

## Murodjon Ahmedov - Fergana Valleys Singer

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### ABSTRACT

This article is about one of the great artists not only of present time but also the last century, Murodjon Ahmedov who is famous for his rich life, multifaceted, unique and incomparable creativity, in our beloved homeland and beyond, also known as the “Golden Valley Singer”, the brightest star of the Uzbek theatrical scene.

**KEYWORDS:** Patiphon plates, dramatic tenor, Kurban Umarov, Tohir, Farkhod, Majnun, Alpomish, Aziz, “Golden hand”, Tursunali.

Murodjon Ahmedov was born on January 1, 1918 in the village of "Katta Afghan" in the present-day Uzbekistan district in a poor peasant family. Because of his love of art, he attended weddings and performances in his village during his teenage years, listened to the melodies and songs of the artists, repeatedly turned on the traditional phonograph records over and over again, he especially liked the great songs of Hamroqul Qori and Rahmon Hafiz, who were popular among the people at that time. He used to sing his favorite tunes and songs when he went out to the fields to pick hay for the cattle.

One day, a violinist named Usmonjon aka, who heard Murodjon's pleasant voice and saw his great interest in singing, led him to the amateur circle of the Pakhtakor collective farm, headed by Toshpolat Sultanov, a student of the famous singer of that time Hamroqul qori Turakulov.

Here, young Muradjon diligently learns how to circle and how to sing. A year later, in 1933, he was invited to work for the first Young Audience Theater in Kokand. Here he learned from experienced teachers such as Ahmadjon Irmatov, Otanboy Sarimsakov, Mukhtorjon Murtazaev: "Girya" (Crying), "Ul kun jonon", "Oh kim kim rahm aylamas", "Aylama", He began to study classical and folk songs, such as "Tashkent Iraq", and began to perform them in the theater's concert programs.

Having a pleasant voice and his own fans, Murodjon was invited to the collective farm theater in Yaypan, the center of the Uzbek district, in 1935. In addition to participating in concerts here as a musician (singer), he also participates in small episodic roles in performances staged by the theater team. In this way, with the help of the theater's creative team, he begins to learn the secrets of the stage and its peculiarities. The director of the Hamza Theater in Kokand, Honored Artist of Uzbekistan Kurban Nazarov suggests our young and talented hero who is only 18 years old, the role of an orphan in the play “Gunchalar”, and the role of Askar in the musical drama "Arshin mololan".

In late 1939, Muradjon was drafted into the former Soviet Army in the Republic of fraternal Ukraine. When he went to the army, he took his favorite musical instrument, the dutar, with him. In the army, he organizes a small ensemble of Uzbek compatriots who play drums, violins, dutars and singers like him, and plays charming Uzbek melodies and songs over the

steppes of Ukraine. In the early 1940s, representatives of the military command came to the military unit where Muradjan was serving and solemnly presented him with an award in his honor from his native Fergana, a certificate of honor. The award was sent to him by the Fergana regional executive committee for his active participation in the construction of new irrigation canals and facilities in the region. This award inspires pride in him and increases his love for art. After graduating from the army in the late 1940s, Murodjon began working at the Hamza Theater in Kokand at the suggestion of his mentor, Kurban Nazarov. Honored Artist of Uzbekistan Zanjirali Mirzatov, acting general director, saw beauty and charm in young Murodjon and immediately accepted him as a student.

Murodjon first worked here as a doira player, then as a vocal artist, and began to take an active part in concert programs for city and district workers of the Fergana Valley and the builders of the Sokh-Logan-Big Fergana canal. At the same time, taking an account the experience he gained from his work in 1935-1939, he was given roles in performances in the theater repertoire. Over time, acting in large musicals, especially the lyrical sound needed to create the image of the protagonists, begins to show, in the language of experts, a "dramatic tenor" and a daring dramatic ability. Noticing this, directors and experts commissioned him to play the role of Tahir, the protagonist of the play "Tahir and Zuhra" in 1942. The director Mamadali Haydarov, who staged the play, and the talented actor Valijon Hamroev, who played the role for the first time, helped him a lot. This role will be played by Murodjon more than expected. His God-given, dramatic tenor voice, as well as Tahir's arias and duets, such as "Otmagay tong," "Muhabbat," "Ayirmish," "Sitara," and "Ayirganlar" performed in the play, captivated everyone. Through the image of Tahir, Murodjon gained the respect of the people and was now called Murodjon Ahmedov.

