

# Holiday takes us to Fairyland

Around 200 films from 27 countries took part in the 16th International Festival of Animated Film — *Animaevka-2013*, held in Mogilev

By Yuri Chernyakevich

Every year, Mogilev attracts adults and children who are drawn to its International Festival of Animated Film. Held in September, *Animaevka* is a true family event which brings adults back to their childhood whilst presenting a fairytale atmosphere to cartoon lovers of any age.

This year, the festival featured around 200 films from 27 countries but the experts ruled that just 71 films (from 21 states) were to be entered in the competition programme. This year, the international jury was headed by an artist, animator, director and Russia's Honoured Figure of Arts — Leonid Nosyrev.

Apart from film screenings, the festival also presented exhibitions, theatrical

shows, musical programmes and master classes. As is traditional, a children's animation contest — *I Am Not a Magician Yet, I Am Just Learning...* took place. In addition, a children's fine and applied arts competition entitled *My Favourite Cartoon* was also organised.

Special prizes and diplomas were presented at a solemn closing ceremony. Six nominations were awarded: 'Best Film of the Festival', 'Best Experimental Film', 'Best Children's Film', 'Best Fine Arts Solution', 'A Prize to the Master' and 'Audience's Choice Prize'. A unanimous jury gave the Grand Prix to *The Lost Town of Svityaz*, a Polish film based on Adam Mickiewicz's *Sviteznyanka*. According to the judges, this work has raised animation

to a new level.

*Once When I Served My Dear Landlord*, by Belarusian, Mikhail Tumelya, was considered for the top prize, eventually winning 'Best Experimental Film'. Iran's *The Kitten* won 'Best Fine Arts Solution' category and Latvia's *Hedgehogs in the City* was named 'Best Children's Film'.

*Animaevka-2013* has become a popular event in Mogilev which, this year, is the cultural capital of the CIS and Belarus. Importantly, the festival is now self-funding and, as the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee's Deputy Chairman, Valery Malashko, said, "All tickets to the film shows were sold out, with screenings also organised in district centres. Interest in the festival is evidently growing."



*Animaevka* takes adults back to their childhood

## New life for cultural artefacts of great historical and artistic value

About 90 percent of Belarusian valuables are spread across the world. They were taken away due to various events over the years. Valuables were removed not only to neighbouring countries, but further afield too. Finland, for example, has part of the Nesvizh libraries, Austria has paintings by Pen and Chagall while Sweden owns guns commissioned by the Radziwill family.

By Lyudmila Avdeeva

According to the State Customs Committee, for the last 12 years customs bodies have confiscated more than 82,900 objects of historical and artistic value. These include paintings, jewellery, books, ancient ceramics and furniture. Smugglers have been trying to take out all these artefacts from the country or, more recently, attempting to smuggle things into Belarus.

All items that are confiscated on the borders undergo expert review to ascertain whether these objects have any historical and cultural significance or not. Afterwards, if the owners can be located, the objects are returned to them. If not, the objects are distributed amongst the country's museums and galleries. The greatest quantity of such rarities can be found at the Brest Regional Local History Museum's 'rescued art valuables' branch. This is the only establishment, both in Belarus and in all Post-Soviet territories, which stores such reclaimed property.

The museum, which was opened almost quarter of a century ago, has several hundred unique exhibits.

"Our museum does not receive all the reclaimed objects," says Alex-



Radziwills commissioned guns in Sweden

ey Mityunkov, Director of the Brest Regional Local History Museum. "Some objects are returned to their rightful owners. For example, in late 1980s and early 90s the Customs department detained many religious icons which had been stolen from Russian museums. Obviously, these have been returned. Some pieces are also sent to other museums. Last year a collection of antique furniture was detained on the border. One part of the collection was sent to Nesvizh, another part to the Pruzhany estate and park ensemble."

The hall is divided into ten sub-halls. The museum's greatest and

most 'expensive' collection is that of the Russian iconography of 16th-early 20th century. The icons in set in silver are especially valuable. They were created by the leading jewellery centres of Russia, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Kaluga and other cities, in the 18th-early 20th century.

"Icons have always been popular objects for removal, especially towards the end of the Soviet period," said Tatiana Mironovich, senior research assistant of the National History Museum, which held a joint exhibition of the National History Museum and the Brest Regional Lo-

cal History Museum under the title *Saved Art Values*. She continued, "But things have recently changed. There are now more objects which are being smuggled into the country from Europe."

Fans of exotic objects can enjoy the art of the East section with its displays of traditional Japanese painting on silk, 'kakemono' scrolls, Chinese and Japanese vases, Buddhist sculptures made from bronze, and many other objects.

Visitors may also be attracted by a unique ancient Psalter, or a Bible from the late 19th century, tiny irons for ironing small items of clothing from the times of Russian Empire, a German sauceboat or a Polish set of knives from the early 20th century. Among the bright, precious objects is a silver Caucasian belt inlaid with dozens of coins. Not all museums of the world can boast similar exhibits.

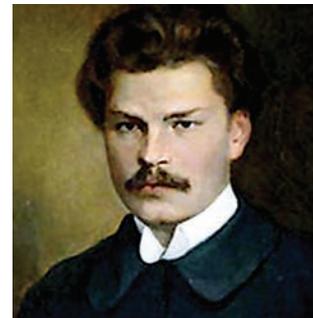
The collection of dishware stored in the museum is also diverse. Items made from glass, china, metal can all be seen. Here one can find, for example, objects from the Imperial China Plant which served the imperial court, or crystal dishware decorated with silver, made at the Riga Glass Plant.

## Classic in a modern environment

By Sergey Semenov

Film about Maxim Bogdanovich wins Grand Prix at international film contest

The film, *Coming Home*, by the Belarusian director, Agata Motsko, took first place in the *Be part of it!* international contest of short movies which was held within the framework of the European Day of Co-operation. Directors from Lithuania, Poland and Latvia also presented their works. The screening took place at the end of September at the Vilnius' Pasaka Film Theatre.



Maxim Bogdanovich

The action takes place in the Grodno's Museum of Maxim Bogdanovich, where one of the museum's workers meets the spirits of the past, including that of the Belarusian poet, who died in 1917, but has seemingly returned to modern day Grodno.