



Republican Art Gallery hosts *100 Years of Belarusian Art Posters* exhibition, devoted to 100th anniversary of appearance of first printed Belarusian poster

# Impressive poster panorama

Belarusians are known to be strong in the arts, including in pictorial art. It's a well-known fact, proven by international recognition and the presence of inspired works on show in domestic museums and foreign galleries. However, few are aware of Belarusian posters, which have a 100 year history and are still popular even today, continuing old and good traditions.

By Victor Mikhailov

Republican Art Gallery of the Belarusian Union of Artists hosts *100 Years of Belarusian Art Posters* — dedicated to 100th anniversary of the first printed Belarusian poster.

Like other genres of pictorial art, the Belarusian poster has its own traditions and historical

characteristics, dating back from the 16th-17th century; at that time, engravings were often used to illustrate scientific or other discussions, beside text. Frantsisk Skorina's *Panegyric by the Skarulskie Brothers* — engraved in 1604 at Nesvizh — was among the first.

The founders of Belarusian posters include famous painter

Jazep Drozdowicz, alongside Zair Azgur, Ivan Akhremchik, Yevgeny Zaitsev and Anatoly Volkov — who all worked during the years of the Great Patriotic War.

The art was actively developing in the post-war years. The First Republican Poster Contest was held in 1948 and the popularity of posters continued, with the Artistic Union launching a poster

section in 1961. From 1966, the Agitplakat Association was established at the Union of Artists of the BSSR, uniting and encouraging many talented poster artists. The genre experienced a boom between the 1970s and 1990s, when Arlen Kashkurevich and Vladimir Tsesler were most prominent.

In the late 20th-early 21st century, a graphic design chair

opened at the Design Department of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts. The methodology of poster art teaching yielded results, with many youngsters winning international poster contests and biennales over the past decade.

The aim of the current exhibition is to show the development of poster art over the last century; the panorama is impressive.



Scene from performance *Bury Me Behind the Baseboard*

# True richness of children's world

By Sergey Fiodorov

***Bury Me Behind the Baseboard* premieres at Yakub Kolas National Academic Drama Theatre, in Vitebsk**

Pavel Sanaev's book became a Russian bestseller from its first publication, arousing an emotional response in all who read the tale of childhood tyranny. Of course, the theme is one only too true in real life.

Sasha Saveliev, aged 8, lives with his domineering grandmother and weak grandfather, learning to obey, and to hate his mother, who is accused of all wickedness. Eventually, he rebels, seeking to escape this oppression through flights of fancy.

Vitebsk residents snapped up all the tickets three weeks in advance, going to see Roman Solovyev in the lead role: a young graduate of Vitebsk's State College of Arts.

# Garland of friendship both vivid and colourful

While loving and respecting the country in which you are living and working, you can still maintain your national traditions

By Vladislav Kubyshev

The 10th Republican Festival of National Cultures recently gathered expat communities from across the Mogilev Region, in Bobruisk, celebrating their diversity.

**Opportunity to express ourselves**

Vladimir Vaaks heads an Estonian family band, from Klichev, and was attending the festival for the fourth time. He tells us, "Each year, it has new colours. In fact, it's more than a festival: it's a magnificent opportunity to express ourselves, inspiring further development. We meet people whom we can admire and emulate. Here you feel especially an exquisite belonging to your ethnic native land and its culture. We view Belarus as our mother-



Festival held in major fashion

land, because we live and work here, but we shouldn't allow our souls to set aside their true origins, since these feed our national culture."

Residents of Bobruisk organised the 10th Republican Festival of National Cultures, giving participants great opportunities to show their talents and skills in the spheres of cookery, arts and crafts. Craftsmen presented embroidery and dolls, national costume, floristry, woodcarving and willow weaving, as well as wonderful performances: from plays to choral.

**Membership of something larger**

Senior citizens helped make the event a great success, having their own contributions to make in preserving traditions. The wearing of ethnic costumes and multilingualism created a dazzling and vibrant display of colour, bringing guests together in their celebration rather than dividing them. In all, 15 expat communities registered in the region took part, coming together in friendship, painting a garland bright and full of life.