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THE EVOLUTION OF UKRAINIAN THEATER: FROM NATIONAL IDENTITY TO DIGITAL INNOVATION

The Theatre industry in Ukraine has undergone significant changes in recent years. There has been a growing interest in the arts and culture, and numerous government and private initiatives have provided financial support to theatres. Additionally, the rise of digital technologies has made it easier for theatres to reach new audiences.

The emergence of Ukrainian Theatres is associated with the formation of Ukrainian national culture and literature. The earliest attempts to create Ukrainian Theatres took place in the 19th century, when Ukrainian nationalists and intellectuals fought to preserve their national identity and cultural heritage.

In 1864, the first Ukrainian professional theatre, the «Ruska besida», was created, which staged plays by Ukrainian playwrights. However, the theatre only lasted for three years as it faced opposition from the tsarist authorities.

Later, in 1904, the «Ukrainian National Theatre» was created in Lviv, which became the first Theatre to stage Ukrainian plays at a professional level. Here, works by Ukrainian playwrights and world classics, including Shakespeare's plays, were staged. The Theatre's outstanding actors included Maria Zankovetska, Les Kurbas, Ivan Fedorovich, and others. The Theatre operated until 1939, when it was closed during the Soviet occupation of Western Ukraine.

In 1925, the Kyiv Academic Theatre named after Ivan Franko was founded, which became one of the most famous Theatres in Ukraine. Such outstanding figures as Ivan Mykolaychuk and Maria Zhukovska worked here, and the Theatre developed its own acting school.

One cannot but mention the Kamianets-Podilskyi Academic Ukrainian

Drama Theater named after Ivan Kotliarevsky, founded in 1927. This Theatre is famous for its performances of Ukrainian classics.

During the World War II, Ukrainian theatres faced great difficulties, but continued to work and fulfil their obligations to the audience. For example, during World War II, special theatrical groups were created at the front, which performed plays for servicemen. Theatres also operated in the rear, staging performances for local residents or making tours to the front lines.

Despite these challenges, the Ukrainian theatre industry has experienced positive changes in recent years. There has been a rise in popularity of young theatres, which are more experimental and flexible, and this has attracted a younger audience. Furthermore, the industry has benefited from various government and private initiatives aimed at supporting the arts and culture.

In conclusion, the Ukrainian theatre industry has a rich history, and despite the numerous challenges it has faced, it continues to evolve and grow. The rise of digital technologies and the support of government and private initiatives have enabled Theatres to reach new audiences and sustain their operations. With the continued interest and support for the arts and culture, the future of the Ukrainian Theatre industry looks bright.

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