

Culture without borders

Recently, in the oldest and most prestigious concert hall in Vilnius — the National Philharmonic, near the Gate of Dawn — the Days of Belarusian Culture in Lithuania opened. For the fifth year, the State Academic Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Anisimov, opened the festival, having already played in Klaipėda and Kaunas.

By Victor Andreev

In Vilnius, they again met a full house. Mr. Anisimov always brings the best of their repertoire to Lithuania. He explains, “We present Belarusian and international classics. It is encouraging that our performances win the hearts of Lithuanians year on year. Many return annually.”

The Counsellor for Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of Belarus to Lithuania, Irina Zubko, tells us, “Mogilev Regional Drama Theatre is going to Vilnius and Visaginas, performing the monologues of *A Lover's Complaint*, *Owner of a Coffee-Shop* and *It's Time to Look on the Bright Side of Life*. The Theatre Studio of Film Actors is presenting *The Markopoulos Case* and #13 while The Belarusian State



ALEXANDER RUZHECHKA

Alexander Anisimov conducts

Academic Musical Theatre will be delighting audiences with the musical *West Side Story*, in Kaunas.” All together 670 artists are travelling from our country to Lithuania to present their best performances from the last year. This is the seventh Days of Culture, co-ordinated by Vladimir Drazhin, Ambassador of Belarus to Lithuania.

DIRECT SPEECH

Vladimir DRAZHIN, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Lithuania and Finland:

The Days of Belarusian Culture in Lithuania are being conducted for the seventh time and, this year, are more extensive. Our diplomatic mission has initiated the event, which offers a good opportunity to show our achieve-

ments at every level. If people abroad see that our culture is at a high level, it is an indicator of our success in other areas. Vilnius was, is and will ever be the largest centre of Belarusian culture — not only in Lithuania, but abroad in general. The Embassy plans to replace the outdated plaque in honour of Yanka Kupala in Vilnius Street, while installing one to Yakub Kolas

als in honour of Frantisek Bogushevich, Rygor Shirma and Kastus Kalinovsky. Meanwhile, our diplomatic mission is located in Mindaugas Street — named after the king who united Belarusian and Lithuanian lands in the 18th century. We share more commonalities than differences, as is natural for neighbours.

In fact, rather than days, the event lasts over a month. It is packed with theatre performances, concerts and museum presentations, aiming to promote understanding and appreciation of our rich culture, regardless of borders. Our nations' friendship, of course, allows us to enrich each other year-round.

MT's reference:

The Days of Belarusian Culture in Lithuania are organised by the Embassy of Belarus to Vilnius, together with the Ministry of Culture. Organisational and financial support is given by the Minsk City Regional Executive Committee and that of Mogilev. The campaign will last until October 30th, with events hosted by Vilnius, Kaunas, Visaginas, Mažeikiai and other cities.

Trends change but victories remain forever

For the first time in recent years, Belarusian filmmakers have taken part in the Open Film Festival *Kinoshock-2012* with great success

By Valentin Petrov

Two films entered the main competition, winning prizes: a joint project entitled *The Lonely Island*, written by Peeter Simm and Mihkel Ulman, won 'best screenplay'; and actor Vladimir Svirsky (the lead in the drama *In the Fog*, by Sergey Loznitsa) won 'best male role'. All together, 14 films took part in the contest.

The Grand Prix 'Golden Vine' for 'best feature film' was given to Uzbek drama *Heaven — My Abode*. *The Guardian*, by Zaza Urushadze from Georgia, was awarded 'best direction' and Lithuanian Algimantas Puipa's classic *Fortress of Sleeping Butterflies* earned 'best female role' for Janina Lapinskaite. The Russian Guild of Film Critics prize went to Ukrainian Mykhailo Iliencko for *Firecrosser*.



Shot from the film *In the Fog*

Honoured Artiste of Belarus Svetlana Sukhovey — a member of the International Council of *Kinoshock* and the Chair of the Belarusian Cinema Actors' Guild — tells us, “These *Kinoshock* results are a significant success for our filmmakers. We are pleased

that both films were accepted received in Anapa. Previously, our only victories were Anatoly Kot's award for his work in *Anastasia Slutskaya* and Alexander Yefremov for his television melodrama *It Rhymes with Love*. We've done well this year in comparison.”

Original route

Nesvizh Palace and Park Estate organising tour of underground tunnel

The new 45 minute tour is to cover the defensive constructions, including a visit to the tunnel under the embankments. Initially, it was to begin inside the castle but, as it's now 'overloaded', will commence beyond. The restored underground tunnel is about 50m long and is sure to prove to be a highlight of visitors' experience.

“The tunnel did exist previously but tourists were simply not allowed to enter. Moreover, such an excursion requires the presence of a guide,” explains Sergey Klimov, Director of the National Nesvizh Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve.

The estate boasts many basements and underground tunnels. During reconstruction, a huge underground construction was discovered, located under the embankments and destroyed in the 18th century. Additionally, two underground tunnels for use during long-term siege have been restored.