

Film events developed near Smorgon

Brest actress Yanina Malinchik to play a leading role in Russian film *Death Battalion*

Igor Ugolnikov, the screenwriter and producer, tells us, "The fact that an actress from Brest was chosen for this role shows the special connection with our last film: *Brest Fortress*. She proved her talent and character during film tests."

Death Battalion will be the largest Russian film project devoted to the First World War, being filmed with support from the Russian Ministry of Culture. It is to provide 50 million Russian Roubles of the 250 million total budget.

The film tells of a women's detachment, created in St. Petersburg at the order of the 1917 provisional government, to raise the fighting spirit of the army. Events are being filmed near Smorgon, where this female battalion fought heroically.

Shooting begins on 31st August, with the premiere scheduled for 1st August, 2014, coinciding with the Memorial Day for all those soldiers who died during the First World War.

Experimental theatre scene

By Lyudmila Ivanova

Play by daughter of Charlie Chaplin being staged in Minsk from 28th September to 21st October

The Belarusian capital will become a huge theatrical playground during the 3rd TEART International Theatre Forum, organised by ART Corporation and OJSC Belgazprombank. The best theatres from Belarus, Russia and abroad will present sixteen plays, with seven staged by independent European theatres. The experiments aim to show new, unusual and, sometimes, provocative modern and traditional theatrical forms.



Aurelia Thiérrée

On 5th and 6th October, the Belarusian State Academic Musical Theatre will be treating audiences to *Whisper of the Walls* (France) staged by the daughter of Charlie Chaplin, Victoria Chaplin Thiérrée; the granddaughter of the great comedian, Aurelia Thiérrée, will take the lead comedic role. The play encapsulates Chaplin's hallmark style.

On 7th October, the Warsaw New Theatre will present *(A)pollonia* at Minsk-Arena: a difficult and impudent montage inspired by traditional tragedy and literary works about the Holocaust. The international programme will come to an end with the play *MUCK* (Hungary) about the universal malady of discontent.

Lute revival in Pinsk

Unique Pinsk master restores ancient musical instruments while performing medieval music all over Brest Region



BELTA

Yury Dubnovitsky shares his love of ancient instrument with pupils

By Yuri Chernyakevich

Pinsk's residents are now able to admire lute music, after two centuries of oblivion. Many years ago, this musical instrument was viewed as Belarus' musical symbol — alongside the cembalo. After the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's split in the late 18th century, it almost disappeared but, around 15 years ago, Pinsk school teacher Yuri Dubnovitsky decided to restore this medieval Belarusian 'mandolin'.

Mr. Dubnovitsky learned from foreign experts and, like Stradivarius, devoted all his time to inventing his own 'medieval guitar'. Several years on, success arrived: in 1999, his first

lute was made and, since then, Yuri has been producing new instruments. His work has made him well-known far beyond Belarus. He explains, "Many facts confirm that, in the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the lute was popular in Novogrudok, Nesvizh and Pinsk. Amateurs and professionals played the instrument, which is interesting from a musical and historical point of view. Unsurprisingly, I was eager to revive it."

According to the master, the 'Belarusian sitar' is suitable not only for 16th-17th century music. He tells us, "Any kind of music can be played — including jazz, ragtime and modern ballads. With this in mind, I view the

lute as a promising instrument." Mr. Dubnovitsky teaches pupils at the local musical school, making them tune their instruments for a full five minutes before playing. On hearing the melody of an ancient knight's ballad, there's no doubt that you are transported to another time: perhaps to a medieval ball celebrating the birthday of a nobleman or his daughter's wedding.

Modern Pinsk lutists can now play the most complicated melodies, although their ancient 'science' is far from simple. "A lute has 13 double strings, so the positioning of hands and technique of playing differ drastically from that of a guitar. All those

familiar with music will understand that it's a true challenge to learn to play the lute," explains Mr. Dubnovitsky.

Despite the difficulties, Yuri's pupils are demonstrating progress and, with their teacher, often perform at Pinsk and Brest festivities, as well as visiting other towns across the Brest Region. Their small band is named *Saltarello* — after a genre of Italian dance and instrumental music popular in Europe in the 14th-16th century.

Alongside the cembalo, the lute was once Belarus' musical symbol, spreading countrywide, thanks to Pinsk enthusiasts' efforts.

Choirs sing out, with true hearts, souls and minds

International KHORoSHOW music project opens new TV season

Choirs from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Serbia and France are taking part, assessed by an international panel of judges. Among those sharing their expertise will be Eurovision-2007 winner Marija Šerifović of Serbia, popular French singer Desireless, and *Chervonye Gitary* band leader Severin Krayevsky.

The show will consist of three big concerts: two semi-finals and a final. Each semi-final will feature four choirs, selected through a draw, with one winner from each group going through to the final round.

Besides the usual singing, the final two choirs will also battle through tasks to show their knowledge and imagination.



At KHORoSHOW only the strongest will win

Belarus will be represented by young Belarusian *Medley* choir, which formed in Minsk this year, comprising soloists in choral singing and beat-boxing amateurs. Members sing unaccompanied in various styles, including pop, rock,

hip-hop and reggae, performing cover-versions of well-known songs, as well as their own original compositions.

The semi-finals will be broadcast by STV TV Channel on 14th and 21st September.

Films screened on the square

To Steal Belmondo comedy screened at Kinoshock Festival

Nikolay Knyazev's film, shot last year, is being screened at the 22nd Open Festival of CIS countries, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia: *Kinoshock*. The Belarusian film will be shown as part of the out-of-competition programme: *Cinema on the Square*.

This year's festival will be held from 14th to 21st September in Anapa, with the top *Golden Vine* Prize awarded to the best producer of a feature film. Winners will also be announced under the categories 'Best Director', 'Best Screenplay', 'Best Actress', 'Best Actor', 'Best Cinematography' (in honour of A. Knyazhinsky) and special Grand Jury diploma. Last year, the film festival award for 'Best Actor' went to Vladimir Svirsky, for his leading role as Suschenya, in the film adaptation of Vasil Bykov's story, *In the Fog*, directed by Sergey Loznitsa. The film was co-produced by Belarus, Germany, Russia, Latvia, the Netherlands and the EURIMAGES.