with a school leaving examination (Graduation from Gymnasium) and a preliminary examination regarding the artistic qualification as a mandatory requirement. A completed school education is a requirement for attending the drama branch, a school leaving examination (Graduation from Gymnasium) is not mandatory but could be an advantage, a preliminary examination regarding the artistic qualification is a mandatory requirement.

In the year 1993, a group of 20 deaf or hearing-impaired people took a serious interest attending the drama branch for professional acting education on a level of a university for music and performing arts; but none of these persons fulfilled the requirements described above for the branch of directing. In order to filter out the persons from the group of deaf or hearing-impaired people, who have the artistic requirements for the education as a professional actor or actress, preparatory workshops has been installed in 1993. As a result of these workshops 4 deaf or hearing impaired persons have been chosen to attend the courses in the acting branch. Independently of this decision, further preparatory workshops were held continuously, but no one subsequently fulfilled the artistic requirements.

A curriculum was subsequently developed for the acting branch by Mag. art. Herbert Gantschacher and Prof. Dr. phil. Dževad Karahasan. Till 1993 Prof. Dr. Dževad Karahasan was the Dean of the Academy of Scenic Arts in Sarajevo, since 1993 Prof. Dr. Dževad Karahasan works for ARBOS Company for Music and Theatre as a dramaturge and dramatist.

The curriculum for the acting branch for deaf and hearing-impaired students includes the following subjects:

Structure of a Character  
Ensemble Lessons in Acting  
Improvisation  
Theatre Law and contract Law including Copyright  
Analytical Study of a Character  
Movement Theory and Lessons  
Technique of Expression  
Technique of Expression in Sign Language  
Stagedance  
Breathing Exercise  
Dramaturgy and Theatre Theory  
History of Literature and Theatre  
Introduction to the Topics of World Literature  
Costume Studies and Stage Design.

In addition to the curriculum with the different subjects, the following practical courses and supplementary studies have been offered and carried out:

Summer course of the US-American National Theatre of the Deaf at the Wesleyan University in Middletown and the American School for The Deaf in Hartford, both educational institutions are based in the US-American State of Connecticut.

Exchange courses with the Janáček University for Music and Performing Arts (JAMU) and the Theatre Faculty of the University (DAMU) in the field of Drama and Education for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (VDN) operated by Prof. Zoja Mikotová (deaf and hearing impaired students receive a state-recognized degree in drama in combination with a career in education - kindergarten pedagogy or teaching - with a state examination and academic title in combination with a written thesis for the academic degrees Bachelor, Master, Diploma or Doctor). The Janáček University of Music and Performing Arts is located in Brno in the Czech Republic.

The curriculum with the different subjects has been operated by a staff professionally trained teachers (degrees with academic titles or degree from the acting examination committee), the management of the individual subjects for deaf or hearing-impaired and hearing students has been carried out by teachers with academic degrees with academic titles.

**Because a professional training with a successful completion is the basic requirement for any artistic work in a professional theatre.**

According to the curriculum with the different subjects the following persons managed the direction of the different courses of the different branches:

Direction for the Branches Acting and Directing: Mag. art. Herbert Gantschacher.

Development of the Curriculum for the Branches of Acting and Directing: Mag. art. Herbert Gantschacher and Prof. Dr. Dževad Karahasan.

Direction of the Subjects for Structure of a Character, Ensemble Lessons in Acting, Improvisation, Theatre Law and contract Law including Copyright, Analytical Study of a Character, Movement Theory and Lessons: Mag. art. Herbert Gantschacher

Direction of the Subjects Dramaturgy and Theatre Theory, History of Literature and Theatre, Introduction to the Topics of World Literature: Prof. Dr. Dževad Karahasan.

Direction of the Subject for Costume Studies and Stage Design: Burgis Paier (State recognized visual artist).

Direction of the Subjects for Technique of Expression and Technique of Expression in Sign Language: Howie Seago (Deaf actor and director with a academic degree of the Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., USA).

Direction of the Subjects for Stagedance and Breathing Exercise:

Direction Stagedance and Breathing Exercises: Juho Saarinen [Deaf dancer with an academic degree at the Academy for Dance at Helsinki in Finland and also teacher at the Janáček-University for Music and Performing Arts (JAMU) and the Theatre Faculty of the University (DAMU) in the field of Drama and Education for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (VDN)].

As assisting teachers the actors Dietmar Jäger and Reinhold Tritscher worked on the curriculum in the acting branch for deaf and hearing-impaired students on the following subjects Analytical Study of a Character and Movement Theory and Lessons, both have no academic degree as actors, but both have passed their examination as actors at the joint acting commission in Vienna and got their degrees as actors.

Recorded with effect from January 22nd, 1999, the following deaf or hearing-impaired persons passed their examination as actors and actresses at the joint acting commission: Brigitta Palecek, Werner Mössler, Horst Dittrich and Georg Horngacher.

(See also attached the original protocol as a facsimile in German language 1993\_Akademie\_Darst.Kuenste\_Oesterreich.f.Gehoerlose\_Ghl-AV-99.pdf)