

# Cultural Bulletin

## Gustaw Holoubek dies

Gustaw Holoubek, a renowned theatre and film actor and stage director, died in Warsaw at the age of 85. Holoubek was born in Cracow in 1923. He will be remembered for his great roles in theatrical productions and over 50 films.

He made his stage debut in 1947 in Cracow's Sary Theatre playing Charys in Stefan Flukowski's play about Odysseus entitled "Odys u Feaków." His repertoire included the part of Hamlet in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," the main part in Sartre's "Lucifer and The Lord" (Diabeł i Pan Bóg), Sophocles' "Oedipus the King" (Królu Edypie), Mrożek's "Rzeźni" (Slaughterhouse) and "Pieszo" (On Foot) as well as Gobrowicz's "Operetta."

Holoubek's film debut took place in 1953 in Wanda Jakubowska "Żołnierz zwycięstwa" (Soldier of Victory). His later roles included parts in Wojciech Jerzy Has productions "The Moose" (Pętla) and "Farewells" (Pożegnania), Tadeusz Konwicki's – "Jump" (Salto), "How Far, How Near" (Jak daleko stąd, jak blisko) and "Lava" (Lawa) as well as Sławomir Kryński's "Love Letters" (Listy miłosne).

Between 1972 and 1980 Holoubek was chairman of SPATIF's main board. In 1976 he was elected Sejm deputy, a mandate he waived in 1980. In 1989 he became senator of Lech Walesa's Citizen's Committee. A long-time lecturer at Warsaw's Theatre Academy was chosen artistic director of Ateneum Theatre in 1996.

## Frederic Chopin's Institute at Frankfurt fair

The National Frederic Chopin Institute (NIFC) took part in the prestigious Musikmesse music fair in Frankfurt am Main on March 12 to 15, Ewa Solińska of NIFC has told PAP adding that the institute promoted the bicentenary of Chopin's death falling on 2010 presenting materials about the composer, his life and work as well as the agenda of anniversary ceremonies.

■ Ken Loach's "It's a Free World" (Polak potrzebny od zaraz) was shown for the first time in Poland in Warsaw on March 6. The movie, directed by British film director tells a story about immigrants, including Poles, being used by their British employers and head hunters.

■ Andrzej Stasiuk won this year Crystal Vilenica International Literary Award, the Book Institute has reported. The Crystal Vilenica award is presented to a Central Europe author featured in the Vilenica Almanac who appears at one of the literary readings within the festival. The winner is selected by an international jury, made up of the guests of the festival. The presentation takes place within the literary matinée at the Štanjel castle on September 6. The Vilenica winner of the Crystal receives a statuette, a work by the academic painter Peter Abram, and the opportunity to appear at the distinguished literary festival Cúirt taking place in April in the Irish town Galway. So far Vilenica awards were granted to Peter Handke, Peer Esterhazy, Tomas Venclova, Zbigniew Herbert, Milan Kundera, Adam Zagajewski, Jaan Kaplinski.

■ The 40th anniversary of March 1968, the date of students' protests and the state's anti-Semitic actions is marked by conferences, meetings, exhibitions and film shows. The event started on March 5 with a

The NIFC, that appeared at the fair for the first time as the patron of the Polish exhibition devoted to Chopin and the publisher, had its own stand in the centre of the fair premises near the stand of the Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne publishing house.

### **Janusz Morgenstern wins Eagle 2008 for life-time achievement**

Film director Janusz Morgenstern won Eagle 2008 (Orzeł 2008), Polish film award for Life-time Achievement, it was announced in Warsaw on March 3.

Morgenstern is the first laureate of Eagles 2008 that will be granted in different categories at the 10th gala evening in Warsaw at a later date.

Nominations for Eagles were also granted to other directors like Andrzej Wajda for “Katyn”, Andrzej Jakimowski for “Tricks”, Łukasz Palkowski for “Reserve” and Andrzej Barański for “Few People, Little Time” as well as actors and actresses including Danuta Szaflarska, Krystyna Janda and Sonia Bohosiewicz, Jan Frycz and Robert Więckiewicz and composers, namely Krzysztof Penderecki, Włodek Pawlik and Paweł Szymański.

### **Białostok’s “The Pole” performance wins award**

The performance entitled “The Pole” (Biegun) by the Puppet Theatre from Białystok, northeast Poland) won the 3rd festival for stage adaptation of Europe’s oldest literary work of art, the jury of the festival decided in Warsaw in the culture and national heritage ministry on March 3.

The festival is organised by the ministry in cooperation with Zbigniew Raszewski’s Theatre Institute and the Polish Actors’ Association.

### **Controversy over Warlikowski’s “Parsifal”**

Richard Wagner’s opera “Parsifal” directed by Krzysztof Warlikowski who included in the performance film shots aroused controversy in France during its premiere at Paris’ Bastille Opera.

“Parsifal” is the third Warlikowski’s performance after Christoph Willibald Gluck’s “Ifigenie en Tauride” and

three-day conference entitled „Jewish March 1968 – 2008” organised by the Jewish Historical (ŻIH).

■ The 22nd Metalmania festival, held at the Spodek sport stadium in Katowice, south Poland) on March 8 attracted more than 20 bands from Poland and abroad with U.S.’s Megadeth band being the star of this central Europe’s biggest metal music event. Performed also Overkill and Immolation bands from the U.S. and Vader from Poland.

Leos Janacek's "The Macropulos Case." According to France Presse agency Warlikowski is theatre's great innovator and outstanding figure. AFP stressed Warlikowski's faithfulness to the composer's libretto. However, public reaction to Warlikowski's performance differed. British tenor Christopher Ventris (Parsifal) and German mezzo-soprano Waltraud Meier (Kundra) received ovation but later on the climate went worse when just before the third act the public was confronted with music and film shots from Roberto Rossellini's "Germany Year Zero." The public shouted "Music!" "Wagner!", "Parsifal!". Voices of disapproval drowned out ovations.

### **Year of Blues inaugurated in Białystok**

Białystok aspires to the title of Polish Blues Capital. City strivings are to be supported by the Year of Blues officially inaugurated in the city on March 5.

The idea has been launched by Sławomir Mojsiuszko and Konrad Sikora of MIASTO foundation who are supported by the city authorities. The town were inspired by the city blues music tradition.

The agenda of the year envisages concerts, competition for the best guitar solos, the publication of the Białystok Blues Lexicon. A blues star avenue will open in the city centre in the form of a black and white piano keyboard. A special character will be blues festival organised by the city for years on an annual basis, namely: „Blues All Souls' Day" (Zaduszki bluesowe) and "The Autumn with Blues (Jesień z bluesem).

■ Goran Bregović, the legend of Balkan music will give a concert in Katowice (south Poland) Spodek Sport Stadium on June 20. Bregović will be accompanied by „Śląsk" song and dance ensemble, „Śląsk" spokesperson Agnieszka Kukuła has told PAP. It will be the artist's first concert with the ensemble. Bregović will also be accompanied by Funeral & Weddnig Band.

■ "Libros lege," the Polish-US reading competition inaugurated on March 3. Polish participants read US literature in English and their counterparts from US read Polish literature in English translation. Competition involving reading aloud will be held by 10 public libraries in Warsaw and Mazowieckie province and public libraries in Chicago. The reading will start on May 10.

■ 14 world theatres will show their performances at 48th Theatre Meetings in Kalisz, central Poland, at the start of May. Traditionally, the festival will start with the performance by the Wojciech Bogusławski Theatre from Kalisz.