

Spectators invited to *Krechinsky's Wedding*

Maxim Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre premieres *Krechinsky's Wedding*, based on Alexander Sukhovo-Kobylin's play of the same title

According to the creators of the performance, the play's theme is such that it is set to change the opinions of those who view classic literature as dull and unfashionable. "This 19th century play is unique, enabling us to speak to modern audiences about today's topics. At the same time, the actors can fully reveal their bright individuality via this classic, bringing their characters to life," notes Mikhail Kovalchik, director-producer and Honoured Figure of Arts of the Russian Federation.

The main role is played by People's Artiste of Belarus Alexander Tkachenok, who took on the role of Krechinsky with pleasure, usually playing elderly men. Such roles have prevailed in his career since he was a student. "I was trusted to play elderly characters from the first and it was difficult for me to refuse these traditional roles of old men. Over many years, I've mastered these characters, so it was a risk for me to take on something so different," notes Mr. Tkachenok.

Mr. Tkachenok's character is a 19th century gambler, addicted to his vice, which dominates his life. Gambling controls him. It is a theme which is just as relevant today, regardless of the costumes or



ALEXANDER DIMITRIYEV

19th century play is unique in speaking to contemporary audiences on burning issues

set. We see the essence of human personality facing the most extreme situations.

This is not the first time that Mr. Tkachenok has worked with director Mikhail Kovalchik. Over twenty years ago, they worked at the Gorky Theatre to produce *Faryat-*

iev's Fantasies. The current performance is the director's present to Mr. Tkachenok on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

The score has been written by Pavel Yakubchenok, a graduate of the Belarusian State Academy of Music, who

has long worked under the guidance of Mr. Kovalchik. "At first, I doubted whether the young composer would be able to cope with such a difficult topic. However, as soon as I heard his work, all my fears dispersed. Pavel feels the nuances of the phantas-

magorical spirit of the play," explains the director.

The set for *Krechinsky's Wedding*, created by famous theatre set designer Veniamin Marshak, plays with metamorphoses and the line between realism and surrealism.

Classical organ music

By Sergey Kochetov

Laureate of international contests, Lithuanian organist Alexander Isakov, premieres unusual programme for Vitebsk audience, especially prepared for regional Philharmonic organ

The concert included pieces by organ music composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, Julius Reubke and Max Reger, which required perfect performance. Mr. Isakov notes that playing such music is a new stage in his artistic career. He rehearsed without a break for over five hours on the eve of the concert.

Alexander Isakov is an organist at Vilnius' St. John's Church but also tours a great deal, giving solo concerts and taking part in musical festivals in Western Europe, the Baltic States and the CIS.

Chronicle compiles family photos

Mogilev residents invited to take part in *History of My Family in the History of Mogilev* photo exhibition

The regional city's central library has initiated the event, which aims to study the history of the city

through the history of separate families. Anyone can donate photos from their family archives, with those depicting key events in the history of Mogilev particularly welcome. The organisers are calling on residents

to thumb through family albums to select the most interesting shots.

This will be the second exhibition in Mogilev using residents' photos. The first event was organised a year ago and was entitled

War Through the Eyes of a Soldier. It included letters from the front, kept by Mogilev families, and photos from WWII times. The new exhibition will open on May 15th, for International Family Day.

Touching bright artistic palette

Belarusian State University hosts exhibition of fine arts dedicated to Defenders of the Fatherland Day and Women's Day

The showcased works have been created by painters Vladimir Kozhukh, Alexander Ksendzov, Maria Isaenok, Nadezhda Liventseva and Sergey Lagunovich-Cherepko, and graphical artists Konstantin Sharangovich, Vladimir Mekhovich, Sergey Balenok and Sergey Stelmashonok. In addition, sculptors Vladimir Slobod-

chikov and Alexander Finsky have contributed.

The show is dedicated to Defenders of the Fatherland Day and Women's Day. However, it also honours the memory of the participants' friend and colleague Yuri Makarov, whose 55th birthday would have been celebrated this year. Yuri's pictures are additionally on show.

Mr. Makarov lectured at the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute (now known as the Belarusian Academy of Arts) for a long time. He spent his last years working



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Exhibition arouses great interest among students at his studio in the BSU's student town ... and it continues to operate today.

The exhibition is part

of the *Touching Palette* programme, which aims to acquaint BSU students and lecturers with modern fine arts.

Year of culture begins with exhibition

***I Feel You*, at National Library, shows inner world of Ukrainian painter Natalia Polishchuk**

The exhibition is one of the first events dedicated to the Year of Ukrainian Culture in Belarus. Its organisers note that warm and friendly relations have long existed between our two states, intensified by such artistic meetings.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Roman Bezsmertnyi, characterises Ms. Polishchuk's canvases as bright and cheerful. "To understand the creativity of this young painter we must adopt her easy perception of reality, moving away from problems while penetrating the world of feelings and emotions," notes the Ukrainian diplomat.

Ms. Polishchuk believes that her pictures will bring happiness and joy to those who have missed out on such light-heartedness. "Life is so diverse; we should just feel it. Stop, ponder and catch these moments with the help of my hands. By 'diving' into anticipation you can see this wonderful world through my eyes and understand my works," explains the artist. Ms. Polishchuk works in monumental painting and has taken part in almost a hundred plain air workshops, exhibitions and art projects. Her works are kept by state and private collections in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Canada, the USA, Italy and elsewhere.

Pas de deux performed brilliantly

Belarusian ballet soloists Yekaterina Oleinik and Konstantin Geronik take gold at Berlin dance competition

The dancers' performance of the pas de deux from *Don Quixote* brought them first place: a gold medal and a special prize from the festival's patron, Staatsballett Berlin Director Vladimir Malakhov. The Belarusian pair took part in a gala-concert, which featured the winners of the contest from previous years, alongside the 2011 winners, Staatsballett Berlin soloists and stars of the world stage.

The prestigious international contest *Dancing Olymp* is perceived as the top international choreographic competition. Since 2005, it has been a member of the International Choreography Association and UNESCO's International Dance Council.