



Report of international comix festival Boomfest 2007.

September 2007 has witnessed the First International Comics Festival BOOM. The festival has included a number of exhibitions and workshops, held in museums, exhibition halls, hotels and shops of the city. Five exhibitions opened within the first two weeks. Among those are:

- 1 The exhibition hall of the Institute of France in St-Petersburg – the best comics from the contest of International Comics Festival COMMISSIA in Moscow – opened on 04.09.2007;
- 2 Dostoevsky Museum – Manga Crime and Punishment exhibition – opened on 05.09.2007. Opened by Natalia Ashimbaeva, the director of the museum, Dmitry Dostoevsky, the grand son of Fiodor Dostoevsky, Yoshinaga Komako, the Vice President of the General Consulate of Japan in St-Petersburg.;
- 3 The exhibition space of the Grand Trade Center Gostiny Dvor – The Moomins exhibition – opened on 7.09.2007. Opened by Vasiliy Pankratov, Deputy Chairman of Art and Culture of Culture Committee of St-Petersburg, Leena Liski, Council of the General Consulate of Finland in St-Petersburg. The honored guest – Sophia Jansson, the daughter and niece of the authors;
- 4 The exhibition space of Helvetia hotel – Switzerland – the country of comics – opened on 13.09.2007. Opened by Urs W. Schtrauzak, Council General of the General Consulate of Switzerland, Elena Tarkhanova, the representative of Helenika Center, Olga Davtyan, a member of Writers' Union of St-Peterburg;
- 5 Fontanny Dom garden (the yard of Anna Akhmatova Museum) – Independent Contemporary Comics – opened on 14.09.2007. Comics of Norwegian, Canadian, Albanian, Macedonian, German, Belgian, Finnish, Swiss, Croatian, Hungarian, Swedish, Serbian, Israeli, Dutch, Slovenian, Estonian and Russian authors were exhibited there.

The entrance was free at all the exhibitions of the festival.

Basing on the data given by the exhibition spaces more than 5000 people have visited the exhibitions. Most popular comics turned out to be The Moomins, Crime and Punishment and the Independent Contemporary Comics. In case of that the Dostoevsky Museum and the Anna Akhmatova Museum asked the administration of the Festival to prolong the exhibitions till October 21.

The audience might be divided into the following groups:

- 6 Kids (less than 12) – 10%
- 7 Teenagers (12-16) – 25%
- 8 Youths (16-30) – 50%
- 9 Grown-ups (more than 30) – 15%

Besides the contest was held among Russian authors. It was held in Internet through the blog service www.livejournal.ru, and gave the brilliant opportunity to all Russian-speaking people over the world to take part in it. As a result authors from Belgium, Canada, the Ukraine and Russia participated in the contest.

The works were judged by artists, designers, editors and administration of the Festival. Among the works 10 best pieces were chosen and the exhibition of these works was held at a summer open-air spot

«The Dunes» during 21.09-20.09.2007. Authors of the best works were bestowed with the exclusive toys of LUNOKHOD-1 company. Besides, authors of three best comics were granted with WACOM and Coreldraw gifts.

Within the period of 28.09 – 30.09.2007 the Museum of Anna Akhmatova, Saray gallery and the Institute of France in St-Petersburg has witnessed the festival part of the event.

Festival part program.

28.09– lectures and workshops.

Introduction of comics of different countries.

14.00 Kristiina Kohlemainen (Sweden) – «Serieteket» comics library in Stockholm, director
Presentation: How shall the library handle graphic literature.

15.00 Benoit Marchon (France) – the head of comics dept. in «Astrapi» и «Okapi» magazines.
Lecture: «Comics for kids and teenagers as the mean for communication and studying. ».

17.00 Khikhus (Russia) – the director of International Comics Festival COMMISSIA in Moscow.
Presentation of International Comics Festival COMMISSIA in Moscow.

18.00 Olga Davtyan (Russia) – a teacher of comics in Smolny University of Independent Arts (St-Petersburg), a member of Writers' Union of St-Peterburg. Lecture: «The history of the Soviet Comics».

29.09– workshops.

