



THE MALTA DRAMA CENTRE COMMEMORATES THE NATIONAL POET

A record number of new applicants register for courses and foreign specialists also increase

The Malta Drama Centre is commemorating the fiftieth anniversary since the passing of national poet Dun Karm with a studio production of a dramatic collage, infused with biographical references, of his best poems. The production's highlight is expected to be a dramatized version of Dun Karm's classic work *Il-Jien u Lil Hinn Minnu*, which diverse critics agree epitomises the poet's literary career and constitutes a poetic answer to Ugo Foscolo's *I Sepolcri*. This poem is considered to be important both thematically and also stylistically. Directed by Alan Fenech, the Drama Centre's dramatized version includes interpretations by individual actors and choral sequences.

The Malta Drama Centre is concurrently honouring another anniversary: the 120th year since the birth of the celebrated Russian author Osip Mandel'stham, who had mysteriously disappeared at the time of Josef Stalin's tyrannical regime in the notorious purges that included a systematic persecution of intellectuals. The Drama Centre has developed a docu-drama under the direction of Albert Marshall.

The Drama Centre is presently also involved in a community project together with *Agenzija Zghazagh* with the aim of celebrating the beginning of the European Year of Intergenerational Solidarity. The project's coordinators are Mario Azzopardi, Dorothy Singh and Miriam Theuma.

Meanwhile, a record 550 students have registered for courses for the academic year 2011-2012, including applicants from Italy, France, the Czech Republic, Poland and Ethiopia. A number of new courses are also underway. Held under the auspices of the Department of Lifelong Learning within the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, these include Drama for Personality Development, Stage and Television Make-up, the History of the Theatre, Arabic Classical Dance, Musical Theatre and even Zumba Dance classes. Another group of adult students are being coached to sit for the Associate Diploma in Dramatic Arts offered by Trinity College & Guildhall.

This year has seen an increase in the number of foreign tutors, including Holly Harbour (Drama for Personality Development), Svetlana Silina Floriani (Spanish Dance), John Williams (Costume Design and Manufacture), Abigail Williams (Musical Theatre) and Dragan Donkov (Vocal Technique).

