

There can never be too many films to admire

The start of a new year is a time to look back at the achievements of the previous year. Belarusfilm National Film Studio is no exception, with Director General Oleg Silvanovich reflecting on 2013 at a press conference in Minsk.

By Yuri Chernyakevich

The main message from Belarusfilm is that it's a studio with a closed cycle of production, able to shoot, edit and distribute a great many films annually: fiction, documentary and animation. In 2013, 74 film projects have been completed, including *Traces of the Apostles* (directed by Sergey Talybov), *The Kinder-ville Ghost* (Yelena Turova), *Babu*, and *Tsugtsvang* (Oleg Bazilov).

Traces of the Apostles, *Stealing Belmondo*, *The Adventures of Nestserka* and *In the Fog* drew audiences of around 200,000 in Belarus. According to the Director General, these have been an unquestioned success: shot in Belarus and finding keen audiences abroad. Last year, Russian TV channels screened Belarusfilm films about 470 times, while Ukraine made 34 screenings, Germany — 17, and Latvia — 2. Denis Skvortsov's military film *Dnieper Line* has even been screened in Japan.

Mr. Silvanovich notes that, last year, the National Film Studio expanded its format. "Our repertoire has included Belarusian and Rus-

sian literary classics, military-historical films, children's works, thrillers and action adventures, educational films, comedies, art house films and directorial debuts: in Russian and Belarusian."

Last year, Belarusfilm launched two full-length debut films at once. Alexander Anisimov, who studied under People's Artist of the USSR Victor Turov, directed children's adventure comedy

Unbelievable Travel, while Alexandra Butor, who studied under People's Artist of Belarus Alexander Yefremov, shot *Belye Rosy. Returns*. Both films are to premiere this year, alongside *Stasik*, the debut of

Denis Nupreichik, a graduate of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts.

Mr. Silvanovich tells us that, since last year, Belarusfilm has shifted towards dual-format film production, with

a TV series version (for television broadcast) and a full-length version for film release, helping to more actively promote Belarusian films.

Two comedies from the Belarusfilm studio are soon being screened in Russia: *With 8th of March, Men!* and *Belye Rosy. Returns*. Mr. Silvanovich hopes that the latter will prove a huge hit, saying, "It's a lyrical drama. While the first film — *Belye Rosy* (White Dew) — saw the city pitted against the village, this film has reversed the situation. A private investor tries to buy land, allowing exploration of the theme of materialism and greed."

Fans of Belarusian cinematography will be delighted by the release of a complete set of DVDs entitled 'Golden Dozen of Belarusian Films', which marks the 90th anniversary of domestic cinema. Among those included are *Belye Rosy* by Igor Dobrolyubov (1983), *King Stakh's Wild Hunt* by Valery Rubinchik (1979), and *The Adventures of Buratino* by Leonid Nechaev (1975). The studio has spent a significant amount of money — several dozen thousand Dollars — to bring about its release.



Oleg Silvanovich



Lithuanian actor Juozas Budraitis takes part in *Belye Rosy. Returns*

Fir trees made of lace, beads, strobili and feathers

Around 70 unique works on show at Brest Regional Local History Museum's New Year exhibition of snowy fairy tale fir trees

By Svetlana Vechorko

The New Year fir trees have been created with great creativity and originality, being made from lace, beads, strobili, feathers, sweets, orange peel, plastic bottle caps, clay, woven fabrics and cotton. Students from the local university have even made a vytinanka-tree and a wooden fir tree, decorated with national symbols.

Around 30 people from the regional centre and the Brest District accepted the museum's invitation to create the best New Year fir tree and mask. The youngest were aged just six, with children being invited from the Supplementary Education Centre, secondary and Sunday schools, as well as from the Territorial Centre of Public Social Services. The exhibition is the third of its kind, with the number of participants growing annually.



Visitors to the exhibition estimate beauty of man-made festive trees

The jury comprised museum curators, local forestry and tourist agency workers, and members of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Committee and the Regional Executive Committee. First place went to a fir tree made of glazed rolls, made

by Brest's Inessa Finsler. A 5.5kg chocolate fir tree took second place, while a collective student work made from shell-shaped pasta took bronze.

The exhibition will be open until January 20th, with votes welcomed for the People's Choice Award.

Traditions have their unforgettable history

By Andrey Fiodorov

Horse Image in Traditions of Our Ancestors mini-exhibition, at Gomel's Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace, hosts master class in creating talisman for new year

The exhibition explores the cult of the horse in the Gomel Region, through artefacts from the early Iron Age and ancient Russian times. Through archaeological exhibits, visitors can see why our ancestors hon-

oured this noble creature and which traditions remain with us today, connected with horses.

According to the Oriental calendar, 2014 is the year of the blue wooden horse, making the timing of the exhibition apt. Visitors at the opening ceremony were able to create their own horse talisman for the new year, under the tutelage of famous Gomel sculptor Vladimir Andreyanov — a member of the Union of Artists of Belarus.

Choral singing in city over Dvina

By Sergey Smirnov

Christmas Chime festival of church music held in Vitebsk

The event united the best performers of sacred music from Minsk, Mogilev and some regions of Russia, hosted by the Vitebsk Region. Initially, performances took place at the Yakub Kolas National Academic Drama Theatre. The Vitebsk Centre for Contemporary Art youth choir sang,

alongside the Children's Art School choir, *Kapel* and *Vita* (Moscow Region), Moscow's *Vesnyanka* and Novgorod's female academic choir.

Christmas Chime also gave performances at the Vitebsk Spiritual Seminary, Holy Assumption Cathedral and the Regional Philharmonic Society. In particular, it featured a performance of the String Orchestra of Richter Children's Art School from Moscow.