Saray gallery	Anna Akhmatova Museum
12.00 – Jyrki Heikkinen (Finland)	
14.00 – Jonas Sildre, Veiko Tammjarv (Estonia)	13.00 – Jimmy Beaulieu, Philippe Girard (Canada, Quebec)
16.00 – Oleg Tischenkov (Russia)	15.00 – Heehoos (Russia)
18.00 – Knut Larsson, Niklas Asker (Sweden)	17.00 – Andre-Marc DELOCQUE-FOURCAUD (France)

14.00 - Benoit Marchon (France) - workshop «Basic lines on the comics script». This workshop was held at the Institute of France in St-Petersburg.

30.09 – workshops.

Saray gallery	Anna Akhmatova Museum
12.00 – Tomas Kucerovsky (Czech Republic)	
14.00 – Oleg Tischenkov (Russia)	13.00 – Marcel Ruijters (The Netherlands)
16.00 – Ulli Lust, Christoph Feist (Germany)	15.00 – Namida (Russia)
	17.00 – Cedric Manche, Sacha Goerg (Belgium)

Every participant has introduced the comics culture of his own country and held the workshop. Every workshop and lecture was visited by 25-40 people. The age of the audience varied from 16 to 30.

Besides the open-air comics shop was organized. Also the promo wall was made and everyone might try the WACOM graphic pads and print the works at EPSON printer.

The first exhibition of exclusive toys «Stykovka» was organized together with Lunokhod-1 company as an open-air event. The series was devoted to characters from the stories performed in the format of modification the exclusive toy. The sample for modification was a module made of wood 20 cm long. The style of modification was unlimited as the wood was pretty flexible to work with. More than 20 artists of St-Petersburg received the samples two weeks before the exhibition took part in the event.

Within 3 days the festival part was visited by more than 400 people from St-Petersburg, Moscow, Rostov-na-Donu, Kyiv, Helsinki and some other cities, teenagers and youths mostly.

While holding the festival we have reached the target to provide those who were interested in comics to meet them, both, to authors, amateurs, readers etc – to see the world achievements in the sphere of comics.

We have managed to reach the targets which we set when organizing the Festival, such as:

- organizing the dialog between traditional and contemporary layers of culture - i.e. attracting the youth to literature, arts, cinema, visiting museums and be introduced to the range of currencies of art;
- promote tolerance towards the culture of other countries;
- opportunity to be exhibited given to Russian authors as well as meeting their viewers;
- organizing cultural exchange between Russian cities as well as other countries;
- forcing the creation and development of the comics market in Russia.

Besides, we have reached the target of making the international event. Through the time of the festival being held people from Russia as well as invited artists and specialists from other countries were able to meet the comics from all over the world and to learn more about the culture of comics in Russia and abroad. That turned out to be a perfect opportunity for cooperate the projects. One of the artists from Canada has already started the project which will tell us about his trip to St-Petersburg. (A number of strips are applied).

The abovementioned reveals the results that we achieved are quite satisfying and by the moment we have already started working out the program for the next year's BOOMFestival, which is planned to be held in September 2008.

The information concerning partners of the festival, as well as publications etc is applied furthermore.

Festival Partners

General Consulate of Finland, FILI, General Consulate of Switzerland, PRO Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland, Helenika International Center, Institute of France in St-Petersburg, General Consulate of Japan, Czech Center in Moscow, General Consulate of Germany, Swedish Institut, Museum of Anna Akhmatova in St-Petersburg, Pushkin's State Central Library for Children, Helvetia Hotel, Dostoevsky Museum, Bolshoy Gostiny Dvor OAO, Samokat Publishing HouseOOO, Afisha magazine, The St-Petersburg Times newspaper, www.livejournal.com blog service, WACOM company, Coreldraw company, EPSON company, Lunokhod-1 company.

Advertising Support of the Festival

- 1 Posters, A1 format – spread over the city, partners, universities.
- 2 Map of the Festival, A3 format – distribution at the exhibition space and at partners' spots.
- 3 Advertising in Afisha magazine и The St.Petersburg Times.
- 4 Advertising in Internet – www.livejournal.ru, www.beein.ru, www.animezone.ru, www.wacom.ru.

Informational Support of the Festival.

A number of publications were presented in local and regional newspapers as well as the international issues, on-line radio- and TV-interviews.