

Farewell ... with love

Signer Jennifer Lopez performs first concert in Belarus



Public greet Jennifer Lopez with great excitement

By Victoria Svetlova

Neither Shakira, nor Sting, captured the audience's hearts as easily as the Latin American from the Bronx, performing at Minsk Arena. Ms. Lopez arrived in Minsk after giving a concert in Azerbaijan, preceded by her managers, who arrived to check household and technical conditions. In fact, the star's demands were quite reasonable, notes the assistant to the director of the Department of State, Special and Cultural Shows at the Palace of the Republic, Tamara Shakhnazarova.

She tells us, "Of course, the terms under which Ms. Lopez would perform were

quite specific but they were straightforward, intending only to create the most comfortable conditions. Jennifer likes the colour white, so we chose light colours for her hotel: furniture, walls and carpets. Her flowers were also only white. The technical conditions were more difficult to fulfil but also feasible. She required a production office, plus offices for her tour manager and manager, several dressing rooms for her dancers and musicians, a wardrobe room and, of course, a dressing room for herself.

The singer flew into the capital with her mother, Guadalupe, children Emme and Max, and her new boy-

friend — dancer Casper Smart, 25. Ms. Lopez's team of 85 people stayed in the Crown Plaza Hotel with her and the star appears to have been delighted with her reception, as she left her room in high spirits. On leaving the hotel, she was met not only by journalists but by young Belarusian band *Swifter Boys*, who played and sang one of her hits for her on the accordion. This inspired a little dance from Jennifer, who then hugged and kissed each of the soloists, asking if they were coming to the concert. Receiving an affirmative answer, she nodded, saying, "I'll look out for you." She then posed for a few minutes for photographers, before

leaving in a black Mercedes, accompanied by a police car, to conduct a sound check at Minsk Arena.

We love you, Jennifer!

She arrived on stage promptly for her 90 minute new programme *Dance Again*, chattered cheerfully with the audience and threw out T-shirts, caps and other accessories. Moreover, she allowed fans to take photos of her on their phones. As everyone expected, she danced divinely, sang all her most famous hits, had ten costume changes and, with each, appeared younger and younger. Before singing her hip-hop 'bomb' *Goin in*, Jennifer called herself 'a simple girl from the Bronx'.

After performing her hit *On the Floor*, the audience gave a five-minute standing ovation, with every face breaking into a grateful smile. Her positive energy filled the room, inspiring shouts of 'We love you, Jennifer!' from the audience as she ended her show.

Jennifer Lynn Lopez is known as a singer, actress, TV host and designer. Aged 43, she has produced seven albums and has sold over 55 million albums worldwide. She is ranked 27th by Billboard among the best singers of the 2000s. She is currently unmarried but has twins Max and Emme, aged 4, from her third marriage — to singer Marc Anthony.

Creative art works on the city pavement

By Anna Tolkacheva

Belarus' first street art festival of 3d-graphics Around the World in 8 Hours held in capital's Gorky Park

Eight teams competed to create street art — from the major capitals of the world, including London, Paris, New York, and Shanghai. The graffiti artists were given eight hours to paint their masterpieces, while audiences were entertained by street dancers, skaters and cyclists. The festival was hosted by the Central Children's Park named after Maxim Gorky.

Precious gift being donated

Museum of Gomel History given unique collection

By Nikolay Danov

Recently, the Museum of Gomel History hosted an extraordinary collection of around 100 cameras and photographic equipment, including rare and precious exhibits such as the legendary 'leika' (as mentioned in the *Song of a War Correspondent*).

Famous Gomel photographer Leonid Pinsky donated the items to mark the 870th anniversary of his native city. He tells us that he began work as a photographer's apprentice at 16, in 1968, and has been involved in the profession ever since, becoming an acknowledged specialist. The many visitors to the museum will also be able to view



Mr. Pinsky has been gathering unique collection

some of his photographs, which capture bright landscape scenes and moments from city holidays, alongside portraits of both well-known and anonymous (yet no less interesting) urbanites, taken over the years. The launch of the exhibition saw Mr. Pin-

sky having his own photo taken by colleagues and journalists.

Mr. Pinsky's unique collection was gathered over several dozen years, with many of his cameras having been well used in his work. His donation is thought to

be worth around Br20m. He admits, "We survived the difficult time of 'perestroika' when everything, including such rarities, was taken to Poland for sale. I resisted this urge, continuing my collection. However, I'm no longer young and have no desire to hoard this 'wealth' in a basement or attic. Let people see, and experience surprise and nostalgia."

According to the Director of the Museum of Gomel History, Yulia Kupreeva, the exhibits are enough to open a museum of photography in the city over the River Sozh. An appropriate building is being sought, with the museum hoping to realise its goal next year.

UNESCO celebrates Polotsk's jubilee

Photo exhibition dedicated to Polotsk's 1150th anniversary opens at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on October 3rd

The anniversary has been acknowledged by this international organisation as one of the most memorable dates, registered on the 2012-2013 calendar. The decision was adopted at the 36th General Conference in Paris. The inclusion of the holiday of the most ancient city in Belarus testifies to the significance of this event for all Europe. *Ancient Polotsk — Modern Polotsk* photo exhibition has gone on display in Paris, showcasing over 60 works by photographer Igor Supranenko, detailing the city and its residents. It runs until October 9th.

Pianos perform in Japanese style

Land of Rising Sun master arrives in Mogilev for 'technical inspection' of musical instruments

Pupils from the Mogilev Musical College (named after N.A. Rimsky-Korsakov) have claimed many Republican and international awards while playing pianos created by Japanese manufacturer KAWAI. Recently, the company offered free servicing of its instruments, sending specialists Arimune Yamamoto and Nozomi Suzuki to tune nine pianos over a three day period.

Modern, practical and quite convenient

Nesvizh Palace and Park to gain audio guides

Audio guides are to help visitors find out about the history of the building, while providing information on family photos, the archive and library: in Russian and Belarusian, each lasts 30 minutes.

Currently, 35 audio guides are available at Nesvizh Palace and Park but more are needed, with visitor numbers growing. A new batch is planned by the end of the year, including coverage of the large Fireplace Room, the Small Dining Room, the Ballroom, the Golden Hall and Theatre. In addition, the audio guides will become available in Polish and English.