

# **GDYNIA**

# **ECHO**

**QUARTERLY NEWS FROM GDYNIA, POLAND  
THE CITY MADE OF DREAMS AND THE SEA**

**JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2014**

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**ISSUED BY GDYNIA CITY HALL**



## BUILDING OF GDYNIA FILM CENTER



Visualisations of ArchDECO

**Towards the end of next year building of the Gdynia Film Centre at pl. Grunwaldzki will be completed. In June this year the cornerstone was laid and in September was hanged the perch. The Gdynia Film Center is a complex of cultural buildings, which consists of previously completed projects: the Gdynia City Museum, the Maritime Museum and the Musical Theatre.**



Photos by Tomasz Lenik



Visualisations of ArchDECO

**In the Gdynia Film Centre building there will be:** three rooms for cinema studios, a film club, a restaurant, a multimedia store and stores for private companies. In addition there will be the Film Festival office and the home of the Gdynia Film School.

The Centre will present films which will be ambitious, artistic, award-winning and recognized by Polish and world film critics. In the cinema studio the Gdynia Film School's Film Club will have its workshop. **Leszek Kopeć**, the director of the Film School says that here thematic reviews produced by Gdynia's cultural institutions will also take place, for example, "Architecture in the cinema", together with the Museum of the City of Gdynia or reviews of the world's musical films during the Opener Festival.

The building of the Gdynia Film Centre is connected to the Project of Cultural Forum, which involves the construction of a new seat for the Municipal Theatre, the Mediateka and the Gallery of Modern Art.

The Gdynia Film Center will be a meeting place for cinema lovers, filmmakers, both amateurs and professionals, writers, actors and musicians.



Photos by Tomasz Lenik

## GDYNIA HOSTED THE RED BULL AIR RACE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



On July 25-27 in Gdynia the World Championship Red Bull Air Race took place. Twelve of the world's best pilots, masters of high-speed aero acrobatics flying at 370 km/h only 25 meters above the sea took part. This was the first time Poland hosted such a prestigious air show. The world championship in Gdynia, a stop for "air formula 1", was part of the international competitions which take place in Abu Dhabi, Putrajaya, Ascot and Fort Worth. In October the pilots will compete in Las Vegas in the United States and will end the competitions in Spielberg in Austria.

*Photo by Andreas Schaad/Red Bull Content Pool*

The Championships are held in two categories: Challenger Class, where we had a representative – **Łukasz Czepiela**, and Master Class, dedicated to champions of sky racing, where the best was Austrian **Hannes Arch**, leader of general classification. **Łukasz Czepiela** gained 5th place in his category.

The Spectacular show and international character of the competition attracted huge throngs of spectators and fans in Gdynia. Spectators were estimated at 855 thousand people during the three day event.

12 pilots compete in the master class category for the title of the World Champion Red Bull Air Race 2014. Pilots have to navigate an aerial racetrack featuring air-filled pylons in the fastest possible time, incurring as few penalties as possible.

High-ranking and world scale events such as the Red Bull Air Race proved to be a treat for lovers of air shows and the organizational success of Gdynia.



*Photo by Predrag Vuckovic/Red Bull Content Pool*

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION GDYNIA SAILS

From 15th to 18th August Gdynia hosted the rally of the largest tall ships in the world.



This year there were 25 ships, representing 6 countries. Among them was the star of the event - the Portuguese Santa Maria Manuela, which visited the Baltic for the first time said **Joanna Zielińska** – Also present were the French Etoile and the Swedish Falken, which participated in Operation Sail in '74. In total on board of all tall ships were 1300 sailors. They were welcomed in a very warm way by the people of Gdynia and guests of our city, which in turn was well received by the crews – she added.

The scale of the event and the fact that it took place during the long holiday weekend caused that, despite the changeable weather conditions, it was watched by over 1.9 million people according to police estimates. Thursday was already crowded, because although it was not officially the day of the event, in the President's marina most of the tall ships were moored already.

Operation Gdynia Sails accompanies such events as the XXIX Baltic Maritime Song Festival Gdynia 2014, Project Beach TVN and, most important, Junior European Sailing Championships and Volvo Gdynia Sailing Days.



Photos by Dorota Nelke



Photos by Dorota Nelke and Krzysztof Romański

## GDYNIA LITERARY PRIZE LAUREATES

On 28th June 2014 Committee of Literary Prize Gdynia announced four laureates.



There were 27 finalists in Gdynia this year: **Marcin Świetlicki** in the category of Poetry for his poetic book "One", **Jerzy Pilch** in the category of Prose for his novel "A lot of demons", **Wojciech Nowicki** in the category of Essay writing for his book "Rooms-Rooms"

and **Jerzy Czech** in the category of Translation into Polish for translation of an anthology of Russian poetry "I climbed up on a pedestal".

2013 was evaluated by us as a very good year for Polish literature, and also was a good year for the Prize. Writers, who gave us great books this year and also showed new outstanding literary individuals. I hope the nominees

names reflect it. - says the chairman of the Committee **Piotr Śliwiński**. Since the first edition we have tried to distinguish unique phenomenons, moving, original, and not be guided by the brand of already recognized authors he says.

The Gdynia Literary Prize was established in 2006 by the Mayor of Gdynia **Wojciech Szczurek**, in order to honour the exceptional achievements of living, Polish artists. It is awarded annually to the authors of the best books published in the previous year.

