

# Guiding threads of Ariadne

## Museum of Threads opens in Grodno at Gronitex enterprise

By Andrey Butrimovich

In the 1970s, thousands of girls from across Belarus came to the city on the River Niemen to work at Grodno's spinning-thread industrial plant. Like the well-known Russian city of Ivanovo, Grodno became known as a city of brides.

In truth, the country's best reelers and spinners worked at the enterprise. Even today, Gronitex, leads in manufacturing yarn in Belarus, having built upon its cotton-spinning mill, which opened in 1967, and its later spinning-thread plant. Its history spans almost 50 years.

Now, visitors can learn about the development of spinning and thread production at the Museum of Threads, which opened recently at the enterprise, with displays covering more than a hundred square metres. Among the interesting exhibits is a 1970s laboratory reel: used to test yarn quality. Besides it is a fragment of the first spinner, which differs

considerably from those of today, although even modern equipment requires a spindle.

Collections of threads, distaffs, spindles, handlooms, sewing machines, weaving looms and photos are on show, with guides on hand to explain how the enterprise first began, the techniques of spinning, and inventions through the ages. The Ancient Greek myth of Ariadne, whose thread guided Theseus out of the terrible Minotaur's labyrinth, will enchant visitors, who'll also hear about the Belarusian and Russian patron saints of needlewomen.

Opening the museum exhibition, the director of the enterprise, Valentina Lavtsel, thanked past and present employees of Gronitex for their donations of documents and photos: over 100 people responded to the request for items. "I'm sure that the Museum of Threads will become a meeting place for employees new and old," Ms. Lavtsel smiled.



Alla Minayeva, museum manager, teaches visitors how to work with a spindle

## Admiration deservedly won by our entry

Ilya Volkov comes third at *Junior Eurovision-2013*



Europeans enjoy Ilya Volkov's performance

The Belarusian entry at *Junior Eurovision-2013* Song Contest has deservedly taken bronze. Lyudmila Borodina, the head of the Belarusian delegation, and the Executive Producer of Belarus-2 TV Channel, tells us, "I'm delighted for our team. During the show, I was in the press centre and saw how wonderfully my journalistic peers received Ilya's performance. The children's performances were all of a high standard, being sincerely emotional, so I'm sure that he'll be warmly welcomed when he returns

home."

She notes the professionalism of those working with the Belarusian team: Olga Vronskaya — Ilya's voice teacher; and stage producer Anna Sakovich — the head of the singing and choreographic studio Maxi Briz. "It's pleasant to have gained recognition not only from representatives of the CIS. It means a lot, and we have much of which to be proud. I think that TV viewers in Belarus were supporting us and that we deserved bronze," Ms. Borodina emphasises.

Ilya Volkov sang *Sing*

*With Me*, accompanied by a dance group from Maxi Briz, and took third place with 108 points. Russia gave Belarus the greatest number of points (12) while Malta and Moldova both gave 10 points and Ilya received 8 points from the Netherlands, Georgia and Ukraine. Macedonia gave Belarus 7 points, while San Marino, Armenia and Azerbaijan gave 6 points and Sweden 5 points.

11 year old Gaia Cauchi, from Malta, took first prize, with Ukrainian Sofia Tarasova in second place.

## Eurovision in Turkish

By Lyudmila Smirnova

### Gunesh to represent Belarus at First International TurkVision Song Contest

The contest will take place in December, in Turkish

Eskişehir: the cultural capital of the Turkic world this year. Not only Turkic countries but those in which many Turkic-speaking people live are to take part: Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Belarus, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Already

being called an alternative to Eurovision, each composition must be sung in the state language of the host country for the event. Belarusian singer Gunesh is to sing a song that she has written herself — *Last Memories* — in Turkish.

## Theatre and show on one stage

By Sergey Smirnov

### Cirque du Soleil returning to Minsk with new *Dralion* programme

Not so long ago, for the first time, Minsk hosted several performances by the well-known Cirque du Soleil. Now, they plan to return with their latest show: *Dralion*. Their performances are always sold-out where ever they go and the troupe has already appeared in dozens of countries. The Canadian circus will appear at Minsk Arena in March, bringing its own brand of acrobatics, inspired by 3000-year-old Chinese culture.

The show conveys man's harmony with nature, featuring portrayals of the four elements. The Goddess of Water, Océane, dressed in green, rules the motion of the seas through the magic of dance. The Goddess of Air, Azala, wearing blue, soars over space, beyond time, protect-



Cirque du Soleil to arrive again in Minsk

ing the immortal Sun. The Goddess of the Earth, Gaya, wearing shades of ochre, yellow, gold and brown, personifies the warmth of human life and the coolness of water, which cradles all living things. Finally, Yao, God of Fire, dressed in bright red and orange, controls the fire demons, bringing both good and evil.

Drawing on Chinese acrobatics, the magnificent costumes and exotic sets are accompanied by evocative music, creating a show to remember. Without doubt, the skill of the performers is a sight to behold. Gathered from various nations, the musicians and acrobats manage to unite the theatre and circus on one stage.