



International Club

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Nr.13 May, 2008

Gross National Happiness

By Evelina Kvartunaite



What is the first thought that comes to your mind when you read these three simple words? Utopia? Reality? Something we all wish for?

Therefore it is fascinating to discover a remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan which is

the only country in the world which puts happiness at the heart of government policy.

"Next stop – Bhutan" – with such title International Club invited its members to a presentation of two movies by Hans Wessing. A Danish movie director was accompanied by his Bhutanese wife Tashi (see picture above) who invited everyone to taste a little bit of Bhutan culture – butter tea with rice pie.

Two movies were not only introduction to a not yet very well known country as well as a good base for discussions as for some it might be truly amazing that, for example, Bhutan was the last nation in the world to introduce television in 1999 and recently they banned a number of channels including international wrestling and MTV, which they felt did little to promote happiness.

Hans Wessing agreed to answer some of our questions...

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About Misa Cubana

By Silvia Rodriguez Rivero

This Mass by Jose Maria Vitier is dedicated to Cuba's Patron-Saint La Virgen de la Caridad de El Cobre. The work's global concept stems from both the universality of the worship of the Virgin Mary and the specific values of Cuban culture. Cult and culture interlock in this work in search of a musical synthesis to represent our nation's spirituality.

Three songs in Spanish dedicated to La Virgen de la Caridad are inserted in the usual liturgical corpus of Latin texts, Kyrie Eleison, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, Hosanna and Salve Regina. The instrumental format includes vocal soloists, choir, string orchestra, organ, harpsichord, piano and percussion.

The esthetic conception of the work draws on the European legacy of sacred music, as well as on both the popular and "classic" stock of Cuban musical tradition. The use of the traditional song and the esthetic heritage of Cuba's first composer of sacred music Esteban Salas, is dearly distinguished in the composer's style.

May

don't miss!!!

By Heidi Sanchez Llabre

May 9th at 18:00

Stammtisch

at Café Cuckoo's Nest

(Vestergade 73 5000 Odense C)

Once again a great opportunity for you to meet up and have a great time together. To have a bite to eat and enjoy a very cosy ambience.

May 11th at 20:00

Spanish Circle goes to Kolding

University of Southern Denmark Symphony Orchestra & Chamber Choir will perform "Misa Cubana" by José Maria Vitier (Scandinavian premiere) at Kristkirken (Christ Church) in Kolding on Sunday, the 11th of May.

For more information please contact Sandra via email: sgg@sdu.dk

May 30th at 20:00

IC monthly event

at a Theatre

A Belly Dance show by Tafariin Mave Danse Company, showing sparkles of the history of the group since its foundation almost 10 years ago. Dancers from Denmark, Philippines, Germany and Cuba will be on stage.

The performance will be held in a local theatre in Odense. More details about this extraordinary presentation are coming up.....

When did you start making movies? What was so attracting about it?

- When I was 16 years old. I earned the money for my first 8 mm camera working a whole summer in my father's brickworks.

What inspires you to create?

- Under shootings to meet inspiring and original people and under editing to create a unique universe, where I

begin to feel a strong or touching intensity from the people in a film.



Picture above: Hans Wessing in an archery situation in Bhutan

When did you "discover" Bhutan and what is (are) most fascinating thing about it?

- In 1990 when I was told about the Danish support to a furniture factory in Bhutan. The first thing fascinating me was to hear about the lack of chairs and other material things in people's lives in the countryside. When I finally was allowed to arrive there I felt I had come to another world. Since then many other things in Bhutan has fascinated me.

What are the main differences between Denmark and Bhutan in your opinion?

- We have here a flat country with a lot of islands surrounded by the sea and Bhutan has some of the world's highest mountains where most people have never seen the ocean. The Danes have always been attracted to reach further far out on the oceans, while the Bhutanese until lately have been isolated between their valleys. Meanwhile, our two small peoples have surprisingly many things in common and we get along very easily.



Is there a specific message in every movie you make or you wish to make people wonder, think and find the things they think are important?

There is always a message and a reason behind why I make the film. At the same time I do my best to make an open film, so that the audience will be nourished to be curious and reflective. I see myself like a kind of messenger from people to people or from culture to culture where my ability to listen and to observe and to wait until my intuition give a possible result are my tools and where I in the editing try to arrange truthful messages in a clear way and maybe with full of contradictions to provoke people's prejudices or traditional thinking.

What was the most memorable lesson/advice you got in Bhutan?
The unexpected moment when I met my wife!

What would you advice to people who would like to go to Bhutan?

- To meet people and the culture with an open mind. Meet people with your personality, never with the camera first. Don't give money or other things to children, It's considered a bad habit. Bhutan tries to see foreigners as guests rather than 'tourists' and to be free from the worst consequences of tourism.

How often do you drink butter tea?! 😊

-When somebody offers me. It can be a very different and challenging experience, if f. ex. the butter is mature.

Thank you for your answers!