This year for the first time in the history of Gdynia Literary Prize there appeared a new category, which is Translation into Polish.

## GDYNIA'S TWITTER SITE IS ONE OF THE BEST IN POLAND

Gdynia's Twitter site is mentioned by Forbes magazine as one of the best in the country. In the Forbes article on communications conducted by public institutions on Twitter, Gdynia is quoted as a good example.

Nowadays, Twitter is the fastest growing social networking site. It beats records of popularity around the world and gains more and more users in Poland as well. More and more companies, public institutions, cities in Poland build their own communication channels on Twitter, which is the fastest growing microblogging site nowadays.

It is not easy to run a city account on Twitter. You can count the Polish cities who are able to do so on the fingers of one hand – says **Eric Mistewicz**, marketing strategy expert, the head of the quarterly "New Media". Gdynia is an example. How it operates on Twitter, has become an

example for other Polish cities and local governments. How to do it effectively? It is worth watching the Gdynia site! – he adds.

Gdynia has one of the most popular city profiles in Poland. The group following Gdynia create Polityka, TVN, wp.pl, Radio Zet, Tygodnik Powszechny and Julia Marcell. Among others we have also been quoted by Maciej Stuhr, Jarek Kuźniar, Andrzej Morozowski, Mela Koteluk and Seal. Join us! You don't need a Twitter account to watch Gdynia.

Just type in the browser **@MiastoGdynia**.



## SPORT COMPETITIONS ON THE HERBALIFE TRIATHLON GDYNIA 2014

On August 8-10 the Herbalife Triathlon took place in Gdynia. The Triathlon Sports event is a combination of swimming, cycling and running which were held in different categories and apart from the athletes who took part in them there were also Polish showbusiness stars and celebrities from the media and politics.

On the start list for this year's competitions there were more than 1,600 people and a little over 1,300 crossed the finishing line.

The event came to an end on Sunday, and the big winner – **Andreas Raelert**, who completed the event in a fantastic time of 3 hours 54 minutes and 44 seconds won the Herbalife Triathlon Gdynia 2014. This is the best result ever achieved in Poland.

Among the competitors who distinguished themselves were several Poles. In the main category, Open Half-Ironman, a Pole **Adam Kacper** came in 6th with a finish time of 04:07:45 and **Daniel Formela** came 8th with time of 04:11:01, next was **Filip Przymusiński** with a time of 04:13:04. **Maria Cześnik** was the winner of the ladies competition.

On Saturday, August 9 Mateusz Rak was the winner of the sprint run within HTG, and the best among the ladies was Małgorzata Szczerbińska. HTG boasts extraordinary ambassadors - **Agnieszka Sikora-Paw**, **Karolina Gorczyca** and **Katarzyna Glinka**. They ran, swam and cycled and all of them completed the competition.

They raised money for an orphanage in Falbogi, to create there a professional fitness room and healthy eating place.

Also taking part in the competition were people known from newspapers, magazines and television, including **Iwona Guzowska**, **Maciej Dowbor**, **Tomasz Karolak** and **Piotr Kraśko**.

It was a weekend, which certainly will hold in memory of Polish triathlon fans for a long time. And finally a fabulous announcement for sports fans - next year Gdynia will host for the first time in the Poland the Ironman 70.3. Triathlon competition which is organized all over the world by World Triathlon Corporation. The "70.3" refers to the total distance of all the races counted in miles. Competitions are played in many countries around the world and the most prestigious is in October in the Hawaiian city Kona on Big Island.



Photos by R. Nowakowski/B. Czarnecka/Sport Evolution

## GDYNIA HAS A POLISH CHAMPION TEAM AGAIN!

On Saturday, August 2, the Gdynia Hawks won the Polish American Football League. In the final, which was played at the Municipal Stadium in Gdynia, the yellow & blacks defeated the Wroclaw Panthers 41:32 in an exciting match. The match opened up in the second quarter. The first 7 points the Seahawks Gdynia won were scored by Tunde Ogun who is called by commentators "the speeding fridge" and he was nominated the best player of the match, scoring four touchdowns.



**This is the second time in the history of the club that the Hawks have won the Polish championship. The title returned to Gdynia after a one year break. The match was watched by over five thousand spectators.**

"We were prepared for the style of play of Panthers. We were very focused during the match. Formation of our defense deserves words of appreciation, because they stopped Panthers attack. Thank you to the city of Gdynia and match organizers. I am grateful to large group of people, who engage socially, to create such a wonderful events" commented **Maciej Centerowski**, Gdynia Seahawks coach.

Hawks are one of four teams, which played in the first season of Polish American Football League. The group was established in 2005 at the initiative of Maciej Cetnerowski. In the final game of the season in 2012 Gdynians defeated Warsaw Eagles at the National Stadium in Warsaw. Now yellow-blacks won the championship again, this time on home soil.

SuperFinal was a great celebration of American football and the opportunity for great fun for whole families. As befits the SuperFinal, the match was mounted in true American style, referring to the Super Bowl. At noon near the Municipal Stadium has been running American town.

In American football actively supporting audience is called the twelfth player. Hawks fans are known for enthusiastic help for their players – cheer on, paint faces with team's colors and never never cease to believe in the victory of their team.



Photos by Tomasz Lenik

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