

# The whispers of art by night

A night-time walk in a museum is, for many people, the only time in the year when they enjoy culture. Probably, this can explain the big queue before the National Art Museum: in foreign countries, such queues appear on the day of sale of a new iPhone, while in our country they thirst for the beautiful.

By Irina Ovsepan

What prevents people from visiting museums on any other day, without crush and crowds, and why they persistently forget that, apart from the magnificent Art Museum, there are many other museums in Minsk, which are no less interesting 'cultural centres', and are worthy of attention. It is a riddle which is even more mysterious than the secret of the Amber Room. And everywhere, *The Night of Museums* promises various shows, performances and other interesting things, rather than the monotonous going across exhibition halls.

In the Mikhail Savitsky Gallery there were exhibitions by the artists, Alexander Isachev and Oleg Orlov, the Museum of the Minsk City History offered those who came to drink, a cup of tea and the chance to travel into the past with the *Back in BSSR* exposition, while in the Museum of History of Theatrical and Musical Culture, they played Soviet songs, which a nostalgic public really enjoys.

## Read and estimate

The Petrus Brovka Literary Museum alternated performances of poets and musicians with theatrical performances: It was possible to see modern interpretations of medieval farces by the Obraz Theatrical School and also performances based on the caricatures of Herluf Bidstrup by the Studiozy Theatre Workshop.

The presentation of the international literary portal Textura.by was held that evening at the museum. The portal unites Belarusian literary people with colleagues from different countries. All who gathered heard performances by young Belarusian and Russian-speaking poets. The verses were read by Nasta Kudasova, Tanya 'Assol' Svetasheva, Kristina Skrigan, Nikita Trofimovich and Irina Karenina. The editor of the portal Textura.by, Andrey Famitsky said, "The literary project *Textura* treats authors equally, without dependence regardless of language of works and the country of residence. We try to find worthy writers and give them a place where people can read and estimate their works. The Petrus Brovka Literary Museum in the person of manager, Natalia Mizon, to whom we are deeply grateful, helped us to organise this fine evening, and we hope to further continue to perform in this place."



It was spectacular during the *Night of Museums*

## Between the beauty and werewolf

The National History Museum put the emphasis on parents with children, and organised a show of soap bubbles in the enclosed court, where kids, with enthusiastic squeals, ran after the huge hovering balls.

Inside of the museum, careless visitors were waited by slinking blanket covers (truly a nightmare for kindergarten children), from which subsequently appeared half-dressed beautiful maidens, and a bare-legged 'subject' who was sleeping on a mattress right in the middle of the hall, and whose heels could have been tickled by the cheerful teenagers who were watching the performance. The down, feathers and semi-transparent nighties of the beauties from the Vkube Theatre gave a good mood for the rest of evening.

The hologram exhibition brought a special pleasure: visitors were even screaming when seeing some of them. After all, when a grinning werewolf suddenly appears out

of the darkness, you might start screaming too.

Children (and adults) were offered the chance to paint colouring books that were hanging on the walls with the image of the museum building under the slogan 'Make it brighter'. And while the younger citizens enthusiastically potted around with pencils and felt-tip pens, their older more rowdy companions drew fires, alien attacks and huge mosquitos on the museum's pages.

## Rhymes of Scotland

Maxim Bogdanovich Literary Museum chose a really unusual option. That night during, *The Night of Museums*, the Troitsky Suburb was filled with the sounds of bagpipes and drums and cheerful Scottish melodies performed by the groups, *Ejrut* and *Hardwood*. Here were creative natures in national suits from the checked plaids of the Scots to the traditional Belarusian vyshivankas (traditional clothing which contains

# TV viewers decided the fate of beauty

By Olga Selezneva

**Yulia Peregudova became the first Mrs. Belarus in the history of the country. The winner of the beauty contest was announced during the broadcast of the show on ONT TV Channel.**

Apart from the main prize — a handmade crown of pearls, Swarovski crystals and silver thread — the girl received a special prize from ONT TV Channel. Yulia, together with her family, will go to a popular spa-resort in a heavenly spot of the world — The Maldives.

Yulia is 31 years old and works as an adviser in a bank. During her free time she is fond of shooting. To participate in the contest she asked advice of her husband. *Mrs. Belarus* became the first beauty contest girl's biography, yet Yulia did not consider herself to be the main pretender to the crown.

"I am proud that I represent two cities — Vitebsk and Gomel. I am proud of all the citizens of our country," said the winner. The *Mrs. Belarus* event took place in the Minsk Sports Palace on April, 28th. The jury chose the top-three finalists of the competition. However, it was the TV viewers that made the final decision on May 18th. The two other finalists — Yulia Krasovskaya and Tatiana Kurenkova — received monetary reward.



# May meetings in Budapest

**The traditional Belarusian cultural event — *May.By — May Meetings with Belarus* — opens in Budapest for eighth time**

The presentation took place in the historical centre of Budapest during the annual meetings with Belarusian culture and arts. The exhibition of painting by Belarusian artists Anton Vyrva and Darya Shishkova was shown to the public, alongside photos of interiors by Belarusian architect and designer Lora Kalinina (with the presence of the master).

The Belarusian Ambassador to Hungary, Alexander Khainovsky, addressed all those attending with a welcome speech, underlining the diversity of Belarus' cultural heritage. He emphasised the importance of the development of bilateral ties in culture and arts for further closeness of the nations. The diplomat also paid attention to high levels of development of the Belarusian school of architecture and design.

The event aroused a great interest amongst the guests, among whom were representatives of the Hungarian state institutions, diplomatic missions, business circles, creative intelligentsia and the Hungarian media. The meeting was of great importance, taking into account the *Icon Painting of Belarus in the 17th-18th Centuries*, which is still exhibited in the Budapest History Museum.

