

Cinema Revival



Bulgaria is planning a series of events during 2005 aimed at stimulating the local filmmaking business. The campaign includes extra time dedicated to Bulgarian films on the state Bulgarian National Television (also called "channel one"), as well as the issuing of four special post stamps with Bulgarian movie themes on them. The state radio Bulgarian National Radio announced that special attention will be given to the Bulgarian film industry at the upcoming Euro Film Festival in Sofia, in May. Bulgarian filmmaking has suffered a dramatic crumble with very few films produced during the period 1990-2002. However, drama and comedy classics from the past enjoy great popularity and authorities are hoping to gain some attention by showing them once again. A wide spread practice in last few years is for foreign film companies to come to Bulgaria in order to make their productions because of the very sensible prices. Many local actors have gathered international recognition by taking part in foreign productions shoot in Bulgaria and that is why experts believe they have found the right path to filmmaking's revival in the country.

Christo's Gates Prove Profitable for New York

Bulgarian born Christo and his wife Jean-Claude have already gathered world fame through their ambitious projects of temporary art. To mention but a few: in 1982 they wrapped 11 islands in Miami into pink cotton; in 1991 they opened over three hundred umbrellas in Japan and California and in 1995 they packed the Reichstag in silver cloth.

two-thirds the amount used to build the Paris Eiffel Tower).

It was not until recently that the mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, announced that the piece of art has attracted over 4 million visitors to Central Park despite frigid February temperatures. The month is usually sluggish time for tourism in the city but The Gates had drawn an un-

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Their latest project took place in the city of New York, lasting only for 16 days in February. The project called 'The Gates' was situated in Central Park and included 7532, 16-foot-high gates (steel-made constructions) with panels of saffron-coloured orange fabric. These were spread out over 23 miles of the park's paths allowing all people passing by to see the modern art wonder of the two artists. The 21 million worth project was funded by its creators, who donated 3 million USD to the Central Park Conservancy. The artists also plan to recycle the materials, including 5,290 tons of steel, (which was estimated to have been about

precedented 1.5 million out-of-townners, including 300 000 from overseas tourists. The project also gathered over 100 representatives of different cities all over the world (Peking, Budapest, Cairo, Jerusalem, London, Madrid, Rome, Tokyo and many more). Thus Christo and Jeanne-Claude's work of contemporary art turned out to have been the centre of New York's February cultural life, creating at the same time a substantial profit for the town itself.

A Silicon valley will be made near Bourgas

Businessmen have selected the Bourgas area for the construction of a Silicone valley because of the good city infrastructure, the presence of an airport and a harbour. The idea is factories and works for high technical manufacture are to be built on uncultivated and municipal lands. The developers have chosen 1800 000 sq.m. on the ex-military airstrip of Ravnets and near the firing range of Banevo in Bourgas area. The authors of the project are local businessmen from Bourgas promoted by the municipal and district administration.

The Silicone valley will be constructed on the analogy of the ones in California, Northern Italy and Ireland. A foreign company has already placed a request for the assembling of mobile telephones. According to expectation's many foreign companies should be attracted to this region for the integral manufacture or final fitting of their products plus distribution. That will bring business into Bourgas and the region and draw lots of foreign investments, consolidating its significance for the Bulgarian economy.

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