



ARTICHOKE
By **Melissa Hekkers**

Linguistic tricks

I was quick to jump to conclusions as I entered the village of Meniko in the Nicosia district during the week.

A road sign at the entrance of the village displayed the words 'The community of Meniko welcomes you' in Greek and Russian.

I've gotten used to the Chinese signs in Paphos advertising real estate opportunities -- but that's business related. Why would the suburbs of Akaki welcome people in Russian? Was it another trick to entice foreign interest?

Visiting the Meniko elementary school, it was the headmistress who explained the village was visited primarily by Russian pilgrims to see the church of Ayios Kyprianos and Ayia Ioustini.

Worshippers from Russia and other Eastern Orthodox countries treasure this 16th century site. I shied from explaining my initial reaction; it's been a while since I have been pleasantly surprised by anyone using the name of religion to inspire actual pride.

Of course, this event comes at a time when Russian military cooperation on the island may also be burgeoning. We may soon be witness to more signs in Russian that will once again depict some form of opportunistic move by our leadership to exploit the 'benefits' of our international community.

We're selling our land, we're exploiting our cultural heritage and it seems we're adamant to grasp whatever we can to apparently make our country a better place to live in.

I'm dubious about what this holds for the future. Sure enough, we need all the help we can get to be able to walk on the tight rope we are treading on.

But dismissing our own identity in the process may just as well be the biggest mistake we are making. Just saying...



LTAS Stage School students set to premier their theatrical approach to well-known Disney Story 'Frozen'



'Frozen' Limassol

See Disney hit in stage performance by theatre school students

For the 'First Time in Forever', LTAS Stage School is to present a premiere performance of Disney's stunning comedy adventure 'Frozen' at its Limassol premises.

Performed in English, the play will re-enact the well known and loveable characters from Frozen as they embark on their epic journey, meeting mystical trolls and a hilarious snowman on their way to save their kingdom.

Popular kids' characters on an epic journey, meeting mystical trolls and a hilarious snowman on their way to save their kingdom

The plot revolves around Anna, a fearless optimist, who sets off on an epic journey - teaming up with rugged mountain man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer Sven - to find her sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom of Arendelle in eternal winter. Encountering Everest-like conditions, mystical trolls and a hilarious snowman named Olaf, Anna and Kristoff battle the elements in a race to save the kingdom.

From the outside Anna's sister, Elsa looks poised, regal and reserved, but in

reality, she lives in fear as she wrestles with a mighty secret-she was born with the power to create ice and snow. It's a beautiful ability, but also extremely dangerous.

Haunted by the moment her magic nearly killed her younger sister Anna, Elsa has isolated herself, spending every waking minute trying to suppress her growing powers.

Her mounting emotions trigger the magic, accidentally setting off an eternal winter that she can't stop. She fears she's becoming a monster and that no one, not even her sister, can help her.

This all-singing and all-dancing spectacle will be performed at the end of February and beginning of March. Dates are: February 26, 6.30pm; February 27, 6.30pm; February 28, 3pm and 6.30pm; March 1, 3pm and 6.30pm at the Limassol Theatre Arts school on 13 Panathineon Street, Ayia Zoni. Additional charity performances will also be given.

Tickets are €10 for adults and €5 for children. For reservations call 99784927 or 99324123.

The Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) is a thriving stage school for kids aged three to 18 years old.

The school's ambition is to give young people the best quality training in Musical Theatre, Dance, Singing and Drama as well as providing a wide variety of performance opportunities.

Under the expert guidance of an ex-West End performer and a team of professionals, LTAS aims to build confidence and communication skills as well as vocational development.

LTAS combines traditional theatre training with up-to-the-minute performance techniques. Students learn their skills through both practice in class and performance opportunities outside, with a strong emphasis on discipline and learning how to meet any occasion encountered with confidence.

Their productions give students valuable exposure to the profession. As well as varied and regular performance opportunities, LTAS prepares students for auditions (including those for vocational Stage Schools in the UK post 16 years and post 18 years) and provides filming experiences/training, recording opportunities and casting for TV work.

More information on the venue and school can be found at www.limassolarts.com

Call for short films

The Ministry of Education and Culture and the Rialto Theatre are calling for entries for the International Short Film Festival of Cyprus (ISFFC). The main objective of the ISFFC is the promotion of the cinematographic art by presenting a diverse programme of short films from around the globe, as well as to showcase the work of talented filmmakers who successfully use creative cinematic language forms and effectively tell a story in a short film. The Festival's aim is to promote and propagate short films and to develop a spirit of friendship and cooperation among filmmakers.

The festival is held annually. Fiction, docu-

mentaries, experimental, student and animation short films not exceeding 25 minutes in length are eligible for participation in the festival's competition sections. For the first time this year, the festival organisers have announced an open call for submission of international short films via the reelport.com platform.

Cypriot films compete for both the International and the National awards of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture. Cypriot Directors who live and work in Cyprus or abroad are entitled to submit their work. The right to participate is reserved to films which are screened for the first time in Cyprus. Interested



FOR the first time this year, the Festival announces an open call for submission of international short films via the reelport.com platform

parties are invited to submit an entry form by July 10, 2015.

For further details visit www.moec.gov.cy (Announcements) and www.isffc.com.cy