



## **BSEC MONTH OF CULTURE 2017**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Monday 19 June 2017**

## Azerbaijan

### **Rustam Ibragimbekov**

Rustam Ibragimbekov was born in Baku in 1939. He is an internationally renowned and multi-award winning screenwriter, dramatist and producer. He holds State awards for contributions to the arts from both Azerbaijan and Russia. His writing credits include more than 40 film and television scripts, plays and prose. *Close to Eden* (1993) won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, a European Film Award for Best Film of the Year and was nominated for an Oscar. In 1994 *Burnt by the Sun* was awarded the Grand Prix at Cannes and an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

**#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Cinema #Azerbaijan**



## Serbia

### Stari Ras and Sopoćani

Stari Ras was one of the first capitals of the medieval Serbian state of Raška, and the most important one for quite a long period of time. Located in today's region of Raška, the city was positioned in the center of the early medieval state. It was founded before 9th century and was deserted sometime in the 13th century. In the close vicinity of Ras there is an impressive group of medieval monuments consisting of fortresses, old marketplaces, churches and monasteries. Serbian medieval Monastery of Sopoćani near Ras is a reminder of the contacts between the Western world and the Byzantine world. The site of Stari Ras, in combination with the nearby Monastery of Sopoćani, is already a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Monuments #Serbia**



## Bulgaria

What do you know about Bulgarian author Yordan Yovkov?

### Yordan Yovkov

Yordan Yovkov, born in 1880 and died in 1937, was a prominent Bulgarian writer. Yovkov's war experiences greatly influenced his mentality and style of writing. His works *Legends of Stara Planina* (1927) and *Inn at Antimovo* (1927) established him as a major writer. His other works include the dramas *Albena* (1930) and *Boryana* (1932); a comedy *The Millionaire* (1930), and a book, *The Family by the Frontier* (1934). A number of his stories were made into films and into operas.

**#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Literature #Bulgaria**



## Russia

Have you ever tried Russian pirozhki?

### **Pirozhki**

Pirozhki , literally a "small pie", is a typical food of Russia. A common variety of pirozhki is baked stuffed buns made from yeast dough and often glazed with egg to produce the common golden colour. They commonly contain meat or a vegetable filling.

**#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Gastronomy #Russia**



*Interested in learning more about the fascinating culture of the BSEC Member States?*

Join the BSEC Month of Culture, organised by the ICBSS from 1-30 June 2017 and learn about the remarkable and rich cultural heritage of the BSEC region.

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*About the BSEC Month of Culture:*

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BSEC Organisation, the ICBSS is launching a new initiative, the “BSEC Month of Culture”, a month long programme of cultural highlights from the 12 BSEC Member States (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine).

Being aware of the rich, diverse cultural heritage of the BSEC region, the ICBSS will launch the “BSEC Month of Culture”, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, with the aim to promote the cultural identity of the region and enhance its visibility to the wider public.

The programme will feature online tributes on **literature, music, cinema, archaeological sites and gastronomy**, including short videos and photos.

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**About the ICBSS:** The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. Thus, the ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim to foster multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.

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