

# Cultural Bulletin

## 17 awards for Poles at international photo competition

Poles received 17 awards and 448 mentions at Pilsner Urquell International Photography Awards (IPA) 2008, twice that many than in 2007, a representative of the competition organizer has told PAP.

First awards for amateur photographers went to Weronika Gęsicka, Małgorzata Skoczylas, Marcin Stawiarz. Second awards were granted to seven Poles and the third award went to four Poles.

Second awards for professional photographers went to Marcin Makówka and Paweł Młodkowski and third award was granted to Michał Szlaga.

US' John Delaney (an amateur photographer) won the main prize in the „Discovery of the Year” category and Brent Stirton (also a professional photographer) won the title of the International Photographer of the Year.

40 best pictured form the competition will be on display at the prestigious Farmani Gallery in Los Angeles. The exhibition will later be presented in eight other countries. Besides, all awarded pictures will be published in an album issued every year at the end of the competition.

## Miss Intercontinental 2008 from Colombia, 1st vice-Miss from Poland

23-year-old Christina Carmago from Colombia won the title of Miss Intercontinental 2008 on October 25. Organisers said her nearly 400,000 USD worth crown was decorated with 720 diamonds.

Poland's Milena Lutrzykowska won the title of 1st vice-Miss and Belarussian Lubou Yakovina was elected 2nd vice-Miss.

The final gala of the Miss Intercontinental 2008 competition was held in the Music and Dance House in Zabrze, southern Poland last Saturday. It was broadcast live to several countries including

■ A BBC-made documentary “Korea: Out of the North” received the Grand Prix of Camera Obscura, the international TV documentary festival that ended in Bydgoszcz, north-west Poland on October 25. Thirty one documentaries had been submitted to the festival. The awarded document was made in cooperation with journalists of South Korea and Great Britain Lee Harkjoon i Olenki Frenkel. The mention was granted to documentary “Buy-out life” (Wykupić życie) made by Monika Nawrot of Polish Television.

■ Actress Jadwiga Barańska, actor Franciszek Pieczka and film director Jerzy Antczak are among people honoured by Culture and Arts Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski with Golden Gloria Artis medals. The minister has said the Sejm finance committee has approved the budget for culture for 2009. “I think that you expect such news as your area of creativity is not limited to diplomas and distinctions, Zdrojewski has said.

■ Video films of the Białystok-based Arsenał Art Gallery Collection represented Poland at the Artiserium 2008, international contemporary art forum, a gallery representative has told PAP. The forum was held in Tbilisi, Georgia from November 4 to 9. Video films were shot by Anna Molska, Paweł Althamer, Artur Żmijewski and Kuba Bąkowski.

Belarus, Romania, Colombia, Mongolia and Venezuela. Representatives of 57 countries including Dominican, Congo, Thaiti, Seychelle Islands and Bolivia.

### **Germany: Polish films among laureates of Prix Europa festival**

Michał Kwiecinski's movie „Tommorrow We'll Go to the Movies” (Jutro idziemy do kina) and Uladzimir Kolas documentary „Ada's Gallery” (Galeria Ady) are among the laureates of this year Prix Europa festival that ended in Berlin on October 25.

Prix Europa is deemed to be the most important festival of European television, radio and Internet media productions held under the patronage of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament with the award being established in 1987.

This year nominated to the award were 213 productions from 31 European countries.

### **Great Britain: Zbigniew Herbert's soiree in London**

On the 84th birth anniversary of Zbigniew Herbert, falling on October 29, 2008 „Poetry International” organised a soiree devoted to his poetry in London's Southbank Centre. Herbert's poems were read out by Northern Ireland's poet and writer Nick Laird, Polish-born US writer Eva Hoffman and former director of the poetry section of „Observer” weekly Al Alvarez, who was the first to publish Herbert's poetry in Great Britain at the start of the 1960-ties.

Participants in the soiree said Herbert was „wise and noble,” „funny in a desperate way” „constantly showing hidden meaning of myths,” „refusing the face value of ideas,” „one of the best artists of the 2nd half of the 20th century.”

### **Polish comic books on display in Italy**

The exhibition of Grzegorz Rosinski's work and a cross-sectional exhibition of the Polish comic book was on display at Italian Lucca Comics & Games, Europe's biggest comic book events.

■ Legendary Matt Bianco band will be the star of Era Jazzu gala, held in Warsaw's Congress Hall on November 19. Matt Bianco band belongs to precursors of smooth jazz. The musicians mix jazz with Latin American music and pop. The band authored such hits as “Half a Minute,” “Ordinary Day,” “Lost In You,” “Boogie Mi Vista,” “Good's Times” or “Matt's Mood.”

■ Maciej Stuhr, Lesław Żurek, Antoni Pawlicki, Rafał Maćkowiak and Małgorzata Buczkowska have been nominated to the Zbyszek Cybulski film award granted to best and most interesting young Polish actors. Stuhr received the nomination for his part in Małgorzata Szumowska's “33 scenes of life” (33 sceny z życia), Żurek for his part in Waldemar Krzystek “Little Moscow” (Mała Moskwa), Pawlicki got the nomination for Maciej Pieprzyc's “Splinters” (Drzazgi), Maćkowiak - for the part in Magdalena Piekorz's “Sleepiness” (Senności) and Buczkowska - for the part in Piotr Łazarkiewicz's “0\_1\_0.” The gala award-granting ceremony will be held in Warsaw on December 8.

■ Ryszard Bugajski's movie entitled “General Nil” about General Emil Fieldorf alias Nil, the commander of the Polish underground Home Army Subversion Units murdered by the communists after WW2 will hit Polish screens on April 17.

Katarzyna Tośta of Łódź-based Culture Centre has told PAP that cooperation between the International Comic Book Festival in Łódź and representatives of Lucca Comics & Games was established two years ago with the latter extending invitation for this year festival to Polish comic books.

### **Fighting Eagles awarded by BBC Wildlife Magazine**

A dramatic picture presenting two fighting white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) shot by Poland's amateur photographer Antoni Kasprzak won the award of the competition organised by BBC Wildlife Magazine and London's Natural History Museum.

The picture of an air battle in snow blizzard was shot by Kasprzak in the Polish mountains. The eagles fought for meat of a young moose killed by a train, BBC News has reported.

The award was granted to Kasprzak in the category the „Preservation of Animals: Birds” and brought him a check for 500 British pounds. The photographer has already won awards for pictures of white-tailed eagles, e.g. during the 2006 contest organised by National Geographic.

Czech ambassador: Polish-Czech Relations have never been better

Polish-Czech relations have never been better, Czech Ambassador to Poland Jan Sechter has told a historical discussion about Zaolzie region.

The historical debate entitled „Zaolzie in the 20th century - the Polish-Czech Dispute” was organised by Karta Centre and History Meeting House in Warsaw.

According to Sechter, the examination of history of Polish-Czech relations should focus on seeking for what is common. He recalled that 90 years ago Poland and the Czech Republic regained independence.

Sechter stressed that even though Polish-Czech relations have never been better either country should seek ways for making them the best.