

# Bright colours of *Listapad*

At 19th International *Listapad* Film Festival, audience of 30,000 watched over 300 films from 43 countries

By Olga Vasilieva

The festival's international jury agree that this year's film entries have been of exceptional quality, making their decisions much harder. Headed by famous film director Andrey Zvyagintsev, they debated through the night before choosing *In the Fog*, by Belarusian director Sergey Loznitsa, for the Grand Prix: *The Gold of Listapad*. The film is based on a book of the same title, by Belarusian Vasil Bykov, and is the joint work of cinematographers from five countries: Germany, Russia, Belarus, Latvia and the Netherlands.

Another favourite was *My Own Honour Bright*, by Russian director Alexander Karpilovsky, which has already won several awards: from the *Listapadzik* contest for children and youngsters; and the Prize of the President of Belarus 'For Humanism and Spirituality in Cinema'.

Second place — *The Silver of Listapad* — went to Polish director Cristian Mungiu's *Beyond the Hills* (Romania-France-Belgium) in the 'Artistic Film' nomination. Poland's *My Father's Bike*, directed by Piotr Trzaskalski, took *The*



Grand Prix *The Gold of Listapad* awarded to *In the Fog* directed by Sergey Loznitsa

*Bronze of Listapad*. In the main feature film competition, 'Best Art Direction' went to Vasily Sigarev

(*Living*, Russia) while 'Best Camera-work' (the Marukhin prize) went to Adel Nodeh-Farahani

(Juris Poškus' *Kolka Cool*, Latvia). Mikhail Segal's *Short Stories* (Russia) was awarded a special prize

for best newcomer to comedy. Meanwhile, Yana Troyanova and Olga Lapshina were named best actresses for Vasily Sigarev's *Living* (Russia) and Mikhail Meskhi was awarded the title of best actor (Zaza Urushadze's *Guardian*, Georgia).

According to the jury, the forum saw an interesting and diverse programme of documentary films. Serbia's *Village Without Women* received the Grand Prix for 'Best Documentary'. In addition, Olga Dashuk (Belarus) was recognised for her direction of Cinema Goer: *Autumn Dream*, alongside the director of *Minefield*, Russian Ivan Golovnev; they shared a prize given by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia 'For Loyalty to Moral Ideals in Film Art'.

Russia's *Fan*, directed by Vitaly Melnikov, received the Cinema without Borders special prize, awarded by the CIS Executive Committee for developing cultural co-operation and strengthening friendship between nations. Meanwhile, *After Lucia*, directed by Michel Franco of Mexico, was given a special diploma from the jury 'For Topical Relevance and Outstanding Screenplay'.

## Lyntupy awaits VIP guests

The Culture Ministry has developed a plan to transfer former noble estates which are standing empty into private hands

By Viktor Korbut

At present, there're 46 such sites. One such is Byshevskie Estate in Lyntupy, near Polotsk (on the border with Lithuania and Latvia). It recently acquired new hosts and, by 2016, is to launch accommodation for up to 100 VIP guests. According to modest calculations,

around \$7m is to be invested.

Work has begun, with 'mountains' of accumulated waste removed, alongside the old roof deck. Façade restoration is next in line, supervised by highly-qualified specialists. The only condition put before the investor was to retain the architectural monument and restore its former appearance.

The major building — Byshevskie manor — is to house several museum rooms on the first floor, as well as a large banqueting hall; hotel rooms will be located upstairs.

Canals in the grounds are also to be restored, allowing sailing. Fish breeding is planned for the ponds and, in future, an amphitheatre is to open, as is a sports ground and golf course. Until then, all is quiet, with only the birds singing, forecasting the future revival.

Polotsk's church returns to its 12th century look

By 2015, a helmet-shaped dome and corbel arch-



Fine art restorer Yevgenia Seregina at work

es will grace the Saviour Transfiguration Church in Polotsk, with 12th century frescoes being newly unveiled inside. Restorers are now examining the façades, deciding how best to return the church to its former glory without damaging the historical layers of later centuries.