After that, with the help of his teachers, he became a double (partner) one after another in "Farhod and Shirin" - Farhod, in "Layli and Majnun" - Qays (Majnun), in "Eagle's Flight" - Umar, in "Tormor" - Bahodir, in "A-five-sum cost bride" - Nadir, in "Bahodir" - Omon, in "Gulsara" - Kodir, in "Kholishon" - Rustam, the main hero and the main musical and dramatic heroes.

Murodjon Ahmedov was a very strong and energetic man by nature. Therefore, he was very much in line with the image of Tahir and especially Farhod, one of the lyrical heroes he performed on stage.

When the Great Patriotic War broke out in 1941, all literary and artistic institutions, as well as theatrical organizations, were tasked with preparing plays and concerts depicting life on the front and behind the front lines, thereby mobilizing the masses, especially the youth, to the front. Thus, the first musical drama in Uzbek drama by S. Abdulla and Tokhtasin Jalilov "Kurban Umarov" was created. The main character in the play - Kurbanali - was given to Valijon Hamroev and Murodjon Ahmedov. Muqaddaskhan was one of the first young actresses of the theater to play the role of Bahrikan, Kurbanali's lover. Later, this role was played by one of the talented artists of the theater Sabokhon Ochildieva.

The play "Kurban Umarov" aroused in our people, who have never seen a war and did not know what it is, who are still busy working day and night, love for their homeland, their people, hatred for the enemy. In addition to the urban spectators of the show, workers from the surrounding district centers and villages, who came in trucks, horse-drawn carriages, bicycles, and even donkeys, watched the show over and over again for months and years.

This role provided a great and wide way for Murodjon Ahmedov to play in following plays, such as "Davron ota", "Qasos", "Kochkor Turdiev", "Vatan uchun", "Oftobkhon", "Armugon". Murodjon Ahmedov skillfully played the role of the main and protagonists in these performances as well.

It is known that those years were a period of food and clothing shortages. This did not even bypass Kokand. On such occasions, Murodjon Ahmedov also eats 500 grams of black bread. Once a day in the courtyard of the theater they hang a big pot and cook special meal for the theater staff, as well as other colleagues he eats this meal and performs roles such as Alpomish, Farhod, Majnun, Aziz, works such as 20-30 times arias, duets, which are sung on the upper stages with great effort and energy during the performance.

In the war and its aftermath, the theatrical repertoire created works in line with the spirit of the time, as well as works of Russian and world literature in Uzbek national drama, such as "The Case of Maysara", "Alpomish", "Aziz va Sanam", "Boy ila hizmatchi", "Gulsara", "Inspector", "Marriage", "Bride for five sums".

Murodjon Ahmedov and his colleagues play the main and responsible roles in these performances, using their creative abilities and skills, such as Mulla Dost, Alpomish, Aziz, Nodir, Gafur, Achil, Qodir. and continued to improve his skills.

Since the 1950s, A. Qahhor's "Shahi Sozana", Uygun's "Golden Hand", A.N Ostrovsky's "Sepsiz Kyz", "Innocent Guilty", F. Schiller's "Pirates", Hamza's "Maysara's Case", Uyghur and I. Sultan's "Navoi", "Alpomish" by S. Abdulla and Tokhtasin Jalilov, "Gadfly" by Voynich, "Stepan's trick" by K. Galdo, "Auditor" by Gogol, "A love legend" by Turkish writer Nozim Hikmat began to take a strong place in the theatrical repertoire.

