

# The Lithuanian Connection

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April 2010

*Make your reservations now for the*

## *MVSC Annual Banquet*

*Saturday, May 22*

*5 - 7 pm, Cocktails*

*7 pm, Dinner (Lithuanian cuisine)*

*Program following dinner features historian and author,*

*Dr. Laimonas Briedis*

*At the downtown Madison Club, 5 East Wilson St.*

The Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc. Board of Directors cordially invite you to attend MVSC's Annual Banquet, to be held at the Madison Club, 5 East Wilson St., in downtown Madison on Saturday, May 22, 2010. This year's event features a new locale with a Lithuanian inspired dinner, and the accomplished historian and author of "Vilnius: City of Strangers", Laimonas Briedis. Dr. Briedis is a native of Vilnius and holds a PhD in Geography from the University of British Columbia (2005). He conducted his postdoctoral research in the History Department of the University of Toronto. His book tells the story of Vilnius from the 14<sup>th</sup> century through 2009 from the perspective of visitors to the city. The book weaves letters, diaries, photos, maps, and other historic documents. The author will be available to autograph copies of the book after his presentation.

We look forward to enjoying your company at this special event. Space is limited, so please send your reservations (\$30 per person) as soon as possible (before May 15) to MVSC Board Member, Indre Gaska Palmiter

N67 W34430 Jorgenson Way  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

- make check payable to "MVSC" (\$30/person)
- please provide your address and number of guests
- please include your email for our MVSC records

QUESTIONS? You may reach Indre at (262) 966-1016

"In Laimonas Briedis's subtle and evocative book ...vanished civilisations and lost empires leave a city stalked by horror and steeped in wonder."

THE ECONOMIST



## Wisconsin Film Fest features Lithuanian film!

("The Bug Trainer" was shown to a sold out crowd on April 16, 2010)

### *Vabzdziu dresuotojas*

*Documentary* - **Directed by:** Rasa Miškinytė, Donatas Ulvydas, Linas Augutis, Marek Skrobecki  
**writer:** Linas Augutis, Donatas Ulvydas, Jonas Banys

*The Bug Trainer* is a documentary film about Ladislas Starewitch (1882–1965), a pioneer of puppet animation and visual effects. As the director of a natural history museum in Kaunas, Lithuania, he had wanted to capture the movement of stag beetles, but found that they stopped moving under the bright lights. He used dead beetles, posed for each frame, to recreate the motion, and became hooked. Starewitch went on to make dozens of animated films, in Lithuania, Russia, and France, incorporating puppets, models, and many kinds of visual tricks. This documentary illustrates his life and accomplishments through interviews with film historians and admirers.



MVSC is now on Facebook! Become one of our many fans; another way to keep up to date with our projects, events, and plans ...and to possibly reconnect with old friends.

Don't forget to visit our website, [madisonvilnius.org](http://madisonvilnius.org) to see great photos of past events!

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday, August 1, 2010 -  
the ANNUAL MVSC PICNIC!**

Details to follow in the summer edition of *The Lithuanian*

#### *Connection*

The deadline to apply for admission to BALSSI 2010 (Baltic Summer Studies Institute) is May 12, 2010.

Please visit

<http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/balssi/courses.html> for more information.

Zaibas, the Lithuanian Dancers of Madison proudly participated in Madison's International Fest, which was held at the Overture Center on March 6. Zaibas performed to a nearly full house in the beautiful Capitol Theatre and sold Lithuanian crafts as a fundraiser. Check out the performance on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AE-IKuTUYFs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRJQd8tsfJw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZeXOtRqQjU>

Zaibas also performed last month at Van Hise Elementary School's International Celebration.



*Happy Spring!*

*See you at the Annual Banquet on May 22<sup>nd</sup>...*