

# Educated Beginners Vs Untaught & Experienced

Sound in Belgrade's Theatres

Dobrivoje Milijanović, teaching assistant  
Faculty of Dramatic Arts  
University of Arts in Belgrade

# Department of Sound Design for Film, Television, Theatre and Radio

- BA and MA in Sound Design
- 10 students per class
- Sound design for Theatre & Live Sound Reinforcement
- four semesters (5, 6, 8, 10)
- theory & practice

# Educated Beginners Vs Untaught & Experienced

- Students, Bachelors and Masters of Sound Design in Belgrade Theatres
- Untaught Sound Technicians, Operators, Designers and Ton-Meisters

# Sound Departments in Belgrade Theatres

- four educated sound designers in three theatres
- *Atelje 212, Bitef Theatre, Madlenianum*

# Atelje 212

- three people employed, two sound designers and technicians/operators, one technician/operator
- two stages, fifty shows a month
- insider opinions:
  - educated designers working as technicians/operators need more hands-on experience in the field of audio-engineering to be able to troubleshoot problems in audio systems;
  - untaught technicians need systematic knowledge on basic subjects of audio systems and sound design.

# Bitef Theatre

- two people employed, working as sound designers/technicians/operators/video operators
- one stage, twenty shows a month
- insider opinions:
  - educated sound designers miss hands-on experience
  - working with experienced colleagues and learning from their experience is extremely important!

# Madlenianum

- privately owned and financed theatre (drama, opera, musical)
- three to four people, one educated sound designer/operator, two to three technicians (students of school for electrical engineering, audio/visual department)
- fifteen to twenty shows a month
- insider opinions:
  - relying too much on internal training of people interested in becoming sound technicians;
  - not enough trust for sound designers skills and knowledge;
  - part-time employment means low incomes

# The Biggest Challenges

- Educated Sound Designers miss hands-on experience;
- Untaught Sound Designers/Technicians often give their sound department a bad name;
- Most of people employed in field of theatre sound miss operative knowledge to troubleshoot audio systems.
- Educated sound designers often avoid designing sound because of low incomes and no additional fees for additional artistic work.



# The Biggest Challenges

- Most of educated sound designers stay in theatres for one or two seasons.
- Low level of specialization – sound designers working as technicians, operators and video operators
- Lack of short-term educational courses – most of people lack time, money, and enthusiasm to go to faculty.
- Lack of proper knowledge and experience in the field of new technologies (digital mixing desks, media servers etc.)

## Help us improve

- our students should get experienced while studying
- our untaught should get systematic and certified knowledge
- our curriculum needs practical improvements
- we need new technologies

Thank You!

[dobrivoje@gmail.com](mailto:dobrivoje@gmail.com)