Until now, Murodjon Ahmedov has mainly created the image of musical heroes in his theatrical repertoire, now, in performances of various genres, he has started to play the big and small roles assigned to him along with young professionals.

One of the most popular images of his time in contemporary performances was Tursunali, the son of the chairman of the collective farm, one of the protagonists of Uygun's musical drama The Golden Hand.

As usual, Murodjon Ahmedov had his own personal life. He used his life experience to create this image in such a simple, straightforward and convincing way that it was as if Murodjon Ahmedov himself was living on the stage, not Tursunali, who was big, rude and arrogant. His image as a country boy and his familiarity with collective farm life helped him to create this image. That's why acquaintances and friends on the streets called him Tursunali.

Since 1954, the play based on the musical drama "Ravshan and Zulhumor" by playwright Kamil Yashin and composer Tokhtasin Jalilov has aroused great interest among theater fans and the general public. The protagonist of the play is Murodjon Ahmedov as Ravshan, and Zulhumor is played by Sabakhonim Karimova. The play was staged by the theater's director general S. Ahmedov. In the process of staging the play, Murodjon Ahmedov invites S. Akhmedov to use a real horse on the stage in order to further strengthen the image of "Ravshan", increase his courage and embody him as a real hero. Although the proposal violated the rules of the scene, it was accepted as an exception. After that, Murodjon Ahmedov brought a horse "Black Bayir" from a company headed by his friend and took it to the stage to rehearse. The horse soon became accustomed to Murodjon Ahmedov in such a

way that "Black Bayir" obeyed his orders on stage. The show has seemed a bit unfocused in recent episodes. The audience heard that Murodjon Ahmedov was riding a horse on the stage and came to watch it in cars and horse-drawn carriages. In this way, the play "Ravshan and Zulhumor" became a favorite of the audience and for a long time remained on the stage.

Thus, during his 16-year career (1939-1955) at the Kokand Theater, Murodjon Ahmedov created memorable images in more than 50 performances of various genres.

In 1955, Murodjon Ahmedov was hired as a soloist-vocalist (soloist) at the Fergana Theater. Leading artists of the theater - People's Artists of Uzbekistan: Sulaymon Kasimov, Yahyokhon Mamatkhanov, Zunnun Madaliev, Hafizahon Ibrahimova, Honored Artist of Uzbekistan - Dehkon Jalilov, famous artists Tavakkal Kadyrov, Jaloliddin Ahunov, Mamatvali Aliyev, and the whole team welcomed him warmly and supported him in every way to make him a good artist in the future.

During this time, the theater's creative team was working hard to create a musical drama "Muqimiy" by Sabir Abdulla and Tokhtasin Jalilov. The protagonist of the play - Muqimi was played by the director of the theater - Y. Mamatkhanov, his lover - Obida by Hafiza Ibrahimova and other roles were played by leading artists of the theater. Murodjon Ahmedov's first role on the stage was as Sherali in the play. As soon as Murodjon Ahmedov took over the role, he joined the creative ensemble and joined it.

It should be noted that Sherali, although a small episodic character, was able to raise him to the level of a large canvas, even if he appeared in only one film in the play, and thus introduced himself as a leading actor to the workers of Fergana. As our great masters said, "There are no big or small roles, but big and small actors", Akhmedov enriches this role with new life performances.

This is how Murodjon Ahmedov, one of the future masters of Uzbek theater and singing, began his life at the Yusufjon Qiziq Shakarjanov Musical Drama and Comedy Theater.

Every human being is an individual, and human qualities and attributes, as well as shortcomings and flaws, play an important role in his formation as a complete human being.

From this point of view, the beloved artist of our people, honor and pride of the Uzbek national theater and singing, the Honored Artist of Uzbekistan - Murodjon Ahmedov also has a wonderful combination of these qualities.