Yuri Malinovsky, who is heading the restoration, is still pondering the details with colleagues, wondering whether it's possible to return the church (built in the times of St. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya) to its original appearance. Alternatively, it could be given its early 20th century look.

He tells us, "We found out during restoration that the basement needs to be reinforced in

some places and that some walls have cracked, needing repair. During rebuilding by the Jesuits in the 18th century, niche burial vaults were walled-up with bricks and the floor raised by 30-40cm." Several niches have been cleared of bricks, revealing ancient frescoes, but more clearing work is required, while the floor needs to be lowered again.

Frescoes on the altar, credence table and diaconicon are now restored to their original appearance and those in the underdome space are being revived. Moreover, top layer 19th century works removed to reveal older art works below are being placed on canvas, to save them; most date from the 1830s and 1880s.

## IFMC-2012 invites lovers of dance

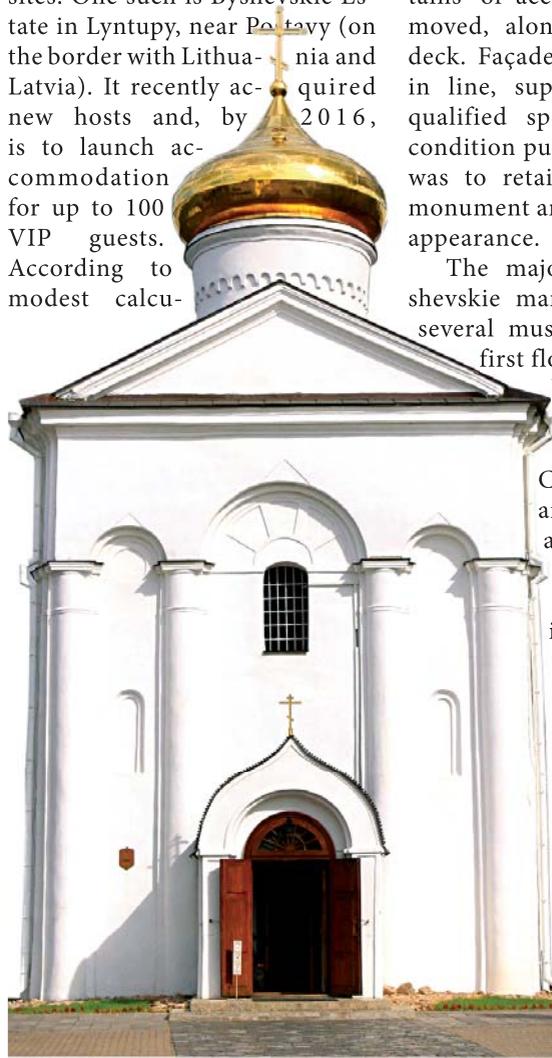
International Modern Choreography Festival hosted by Vitebsk

The 25th jubilee event is bringing together many participants and spectators — true fans of contemporary dance and movement. The contest is being held in two nominations: a one-act ballet and a choreographic miniature. Already, from the selection video-round, 45 performances have been chosen — from Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Estonia and Japan. The programme includes two joint international projects, with participants representing Germany, Italy, China, Taiwan and Cyprus.

The jury is headed by People's Artist of the USSR, the 'Best Dancer in the World' (as awarded by the Paris Dance Academy) Vladimir Vasiliev. The Grand Prix winner is to receive \$5,000 and four other major awards are on offer, in addition to special prizes.

The forum's guest list has significantly expanded, including past *Golden Mask* National Theatre Award winners (from Russia): *Provincial Dances* and *Eccentric Ballet*, from Yekaterinburg; Perm's Yevgeny Panfilov Ballet; and Chelyabinsk's Contemporary Dance Theatre, by Olga Pona. Famous dancers from Norway and France are joined by the UK's National Dance Company of Wales — taking part for the first time.

IFMC-2012 participants are also to tour, giving festival concerts in Minsk, Grodno, Bobruisk and Molodechno. Artistes from 40 countries have taken part in the Contemporary Choreography Festival in the Vitebsk Region over the past 25 years.



Saviour Transfiguration Church in Polotsk