

III. Member Cities in Action



WELCOME TO... 1001 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF GDAŃSK

Celebration of the 1000 years of Gdańsk lasted for many months, has just been finished. Last farewell events organised in order to meet different expectations and interests of as much large as possible audience took place on the 17th and 18th of October.

Plain-air events were reachable by everybody. The thousand flowers - symbolised by garlands of candles, torches and huge flaming constructions - went on fire in early evening along the banks of the old part of harbour. Visual impressions were supported by the psycho-delic music. Dramaturgy was completed by elements unexpected in scenery like: broken masts of lately saved sailing-boat and full moon raised above whole scene. The fireworks show was a culmination perfectly fitted to this fire poetics.

After the brake which allowed crowd to displace to the place near by the theatre, next fascinating performance of the French group Trans Express Circus has started. This spectacle was a mixture of the theatre, concert, circus and events

„light & sound”. Suddenly music was heard among the audience and burning platform-stages - where the actors dressed like in armours, or diving-dresses started their performance. Spectators were already inclined to become wearied with this part of spectacle, but their attention was arrested by big tubular construction reminding the pierced, transparent glass-cover, glass-bell?, flower? which was situated in the middle of the place. Prevailing actors, provided with sets of small and big bells, various percussion have fastened themselves to the ends of pipes of that machine.

Unexpectedly the giant lift has carried up whole high above the place. There was a ravishing chiming-percussion concert above Gdańsk. On the level of 30 metres above the ground, tubular arms with musicians started to part. Acrobats making evolutions were hanging on the three trapezes in the centre of the construction. The atmosphere was emphasised by colourful beam of spotlights which was focused on this magic academy of movement, light and

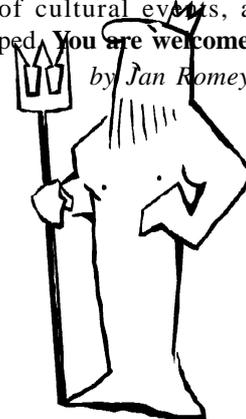
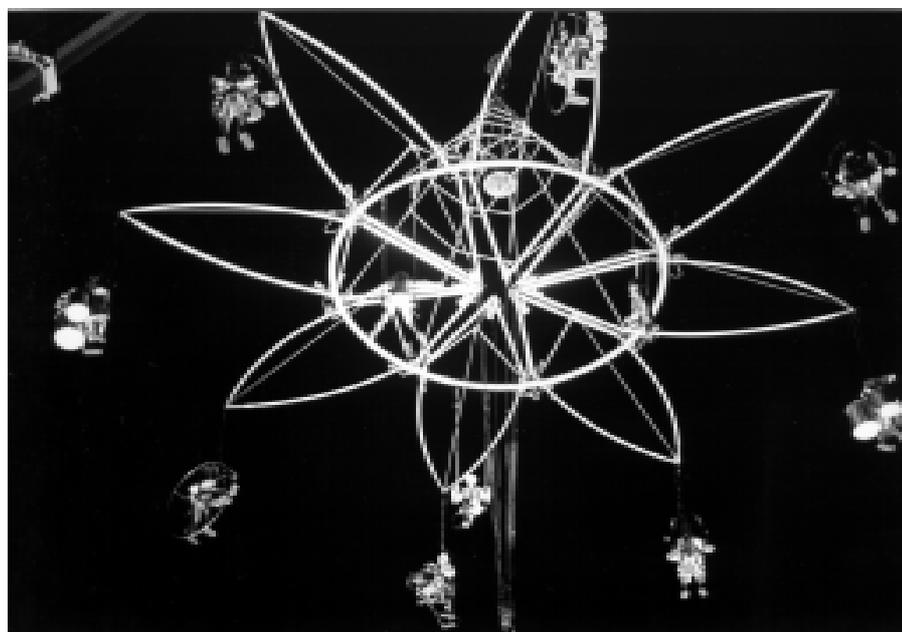
sound. Loud and long cheers were an applause for the bravado and beauty of the performance.

Only few noticed the Mayor of the City who, with his wife and daughter was happy to give the joy for the Gdańsk citizens.

The next day, there was the ceremonial concert of the contemporary music by Krzysztof Penderecki, conducted by the composer, transmitted by tv. Leaders of Polish politics and many music lovers were present at this event. The final chord, closing the millennial celebrations was the first performance of the „Hymn for St. Adalbert”, composed especially for this occasion. The Gdańsk Millennium started from the first description of the St. Adalbert mission and his death. As last that night, young citizens of Gdańsk were bidding farewell to the Millennium during the concert-party with the famous US3 group.

The authorities of Gdańsk do not want the curtain to drop over at this moment. Events of the millennial year have given the impetus for new initiatives and created new expectations. To meet them, on the base of gained experience, preparations for the new, annual rich offer of cultural events, are being developed. **You are welcome!**

by Jan Romeyko-Hurko



Fascinating performance of the French group Trans Express Circus impressed the hundreds of spectators at the final celebrations of Gdańsk Millennium. **BCB 3/1997 31**