

Talented cover-band kings

The Guinness Book of Records asserts that *The Beatles' Yesterday* is the most re-sung composition globally: in 2003 (when those calculations were made), it had been 'covered' over 2,500 times — in a variety of genres — including doom-metal and neo-swing. Plenty of Belarusian musicians are fans of Liverpool's Fab Four, drawing on their repertoire, alongside that of other well-known bands.

By Igor Svetlov

The 3rd *Cover King-2013* contest will see our musicians performing international hits, in hope of being chosen as 'best cover-band'. The contest will run for a month, pitting 24 bands in performing domestic and foreign pop melodies. The winner's name will be announced on April 10th. The aim is to help talented bands find potential employers, so the jury comprises not only musical critics and experts but a dozen representatives of event-agencies — who need good bands to play at parties.

Olga Lukyanets, from an event-agency, explains, "Not all companies can afford to invite top stars to play at their parties but everyone loves to hear familiar songs and enjoys the thrill of live music. A cover-band is an ideal solution and can be hired for just \$500-600 — playing anything from *Nirvana* to *Depeche Mode*! Our entertainment market is witnessing falling demand for popular singers, and growing demand for cover-bands."



ALEXANDER RUZHECHKA

Ynkey Belarusian rock band performing its own songs and cover-versions of world hits

Yan Zhenchak — the lead singer of Ynkey band (which won the Cover King Contest last year) agrees, having personally experienced becoming one of Minsk's leading corporate bands in a short period of time. Interestingly, the country's 'best cover-band' is now aiming to escape playing only cover-

songs — focusing on their own repertoire. They spent their prize money from last year's contest on recording their debut album and released an original single via their own Internet site. "We're not bad as a cover-band," notes Yan. "This confidence has inspired us to record our own compositions. We want people to understand that a cover-band isn't limited to playing at clubs and weddings. I'm convinced that every band performing songs made famous by others truly dreams of playing their own songs on stage, and causing a stir."

OverPlay (one of the first bands to apply for this year's Cover King) is yet to make a name for itself, despite having been covering songs for quite some time. Lead singer Dmitry Penkrat asserts that his ambitions are modest; he doesn't expect to be the next John Lennon or Stas Mikhailov. He admits that he earns little money but enjoys music very much. "We've applied for *Cover King* as we like to take part in contests. The event has

its own atmosphere and dynamics. I think we play quite well, so why shouldn't we take part. If we win, we'll give the prize money to charity," notes Dmitry.

Other contestants rather view *Cover King* as their big chance of signing a profitable contract with a major event-agency. *Indigo's* soloist, Valeriya Fedotova, admits openly, "We're a young band so this contest is very promising. We don't have songs of our own, singing exclusively cover-versions: by such artists as Bruno Mars and John Newman — for younger audiences."

Pay Day, from Baranovichi, began playing covers just four months ago. Its soloist, Sergey Romanovich, sings for two bands: commercial *Pay Day* and *Nikto ne Woody Allen* (Everybody is Woody Allen). He tells us, "We've been performing at local clubs but — after *Cover King* — we hope for recognition in Minsk. We're not yet moving to the capital but are 'putting out feelers.'" His is not the only band from beyond Minsk to show interest in the event, which promises \$3,000 for each finalist, in addition to prizes from sponsors (suppliers of professional equipment and instruments).

Musical accompaniment on the Web

By Boris Savostyanov

Official soundtrack to *Belye Rosy. Return* available online

Rosy Belye (White Dews) is the theme tune of the hit film, recorded by *Switter Boys* and composed by Vladimir Kondrusevich, who has written music for many foreign and Belarusian films and performances. The composition also uses Mikhail Tanich's lyrics, from *The Suffering* song, performed by Nikolay Karachentsov in the first *Belye Rosy* (shot in 1983).

The official soundtrack for the new film has been recorded by *Switter Boys* and *Buranovskie Babushki*. *Switter Boys'* Ruslan tells us, "When director Alexandra Butor invited us to record the soundtrack, she said that she'd like to conclude the film in a similar manner to the original *Belye Rosy* and mentioned that she wanted *Buranovskie Babushki* to sing the final track. We offered our co-operation but it took almost six months for us to get together, as they were either on tour or preparing for the Olympics. We're very thankful to them for having worked with us." The song will soon be aired on Belarusian and Russian radio stations.



During film shoot

Shots from the film, as well as from the film set, are used in the video: neither *Switter Boys* nor *Buranovskie Babushki* appear, having been on too tight a schedule to take part. Film producer Alexandra Butor notes that the video features a great many 'out-takes' — which are sure to delight viewers.

Belye Rosy. Return continues the legendary comedy, directed by Igor Dobrolyubov and shot in 1983. The Khodos brothers, from the original film, are now joined by younger family members. The premiere is scheduled for April and will appear nationwide in autumn.

Parade of unique rarities

By Valery Sidorov

30 billboards on Gomel's streets portray Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace exhibits

The depictions of museum rarities from Gomel's Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace decorate a large number of billboards recently installed on the streets of the regional centre. The advertising-exhibition project — *Parade of Rarities from Gomel Palace* — aims to reach the widest possible audience, familiarising the public with our historical and cultural treasures and encouraging a visit to the museum.

In total, 30 billboards are being installed across the city, which has a population of half a million. These will remain visible for the rest of the year, showing the unique treasures accumulated at the Gomel



BELTA

30 billboards on Gomel streets to tell about rarities

museum. Some artefacts date back more than 20,000 years, and there is a beautiful collection of religious and folk art (200 years old), alongside rare clocks created by the royal

workshops of European monarchs.

The parade is dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the palace museum, which hosts a small part of our rich heritage.

Hamlet anniversary celebrated in Polish

By Tatiana Vishneva

Grodno Puppet Theatre to mark 450th anniversary of famous playwright's birth by week of Shakespearean works

Warsaw's Walny Teatr, featuring actor-puppeteer Adam Walny, is to perform an unusual interpretation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in Polish, on April 25th in Grodno, including underwater puppets and bunraku: traditional Japanese theatre puppetry.

Several days earlier, the theatre is hosting a variety of Shakespearean performances, staged by troupes of varying ages. *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, directed by Oleg Zhyugzhda, has won prizes at international fes-

tivals in Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Serbia, Croatia and France. The troupe will also present Mr. Zhyugzhda's interpretation of the bittersweet comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Teachers from the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno will be introducing each performance, telling audiences some interesting facts about the life and work of the famous playwright.

The joint musical-theatrical project *Sonnets and Music* is being organised by the puppet theatre and the Kapella of Grodno, presenting Shakespeare's sonnets accompanied by classical baroque music. The puppet theatre is also hosting an exhibition of books by Shakespeare.