

one night, I was many kilometers away from the city and did not know what to do! Thanks to the actors in the theatre, we managed to get some of the props and costumes out, but we lost some of them forever,” she said sadly. That day, they lost one of the main components of theatre activity: a stage and a rehearsal space, as well as costumes and an understanding of how the events of the People’s Theatre would unfold. Luckily, the Center for Culture and Leisure provided shelter for the theatre, a stage for performances, and a rehearsal room that housed everything from their old life: costumes, playbooks, props, and hope for a further uprising from the ashes.

The full-scale invasion did not stop the actors’ thirst for the stage either. The People’s Theatre is currently engaged in charitable activities: free performances for refugees and charity performances with a collection of everything necessary for the Ukrainian military. They engage in cultural and educational activities for schoolchildren and students, participate in city events, play a premiere every year, and update their repertoire with a new cast.

Halyna Cherniavska not only directs but trains many young actors who become professional actors, work in professional theatres, and act in films.

To summarize, folk theatres have been studied little but continue to be active in social and cultural activities. They keep the memory of history alive and create a new future on stage despite the anxieties, oppression, and financial difficulties.

A. Kuksova

**THE EVOLUTION OF CLOCK TOWERS THROUGH HISTORY:
THE CASE OF UKRAINIAN TOWN HALLS**

A. Кукова

**ЕВОЛЮЦІЯ ГОДИННИКОВИХ ВЕЖ УПРОДОВЖ ІСТОРІЇ:
НА ПРИКЛАДІ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ РАТУШ**

Clock towers became widespread across Europe in the early IV century. Initially designed to help citizens track time when personal timepieces were unavailable to ordinary people, these structures rapidly evolved into emblems of civic identity and pride. Beyond merely representing their cities, clock towers embodied historical development, engineering excellence, and cultural legacy. Consequently, they became integral elements of urban landscapes, with residents forming strong emotional connections to them. Due to their impressive height, clock towers were typically visible from considerable distances throughout their respective cities.

Among the world’s most renowned clock towers are the Prague Astronomical Clock in the Czech Republic and Big Ben in London, United Kingdom. Both structures have achieved UNESCO World Heritage status and attract numerous visitors annually. These magnificent timepieces serve not only as outstanding examples of historical architecture but also as powerful symbols representing the cultural and historical significance of their regions.

Clock towers were quickly incorporated into town hall designs, highlighting these buildings’ significance as civic centers. Town halls functioned as the nucleus of urban life where critical community decisions were made, while the clocks adorning their towers symbolized order and reinforced governmental authority. The principal limitation of these

early timekeeping mechanisms was their considerable size — the complex array of wheels, gears, weights, and components required substantial space. To create suitable conditions for these mechanisms' operation, massive structures, typically towers, were constructed. These tower clocks were sophisticated instruments requiring constant attention (regular lubrication was necessary due to friction) and dedicated maintenance personnel (for weight-winding duties). Despite significant daily inaccuracies in timekeeping, these clocks remained the most precise and widely used time-measurement devices for many years.

In Ukraine, clock towers are predominantly featured as components of town halls — locally known as “Ratusha” (derived from the German term “Rathaus”). Town halls and their accompanying clock towers gained significance in Ukraine particularly during periods of Austro-Hungarian and Polish governance in western regions. These architectural features were implemented as part of broader urban development initiatives that emphasized civic organization and alignment with European cultural practices. The clock mechanisms, frequently imported from distinguished manufacturers in Austria, the Czech Republic, and Poland, represented remarkable engineering achievements of their era, featuring both mechanical precision and artistic designs.

M. Kadurina

MODERN TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEATER IN UKRAINE

M. Кадуріна

СУЧАСНІ ТЕНДЕНЦІЇ РОЗВИТКУ ТЕАТРУ В УКРАЇНІ

Modern Ukrainian theater is in a constant search for new forms and ideas. It is difficult to define a clear direction in which it is developing, but it can be confidently stated that it strives to reflect societal changes and contemporary challenges. In the first decades of the XXI century, theatrical art in Ukraine has undergone significant transformations, affecting both the presentation of material and the content of performances. From classical productions to experimental performances, from physical theater to the integration of modern technologies, Ukrainian theater continues to explore new means of artistic expression.

One of the main trends is the growing popularity of documentary and military theater, which addresses actual events related to war. It is natural, as the Russo-Ukrainian war affects everyone in Ukraine and finds its reflection in various fields of art, including theater. Contemporary dramaturgy also contributes to this process. A striking example is the “Theater of Military Actions”, where veterans and military personnel of Ukraine take part. The founder of the theater, director Alex Borovenko, notes: “I saw how being on stage transforms and inspires the men who have returned”. Such projects become not only artistic works but also a form of therapy.

Another significant feature of modern theater is its integration with technical means. Increasingly, directors incorporate multimedia elements, video projections, and interactive technologies. For example, in the production of “Macbeth” by Ivan Uryvskyi at the Franko Theater, three screens were used to symbolize the three witches. Such decisions create a new level of visual perception and engage a younger audience accustomed to digital content.

Alongside technological experiments, chamber theater is developing, offering intimate forms of communication with the audience. Performances in small venues,