

‘My dream came true so I am happy’

Alena Lanskaya, representing Belarus at *Eurovision-2013* and ranked 16th, considers her performance at the competition a success. After the final show, she shared her impressions with journalists and admitted that she was happy because her childhood dream to participate in *Eurovision* had, at last, come true.

By Yekaterina Nechaeva

“I’m happy that my dream has come true. I’ve dreamed of Eurovision for many years,” said Alena, adding that she is very grateful to all the team members who helped her to prepare for the performance. “I’ve been working with a great team and have never before experienced such unity and understanding,” she admitted. “We tried hard, did our best and we achieved a good result.”

Reporters asked Ms. Lanskaya

to comment on why she thought Russia had failed to award any points to Belarus this year, to which she replied, “The competition is unpredictable; you have to be ready for any outcome.”

As to whether Ms. Lanskaya would take part in *Eurovision* next year, she emphasised that she has just spent 6 months working on her entry and was looking forward to resting. She added, “Another stage has been completed in my life. Eurovision has been a great adventure and journey but is now over.” She

stressed that ‘she is ready for new discoveries’, noting, “I’ve planned a big solo concert and have recorded a new album in English language in London — soon to be released. I have a lot of new ideas and am ready to experiment; life goes on.”

At the International *Eurovision-2013* Song Contest, Ms. Lanskaya lacked experience performing on the big stage, as Honoured Artist of Belarus Inna Afanasieva commented. She explained, “Confidence in performing on big stages is gained with time. It was obvious that Alena

was nervous and the contest is a serious trial. You need distinct charisma to withstand the pressure.” At the same time, she noted that Belarus had presented its song with dignity, and was well rehearsed, with Alena demonstrating great determination to take part in *Eurovision*.

Speaking of the winner, Danish Emmelie de Forest, Ms. Afanasieva expressed doubts regarding her triumph. “While last year’s winner (Swedish Loreen) was obvious, this year’s is more controversial; of course, it’s a matter of taste.” The

Honoured Artist of Belarus notes that it’s best to take a calm approach, focusing on the opportunity to reach a wider audience and gain experience. “For a creative person, it’s a good opportunity to show your talent and raise your professional level,” she said.

Denmark’s Emmelie de Forest won with *Only Teardrops*, while Azerbaijan’s Farid Mammadov came second with *Hold Me*; Ukrainian Zlata Ognevich’s *Gravity* was placed third. Belarusian Alena Lanskaya’s *Solayoh* took 16th place.



Alena Lanskaya’s performance in the finals of *Eurovision-2013* considered worth of 16th place



Art instead of sleep

International *Museum Night*, traditionally organised from May 18th to 19th, turns National Art Museum of Belarus into virtual forest

By Valery Hmarov

The *Belarusian Night*, or *Museum in Fantastic Stories* programme, combined marshes and batleika (puppet theatre) at the National Art Museum, recreating nobleman Zavalnia’s medieval market between the hours of 19.00 and 24.00. The courtyard opened to host a summer café for its *kAR-Toplya* project, and a range of entertainments, with guests tasting Belarusian delicacies. Meanwhile, the *Potato with Sparks* installation

brought amusement, as director Oleg Ryzhkov explains. From 20.00 to 01.00, guests were invited to try their hand at folk crafts or painting, while each hall presented its own programme of concerts and theatrical shows.

For the first time this year, the State Museum of Nature and Ecology and the National History Museum, which share a building, worked together to present entertainment. The Museum of Minsk City History organised puzzles, with prizes, while offer-

ing a romantic rendezvous over the rooftops of the night city. Its Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery hosted *Physharmonica* (early 20th century, Germany): *Action and Dance from the Past* while the courtyard became a catwalk for 2013/2014 Belarus Fashion Week, accompanied by live music.

The Zair Azgur Memorial Museum-Studio organised its *Museum Night* from 22.00 to 06.00 under the slogan ‘Art instead of Sleep’ with jazz concerts through the night and screening of avant-



garde Czech and American films. Meanwhile, the Modern Fine Arts Museum gave young guests an interactive art show with musical accompaniment; its Street Art Festival coincided with *Museum Night*. The Yanka Kupala State Liter-

ary Museum offered visitors its *PaUlinka PARTY* project, encouraging creativity through body-art, embellished with amazing hairstyles, courtesy of professional hairdressers. The event finished with a firework show.