***CHIPĂRUȘ***

In any corner of Moldova, no matter with whom you would communicate, of your age or a little older, it is enough to say the word “Chipăruș” and the person’s face is immediately illuminated by a smile, and in response you hear an echo, “ Chipăruș”! Of course, we are talking about the legendary magazine of satire and humour, which for half a century has been scourging the flaws in society for its feuilleton and caricature, which all the destitute turned to for help as a last resort, and which brought joy and Fun, in the most difficult times, in the houses of Moldavians. From the first issue, published on January 10, 1958, the magazine was publishing by the editors, which were headed by three poets: editor-in-chief Petru Zadnipru, his deputy Aureliu Busuioc and executive secretary Valentin Roșca.

The creative team was represented by the publicist Alexandr Vasiliuc, as the head of the letters department, with his unforgettable heading “Poșol na turbinca!”, and then, in different years, prose writers Alexei Marinat, Victor Prokhin, Anatol Gorlo, Nikon Vetrician, Alexandra Zavalistîi, Sergiu Zaveriukha, Vasile Neculce have been cooperated, as well as publicists Yuliu Georgichuk, Victor Pavliuc, Gheorghe Postolache, Igor Grosu, Alexei Repede, Nicolae Dorofeev, Vasile Severin, Konstantin Bârcă, Stanislav Duduciuk, Anatol Fisher, Alexey Bojoga and poets, mainly epigramists, Petru Cărare, Vladimir Rusnac, Ion Bolduma, Tudor Istrati, Ion Diordiev, Ion Diviza, Efim Bivol, Gheorghe Bâlici, Ion Kuzuioc and others. Shoulder to shoulder with the masters of the pen worked a galaxy of famous artists: Ilie Bogdesco, Emil Kildescu, Alexey Kolâbniak, Igor Vieru, Alexei Grabko, Glebus Sainchuk, Yuri Rumianțev, Nikolai Macarenco, Leonid Domnin, Dumitru Trifan, which was then supplemented by such resonant names as Valeriu Ionita, Lică Sainchuc, Valeriu Kutru, Iurie Simac, Ion Mîțu, Margareta Kițcatâi, Alex Dimitrov, Sergiu Tomșa, Sergiu Puică, Victor Crudu, Ion Migali, Petru Furculiță and, of course, brothers Dumitru and Iurie Yazan. Cartoonists ”CHIPĂRUȘ” cooperate with colleagues from satire and humor magazines of all Soviet republics: “Crocodile” - Moscow, “Pereț” - Kiev, “Vozhyk” - Minsk, “Dadzis” - Riga, “Șluota” - Vilnius, “Pikker” - Tallinn, “Niangs” - Tbilisi, “Kirpi” - Baku, “Fuss” - Yerevan, “Ara” - Alma Ata, “Mushtum” - Tashkent, “Horpushtak” - Dushanbe , “Chalkan” - Frunze, “Tokmak” - Ashgabat, “Chayan” - Kazan, as well as from countries of the socialist camp: “Urzica” - Bucharest, “Eulenspiegel” - Berlin, “Szpilkii” and “Karuzela” - Warsaw , “Dikobraz” and “Rohac” - Prague, “Ludas Ma tyi ”- Budapest,“ Styrshel ”- Sofia,“ Pavliha ”- Ljubljana,“ Palante ”- Havana. Thus, the artists of Moldova managed to equal the outstanding cartoonists of the world, and their works were reprinted and awarded prizes of the most prestigious contests on the planet. And when, by the will of the thirsty to sweep the barriers to the “bright future” of leadership, in the center of the settlements standard satirical boards “Crocodilul merge prin sat” (“Crocodile goes through the village”) were installed to ridicule local thieves, loafers, drunkards and hooligans, it was found that this type of criticism needed professionally executed illustrations, and “CHIPĂRUȘ” began to produce a satirical piece of paper as an application, but only from drawings, so that rural wrestlers with shortcomings could only cut out the necessary caricature. Bureaucrats of all levels were afraid of “CHIPĂRUȘ” because they were forced to respond to merciless criticism with answers about specific measures to eradicate evil, however, creative workers were persecuted, the editorial staff was repeatedly beheaded and eventually eliminated, and all attempts to reanimate the magazine, Ended in failure. And if the artist Valeriu Ioniță worked in the editorial office until his last breath, the rest of the staff were forced to reprofile. Glebus Sainciuc became famous for his masks, without which not a single cultural event in Chisinau could do. The descendant of the veteran, Lică Sainciuc, is represented in any house by illustrations for “Albinuța” Grigore Vieru and other books for children. Ion Diviza and Igor Grosu became the godfathers of the Satiricus Theater, and Victor Pavliuc, Valeriu Kurtu and the same Igor Grosu worked side by side with the director Tudor Tataru on staging the performances of the Buchumul Theater, as well as on the set of short films: “Moș Ion în Cosmos” (“Grandfather Ion in Space”), “Polobocul” (“Barrel”) and “Dănilă Prepeleac”. Anatol Gorlo, Alexander Zavalistâi and Juliu Georghiciuc are known as directors, and Victor Pavliuc, Igor Grosu, Gheorghe Postolache and Ion Diviza as authors of stories for the Satirical newsreel “Usturici”. Valeriu Kurtu worked as the director of the animated films “Victim” (screenplay by Victor Pavliuc), “All Colors”, “Yum-Yum” and “Holy Sunday”. Alexei Grabko also proved himself as a director at the Moldova Film Studio, managing to show in the animated film the essence of the legendary cycle of drawings “VECINII” (“NEIGHBORS”).

After the closing of the magazine, Alexei Grabko retired to his native village. And Valeriu Kurtu, having won all kinds of awards in international competitions, also organized such a competition and successfully holds his seventh consecutive year in Berlin. In this context, it is enough to recall the execution of the Paris edition of Charlie Hebdo, from which the Je suis Charlie! Movement has begun, to understand that the fight against injustice is difficult in any country and at all times. And so, to remember those years when we were young and believed that we could change this world, we decided to organize an exhibition of caricatures of artists who continue their creative work, as well as our colleagues, who went on forever. And since the themes for the cartoons have not lost their relevance, the struggle continues.

***CHIPĂRUȘ!***