

Shakespeare interpreted by puppet theatre

New theatrical season sees Mogilev Regional Puppet Theatre preparing major premiere of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* for adults

By Sergey Kulikovskiy

In our modern world, Shakespeare's eternal themes continue to remain relevant, despite the passing of centuries. However, the performance is being given bold and provocative twists, to encourage audiences to connect with the characters more deeply. Theatre Director Igor Kazakov tells us, "Our decision to take on this challenging play shows not only the director's personal ambitions but the theatre's confidence in its ability to present such a classic. During our 'wandering'

years, when the theatre was being renovated, we considered our future direction. We boast talented actors, a creative climate of trust and maturity, making us fully able to portray Shakespeare's works: *Hamlet* is particularly challenging, as it offers more questions than answers."

Final details for the performance are still being decided upon but the idea has inspired everyone, allowing the play to grow through rehearsals. It should be ready by the end of the year and is to be entered in the International *M.art.Contact-2013* Youth Thea-

tre Forum. The last time that the puppet theatre attempted Shakespeare was 12 years ago, when *Macbeth* was performed; the departure of the former Director placed the addition of further Shakespeare plays on hold.

Two more premieres are planned this season: *The Incredible Adventures of Gentlemen Kublitsky and Zablotsky*, by Sergey Kovalev, which opens the season on October 10th, and an entertaining children's performance of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, based on the story by the Brothers Grimm.



Theatre premiering shows not only for adults

Listapad Film Festival, nurturing cinematic art, celebrated again

19th Minsk Listapad International Film Festival to be held from November 2nd-9th under motto 'We Love Films'

The full composition of the jury and the official programme of the forum are to be announced in October. As ever, the main competition will award feature films, documentaries and works for children and young audiences. This *Listapadzik* will be accompanied by numerous non-competitive events.

Interesting projects are expected — such as the International *Youth on the March* Feature Film Competition, for promising young artists. Its jury is to be headed by American producer Christine Walker. The latter is President of independent New



Globe Films and a founder of Werc Werk Works Company. She is known for paying attention to independent directors and supporting their projects. Her projects include the *Turin Horse*, by Bela Tarr — an owner of the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival; *Life During Wartime*,

by Todd Solondz — a laureate of the Venice prize for best screenplay; biographical drama about the life of legendary beatnik Allen Ginsberg, entitled *Howl* and starring James Franco (marked with FIPRESCI Prize in the 'Un Certain Regard' section at the Cannes Film Festival); as well as adaptation of short stories by Charles Bukowski — entitled *Factotum*, by Bent Hamer.

The Minsk *Listapad* International Film Festival was founded by the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and Minsk City Executive Committee and is organised with support from Beltelecom, the National Film Studio Belarusfilm, the Belarusian Video Centre and the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers.

The Toobes band given personal star on Rock and Roll Avenue of Fame — recently created in Minsk

By Yulia Leonova

TNT Rock Club, which recently opened in Minsk, initiates foundation of new cultural site

TNT Rock Club has set up an avenue to celebrate the very best of rock'n'roll, in the spirit of its venue. The first star has caused a stir on Twitter and Facebook, with many puzzled as to why *The Toobes* was chosen. The director of the band, Vyacheslav Lomakin, was

surprised at the news and at my call, saying that it was the first he'd heard of the star, as he hadn't received any notification from TNT Club. However, he added that the band is scheduled to play there on September 15th and imagined that the club might wish to surprise them on stage.

Since the award has already spread across the Internet, the matter is hardly a secret anymore. The Art Director of the club, Natalia Davydova, is yet

to provide any further light on the matter but *The Toobes* (which comprises 20 year old boys) won 'New Band of the Year' at the Rock Coronation 2010. It also won 'Best Album of the Year', 'Best Debut Album of the Year' and 'Best Rock Album' in 2009. Moreover, they have won various musical contests and festivals. This seems a reasonable premise on which to be given a personal star on Minsk's first Rock and Roll Avenue of Fame.

Musical battle victory

By Tatiana Pastukhova

Belarusian Sasha Nemo wins 8th International Oriental Bazaar Television Contest of Pop Singers, held in Yalta (Ukraine)

Sasha shared first place with Kazakh Dimash Kudaibergenov. The Grand Prix and \$5,000 prize went to Azerbaijani Jalal Abbasov. Young Anastasia Sheverenko

of Belarus also took part, while Belarusian Svetlana Agarval represented India.

Oriental Bazaar supports pop singers in developing their competitive spirit. This year, Belarus faced rivals from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Latvia, India, Slovakia, Macedonia, the Czech Republic, Italy and

other countries. Every year, Yalta gathers singers from 30 countries.

Last year, Belarusian trio Angels finished second (comprising three of the four members of 3+2 band, which represented Belarus at *Eurovision-2010*). The audience at the event grows annually, as the show is broadcast to dozens of countries worldwide.



Central Military Band of Belarus sees full houses for every performance

Friendship continues

By Alina Grishakovich

Central Military Band of Belarus successfully tours French Nord-Pas de Calais

Audiences have been heartily welcoming the Belarusian artistes performing classic and folk music at concerts featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Gennady Puchkov. As well as classical melodies, there have been adaptations

of *Pesnyary* songs and French musical motifs. Orchestra soloists Yelena Shevchik, Victoria Krasovskaya and Polina Donskaya have received an especially warm welcome at the concerts, which mark the 68th anniversary of the liberation of the Nord-Pas de Calais from German invaders. Celebrations are traditionally held every September in the northern region of France, which comprises Artois, Boulogne and Flandre.

The military band is

already well-known to local residents, having been attending the celebrations since 1994, with support from the Belarusian Embassy to France. In almost twenty years of friendship, a solid group of French fans has emerged to support the Belarusian orchestra, which is one of the best military bands in Europe. It has brought forth such legends as People's Artists of Belarus Mikhail Finberg and Alexander Tikhonovich.