

## Fame!

Bulgaria is a relatively small Balkan country, trying hard for the last few years to gain a worldwide recognition, and there are many Bulgarians living and working abroad who have already proved themselves as unique and talented individuals. Do you want to meet them?

Let me introduce to you Bulgarian violin master Vasko Vasilev who works as artistic director and regularly performs at the Royal Opera House in London, the string virtuoso was born in Sofia and trained at the prestigious Central School of Music in Moscow. He also achieved early international success by winning top prizes at the famous Jacques Thibaud Competition, the Carl Flesch Competition and the Paganini International Competition in two successive years between the ages of 17 and 19.

Here is Ms Vesselina Katsarova - a mezzo soprano born once in a lifetime, according to the Irish Examiner newspaper, this prospering young talent has been a regular performer on the stages of New York's Metropolitan Opera, Milan's La Scala, London's Covent Garden and many more, nowadays she is among the most sought after opera singers in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen it is my pleasure to present to you Mrs Globe 2004 Rumiana Marinova who has recently been voted in the Top 100 Influential People, more than 10 000 people from 75 countries have voted for her to be among the world's most influential people of the year. This recognition for the beautiful Bulgarian, a dentist by profession, came from the American Biographical Institute and the International Research Board who nominated her for Woman of 2004 as well. Last year the 28-year old lady impressed strongly the contest's jury with her appeal for saving the five Bulgarian medics sentenced to death in Libya.

And last but not least, two young future stars. Bulgarian born Eliza, 16,

is the second Bulgarian actor to join the crew of the Harry Potter blockbuster after last year Bulgarian born Stanislav Yanevski was picked to play Viktor Krum in 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'. Both starlets live in London and study English literature, cinema and theatre in a special college in the UK. But I suspect that is not the last we will see of them!

## St George and the Dragon

It is an interesting but little known fact that the same St George who is the patron saint of England is also a celebrated saint here in Bulgaria and is symbolized in exactly the same why riding a white horse slaying a dragon with his lance.

When I first became aware of this fact it made me think about researching the history of St George, with the idea of finding out if they really are one and the same person. Then I realized that the St George of Bulgaria was obviously a completely different man, or he had considerably far more success here in Bulgaria than he ever did in England. You may ask what brought me to this conclusion, so let me explain.

We have probably all heard the joke about the pub called the George and Dragon and of course the landlord is called George and everybody asks 'Where's the Dragon tonight then George' when his wife is not behind the bar. With that thought in mind and the obvious lack of 'Dragons' in Bulgaria the St George of Bulgaria has been highly successful in his mission and I think all of us Gentlemen here should raise a glass to him on his celebration day of the 6th May. (with apologies to all you ladies out there, you know I don't mean it, don't you?)

## New Resort Development

It has come to our notice from an article in the Bulgarian press that there are plans for a major re-development of the resort at Shkorpilovci which is situated 30 kms south of Varna just off the main road between



Varna and Bourgas. With the new fast road from Varna now finished the transfer times from Varna airport will be short, and it is our belief this will become one of the most popular resort's on the coast. Unfortunately it has been neglected over the past few years, which is a shame because it has what is possibly one of the best beach's around, sitting in a bay and some 14 kms long it has to the north a

nature reserve and to the south a headland, the beach itself is wide, sandy and slopes gently down to the sea, so is ideal for family's. The municipal plans for the resort and surrounding area's are quite extensive and include hotels, private residences and recreation areas, they also seem to be learning from the over-development that has occurred elsewhere as it appears that all buildings will be restricted to



a maximum of three storeys. I took these photo's on a recent trip to the beach in, believe it or not, January of this year and you can see for yourselves just what an idyllic spot it is, and with the nature reserve next door it has huge potential.

# PEEP SHOW BAR

## Varna

8 Maria Luiza Blvd  
Varna 9000  
Bulgaria  
Tel: 052 607736  
Working hours: 10-5 p.m.