



government administrations.

Greek Theatre

I was fortunate enough to meet an active member of the Greek Community and the minority self-government, Kuria Evaggelia Tsarouxa. She was born in Belogiannis and is the Principal of the Greek school. She was rehearsing her students and other actors for the Greek play, written by Greek – Hungarian, Dimitrios Hadzisz. The play was to take place during ARCUSFEST Theatre Festival for minorities. The most notable aspect of the rehearsal was not how entertaining it was, rather the fact that most of the participants were third generation Greeks, all speaking the language fluently. The play, ‘Margarita Perdikari,’ proved to be a success for all involved.

It was pointed out to me that the theatre, just like the school was a way forward for the Greeks in Hungary. It’s a way to ensure the longevity of the language and the culture. At the rehearsal I also met Nikos Arvithis. He had moved to Budapest for business reasons. His son was also involved with the play. You could see how proud he was to be part of the Greek community. In fact I was proud just to be in the room witnessing

an inspired rehearsal.

Budapest

Once I had successfully negotiated my Greek ‘fetish’ I was able to relax and allow my friends, Amaury, Annette, Vicky and Krizstian take turns to escort me across Budapest. Lucky for me this is an architecturally stunning city, with plenty of options to offer a tourist. A real highlight was the Danube River, once the northern boundary of the Byzantine Empire during early medieval times.

So after a few very cold days, I made my way back to London. I enjoyed my visit to this wonderful city and at the same time learnt some more about Modern

Greek history (Civil War) – that will hopefully never be repeated. I look back on the Greek speakers that I met and I envy their spirit and determination. Modern Greece is full of refugees and some sad yet inspiring stories. Beloyiannis is a reminder of that, and a reminder that the Greek spirit can be found just about everywhere. Trust me, just Google it.

Billy Cotsis. For more articles from the author: <http://www.herculean.wordpress.com/>

For more information on the Greek village of Beloyiannis, go to their homepage: <http://www.bgko.hu/>



great way to end my trip to the Greek village.

Self- Government

There are over 7000 Greeks in Hungary. The interesting aspect of the Greek Community is that they are deemed to be an official ‘minority.’ This allows the Greek community to operate as a self governing cultural minority with their own administration. There are 30 neighbourhoods in Hungary where there is a Greek presence. Overall, there Hungary has 13 different national or minority self-

Maria Sarri: Greece Past and Present



From the exhibition: Maria Sarri, Vivi Koutsounadis, Eugenia Tsilimos, Soula Tsilimos and Elpida Giallouri.

• **Maria Sarri**

The Painter of Poetry. The Poet of painting

Maria Sarri was born and raised in Chios, the place where Homer, the master of poetry once lived.

She is the daughter of the late Ioannis Karakonstandis and Kiriaki Eleutheriou. She is the widow of Nikos Sarri and the mother of five. Maria was mesmerized by a love of painting from an early age. For her, painting constitutes a sacred process, she tends to cultivate daily. She continuously toils with new forms and methods and tried to pave new roads for creativity. An exhibition of Maria’s work will continue until Saturday 23rd of May. In this rare exhibition Maria brings a collection of her work offering the beauty of Greek landscape and architecture.

- 1. Pieces illustrating ancient the Ancient Greek spirit,
- 2. Scenery and parts of Greece that are disappearing,
- 3. Portraits of famous Greeks who made their mark on Greek culture.

More of Maria’s exhibition entitled Greece in tomorrow’s edition!

Exhibition: Wed 20 May to Fri 22 May, 11am - 6pm, Sat 23 May, 11am - 4pm

Venue: Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier St, Paddington Cost: Free Entry - Contact: 02 9750 0440