

A school of science “Theory and History of Drama” (a supervisor of studies – Olexander S. Chirkov, Doctor of Letters, and Full Professor) has been fully functioning at the Department of Romanic & Germanic Literatures and Literature Study in the Educational and Research Institute of Foreign Philology at Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University since 1991.

The school includes post-graduate and doctorate courses (professional direction (specialty) 10.01.06 “Theory of Literature”). Since the establishing of the post graduate course there have been defended 13 post graduate theses (dissertations) to get an educational degree of a Candidate of Philological Sciences, specialty 10.01.06 “Theory of Literature”. There are currently four post graduate students at the course, supervised by Olexander S. Chirkov.

In 2011 on the basis of the school of science there was founded an academic and popular cultural complex “Drama”. Its main aims are initiation and coordination of scientific researches in Theory and History of Drama; realization of dramaturgical searches in dramatic art; translation and popularization of dramatic works by classical and modern playwrights; supervision and assistance in carrying out the research projects; introduction of new scientific materials into general scientific use; training of scientific personnel of higher qualification (Candidate of Sciences, and Doctor of Sciences).

A scientific and research laboratory „Brecht-Zentrum” plays an important part in work of the cultural complex “Drama”. „Brecht-Zentrum” is a structural subdivision of the University, which creative ideas have been approbated via international annual Brecht conferences.

In 2011 there was published the first issue of the “Brecht Journal”, a collection of scientific works aimed at research popularization of both Bertolt Brecht’s legacy and other German authors who are little known among Ukrainian readers.

There have been established and successfully maintained the relations with foreign educational institutions, such as International Brecht Society, and Bertolt Brecht Archive (Berlin), and there have been signed the cooperation

agreements between the Academy of Arts (Berlin) and Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University.

In 2012 „Brecht-Zentrum” has received a library dedicated to the legacy of the German playwright. The library is considered unique for the Eastern Europe.

The school of science has held a series of international and Ukrainian conferences, scientific and practical seminars attended by famous scholars.

The school supervisor, Olexander S. Chirkov, has become a full member of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and a professor emeritus of Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University.