

# Ukraine TV excels at musicals

## The Ukraine film industry is alive, vibrant and kicking

It used to be said the Ukraine film industry was dying a slow death. Not any more. Today it is alive, vibrant and kicking! Ukraine producers are making more films than ever before. Leading the way is Inter, Ukraine's national TV channel. It has been leading for some time.

In 2001 Inter set the standards with five memorable movie features and three popular TV serials. In 2002 a New Year musical **Evenings on the Khutor near Dikanka** won two nominations — for best music and for best male role — at the Kinotavr 2002 Film Festival in Sochi. More successes followed in 2003 with the Grand Prix going to **Shik** during the Kinotavr Film Festival. And **Grown-Up Girls Games** (best female role) and **Joker** (best male role) were winners at the Yalta Together International Movie Forum in September.

### Spectacular musicals

Inter specialise in producing spectacular New Year musicals like **Evenings On The Khutor**, **Cinderella**, **A Mad Day Or Figaro's Wedding**, **Hunting For Two Hares** and **A Snowy Queen** — all shot over a three-year period. In 2004, Inter completed **Sorochinskaya Fair** and **Twelve Chairs** and **Three Mysketry** is in production.

Director of Photography Vadim Savitskiy filmed **Twelve Chairs** on Kodak VISION2 500T 7218 film. "We had several reasons



Left and Main Pic: Scenes from *Sorochinskaya Fair*.

Below: Scene from *Twelve Chairs*.

for choosing it," he said. "But mainly because I'd heard the film had more contrast and improved blacks and whites. It's true; it has! It works really well both with light and shadow; especially when shooting in the studio. The audience may not consciously notice these small details but they will subconsciously appreciate the better image quality they see on the screen."

The production team was full of praise for Savitskiy's camera work. One scene stands out. He filmed Madam Gritsatsueva (Nina Usatova) running at speed along the passage of the Gudok newspaper office, brilliantly capturing the constantly changing light falling on the fleeing figure. A masterpiece of filming.



PHOTO BY: OLEG ANTONOV

we had no nasty shocks; everything went according to plan. The camera crew and support staff were well organized and unfailingly professional. And they had some interesting moments.

For instance, during steady rain on location they quickly made an awning and created an "interior" set where, despite adequate daylight we worked with lights to shoot a scene involving Valery Meladze (The devil). It was just like a studio set-up though in reality it was out on location. It was an interesting production decision because it usually happens in reverse!" ■

*"For me, the Vision 250D and Vision 320T films are the best fit for shooting on location by day because they work equally well in dull, even rainy weather, as they do in sunshine."*