Murodjon Ahmedov worked at the Fergana Theater from 1955 to 1975. He has performed Mirza Izzat in "Mirza Izzat in India" for the past 20 years, Ashik Gharib in "Ashiq Garib and Shohsanam", Parpi hafiz in "Tahir and Zuhro", Norkozi in "Nurkhan", Farhod in "Farhod and Shirin", Ravshan in "Ravshan and Zulhumor", Rustam in "Kholishon", Moni in "Dilorom", in "The Rich and the Servant" - successfully playing the role of Gafur, the development of Uzbek theatrical art has made a significant contribution to the aesthetic education of his contemporaries. It is noteworthy that Murodjon Ahmedov managed to convince the audience by playing these roles even in his 50s and 60s. It was a testament to the fact that he had become a true master of the stage, a great artist.

Murodjon Ahmedov was awarded the title of Honored Artist of Uzbekistan by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan No. 106 of May 29, 1958 for his significant contribution to the development of the Uzbek national theater. In 1967 he was awarded the title of People's Artist of Uzbekistan.

Inspired by this, Murodjon Ahmedov worked with a higher spirit and zeal, in the play "Life" - Salom, in "Kholishon" - Rustam, in "Bride of five sums" - Bahodir, in "Vatan" Ishqi "creates the image of heroes like Subhonqul.

The creative team of the Fergana regional theater took part in the traditional festival of the Republican Theater in Tashkent in 1958 with their performances "Ravshan and Zulhumor" and "Qumri's desire" and won one of the top places.

Spectators, theater fans, music lovers and song fans will listen to the captivating songs of his concert repertoire "Fargona tong otguncha", "Topmadim", "Bu oqshom", "Qachongacha", "Sabo tezdin", "Bayot-3", "Toza lutf", "Bog aro", "Dermusan", "Nazzora qil", "Ortar", "Sunny Uzbekistan" with peace of mind, light of eyes and hearts, and when the time comes, they will enjoy it here and there. One of the latest performances of Murodjon Ahmedov at the Fergana Theater is "Flower and Navruz" for the first time as an experiment through the mobile studio of the national television from Fergana to Tashkent, and from there directly to the whole republic was shown. The play was later fully taped to the Republican Radio and is now housed in its gold fund.

A special TV film about Murodjon Ahmedov, created in 1977 by the staff of the Republican TV studio, entitled "Golden Valley Singer", delighted his fans, family members, friends and colleagues. And it has become a living memory for our art-loving people, as well as for future generations.

In 1972, Murodjon Ahmedov, like many others, embarked on the Mubarak Hajj pilgrimage to Umrah. After returning from Umrah, he resumed his creative work at the Fergana Theater with great energy and enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, Sharof Rashidov, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, presented a Volga-24 car to a group of artists, including Murodjon Ahmedov, for their contribution to the development of art and culture of the republic and the aesthetic education of our people.

Murodjon Ahmedov died of a long heart attack on May 16, 1988, the day of Eid al-Adha. His funeral was read at the Juma Mosque in the city after Eid prayers by workers from towns and surrounding districts and villages. The fact that Murodjon Ahmedov died on this auspicious day was a great blessing from Allah to His beloved servant.

In order to perpetuate the name of Murodjon Ahmedov in 1996, especially his great contribution to the cultural and spiritual life of Kokand, the Kokand city administration, on the recommendation of the city's "Terminology Commission" It was decided to rename Pravda Street after Murodjon Ahmedov. Today, the street is named after a great artist.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2001, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan IA Karimov issued a decree awarding Murodjon Ahmedov with the Order "For Great Merits" for his fruitful contribution to the development of Uzbek national culture. On December 5 of the same year, Tohirjon Ahmedov, the eldest son of Murodjon Ahmedov, was invited to Tashkent to the White Palace, where he was personally presented with an order given to him by President I.A. Karimov.

In conclusion, we can say that Murodjon Ahmedov left behind a great school in acting, singing and music. The students of this school have grown up in Hoqandi Latif and are still serving our country. The bright memory of the People's Artist of Uzbekistan Murodjon Akhmedov will live forever in the hearts of our art-loving people.

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