



Visitors to exhibition show great interest in exhibits from Dagestan



Ramazan Makhmudov

Timeless traditions

Mogilev's Ethnography Museum hosts exhibition of Dagestan's decorative-and-applied art: *Pride and Splendour of the Land of Mountains*

By Sergey Sokolov

The exhibition features over 200 items from the private collection of Ramazan Makhmudov, who explains, "Dagestan is home to over 100 nationalities and ethnic groups, who have a culture many centuries old. Each village specialises in a certain craft: for example, the walls of the exhibition hall are decorated with Tabasaran rugs, while the glass cases feature metal weaponry from Kizlyar. Kubachi and Gotsatli's silver

decorations, coated with nickel silver, are bedazzling and, beside them, is Balkhar pottery."

Sadly, everyday life in modern Dagestan tends to feature fewer hand-made items and some skills are now really only used in making tourist souvenirs. Mr. Makhmudov emphasises, "The aim of this exhibition is to embrace traditions and modernity, showing our unique items, including Dagestan's national clothing. Modern Dagestani brides usually wear European-style gowns

these days, but once wore national costume — decorated with a silver belt and necklace. The richer the bride, the more silver she wore."

It's hard to imagine the culture of Dagestan without weapons, papakhas (astrakhan hats) and burkas. Some still wear burkas, as Mr. Makhmudov notes, "A well-made burka is weather-proof: a raincoat which is warm in winter and cool in summer. As for weapons, most are produced only as decorations. The skills

are passed from generation to generation, although not as widely as in Soviet days. When I was a child, I helped my sisters to make rugs and, although I wasn't very good at it, my hands still remember the technique. Each square metre of high quality carpet is expensive, costing about 1,000 Euros."

The exhibition in Mogilev will run until late 2013, then moving to Minsk. It has been already showcased in Gomel, Brest and Vitebsk.



BELTA

Vileika ghost is ready for international film competition

Yelena Turova's *Kinderville Ghost* feature-length film, shot by Belarusfilm Studio and based on an idea by Oscar Wilde, is to open the competition programme of the *Listapadzik Children's and Young People's Film Festival*: part of the 20th *Listapad Minsk International Film Festival*.

The *Kinderville Ghost* combines dark humour with horror, fantasy and melodrama, while aiming to suit family audiences. Premiering at the festival, the film features Belarusian actors Vyacheslav Pavlut, Roman Podolyako, Alesya Samokhovets, and Valentin Glushko. The soundtrack is by well-known Belarusian composer Vladimir Kondrusevich who, several years ago, created the score for a cartoon based on Oscar Wilde's *Canterville Ghost*.

The plot explores the adventures of energetic producer Kostik and his family, after they inherit an ancient manor in the Vileika District, with a dark family secret. To raise funds, the family launch a theme park called *Kinderville* but soon find themselves facing a real

On the *Kinderville Ghost* set, in Shchuchin

ghost.

Producer Yelena Turova tells us, "It's a heart-warming tale of the younger generation facing past mistakes. It encourages us to think about family values and to take responsibility for those close to us. The film is packed with humour, music, stunts, computer animation and special effects."

Ms. Turova has produced sev-

eral animated and fiction films for Belarusfilm National Film Studio, as well as writing scripts. She is also a poet and pop song writer. Born in Mogilev, she is related to film producer Victor Turov and actress Svetlana Turova and has won numerous children's film festivals. In 2007, she shot *New Year Adventures in July* and, in 2010, *Ryzhik in Wonderland*: both for young audiences.

Printed editions created suited to every fancy

By Mikhail Semenov

Slavic Literary Dozhinki festival gathers writers from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in Gomel

Among those taking part were young and already well-known authors from the Gomel Region, as well as representatives of literary unions from across Russia and Ukraine, including those from the Union of Writers of Don and of the International Union of Writers.

Printed editions by writers from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine were presented, including two

books of poetry published by the Union of Writers of the Gomel Region, the Chaika Literary Association of Taganrog and the Union of Writers of Don. Events organised included creative meetings and master classes, and celebrations in honour of winners of regional literary contests, with entrants from educational and cultural institutions from Gomel, and the Gomel and Zhlobin districts.

The *Slavic Literary Dozhinki* festival has been held in the Gomel Region since 2007 and is one of its most important cultural events.

Two voices from one generation of truly talented musicians

By Andrey Svetlov

Honoured Artist of Belarus Anatoly Yarmolenko, Artistic Director of Syabry ensemble, joins famous Italian singer Al Bano in duet

Al Bano heard Anatoly Yarmolenko's latest solo album — *Where the Snowball Tree Bloomed* — and was so moved by the soulful compositions of

Oleg Yeliseenkov and by Ivan Yurkin's lyrics, that he decided that he must meet these Belarusian musicians. It was soon arranged to pair Mr. Bano with Anatoly Yarmolenko, notes Oleg, as they both have strong tenor voices and are from the same generation. The duo plan to record a couple of the songs from *Where the Snowball Tree Bloomed*, creating new versions of the wonderful ballads.