



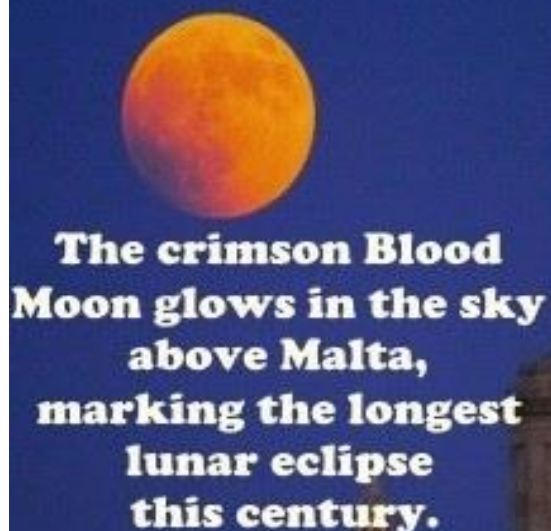
Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
Serving the community for five years

Editor- Frank L Scicluna - Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com

SPECTACULAR!!

A photograph of a large, bright orange-red full moon in a dark blue night sky. In the foreground, the stone walls and domes of a Maltese fortification are visible.

**The crimson Blood
Moon glows in the sky
above Malta,
marking the longest
lunar eclipse
this century.**



A street in Gozo

Merhba - Welcome to Malta - The Treasure Island



PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PROMOTION

Malta ratifies the Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation between the EU and New Zealand

Reference Number: PR181750, Press Release Issue Date: Aug 10, 2018

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela signed the instrument of ratification of the Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation between the European Union and New Zealand, after which it was deposited by the Ministry in Brussels on 26 July 2018.

This agreement between the EU and New Zealand was signed in Brussels on 5 October 2016, and is intended to strengthen cooperation in the fields of justice, freedom and security, to promote sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, to promote mutual understanding and strong people-to-people links, and to promote international peace and security.

Minister Abela said: "The ratification of this agreement is an additional step taken by the Ministry in enhancing the excellent relations and opportunities for cooperation between Malta and New Zealand."



Malta from a different perspective

Evarist Bartolo

When you live with something you tend to under-appreciate it. It's a common thing across the world. This is why I think we don't value enough the beauty of this country. During a visit in Rome years ago, a B&B owner had said that she never visited the Colosseum.

This is despite the fact that she lived a few blocks away for 50 years. It's strange, isn't it? Millions of tourists every year come from every corner of the world to visit the Colosseum, and people just around the block don't even bother. But it isn't really. As Maltese, we have beautiful architecture and splendid churches everywhere you look yet every single day we pass them by, through the tourists with the cameras, with very little notice.

When you live with something you tend to under-appreciate it. It's a common thing across the world. This is why I think we don't value enough the beauty of this country. We take things for granted, and in fairness so do many people. I remember an interview by Paul Chandler – an Englishman who was kidnapped for ransom in Somalia for a harrowing 400 days – saying how you only realise the things you take for granted once they're no longer there, including the freedoms and human dignity that western civilisations provide. I think it's time we stood up for this and be proud of our country. Of course, we should have the ability to self-reflect and acknowledge where we lack – and there are many things that could be done better. But we should also acknowledge the beauty in our country that is often only pointed out by outside eyes. People coming over, including well-travelled ones, describe us in amazing terms yet we would struggle to do the same.

I see this on a smaller scale in education. We sometimes underestimate the work that is being done on the ground and sell ourselves short. That is, until outsiders come over and tell us that, after all, we're doing a pretty good job. I recently had the pleasure to meet Dr Eileen N. Whelan Ariza who had kind words on the work being done on the integration strategies in education being used in our system. Studies also tell us that various educational indicators are always improving and are now on a set positive trend.

This is not the work of one minister or one educator, it is years and years of cumulative work to reach this position, through different governments. There is a lot that needs to improve but we're getting there. Are we perfect? No, we're not. But I see the passion of educators and the drive that these have to bring about change, to make education more relevant, to make lessons engaging and to reach a wider net of young people.

President attends Auxiliary Bishop's Mass



The bishop is seen with Balzan altarboys and altergirls.

A thanksgiving Mass, led by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi a week after his episcopal ordination, was celebrated at Balzan parish church, where he has been serving for the past 27 years.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi greets President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca before Mass starts.

In his first homily as Auxiliary Bishop, Mgr Galea-Curmi said that despite the fact that the community in the village of Balzan had changed over the years, it had remained a caring and loving one. He went on to say that through Pope Francis, God had asked him to be his servant and to share his experiences with many other people.



Mgr Galea-Curmi prayed to Our Lady to give him some of her courage and strength to always be able to serve God and also to follow her example of appreciating the meaning of life.

He said life within the womb was very dear, as was life outside the womb, the life of immigrants at sea and the life of those who are lonely and have lost all faith.

Love is an expression of faith, without any distinction of race, colour, religion, political party or gender. Love serves and does not use people; love, as St Paul says, helps us overcome sorrow, anger, mud-slinging and arguments.

Mgr Galea Curmi was born of the late Paul and Josette née Mifsud Bonnici, in Birkirkara, on 1 January 1964, and is the third of six children. Mgr Galea-Curmi was educated at Stella Maris School, Balzan, at the Secondary School of St Paul's Missionary College, Rabat, and at St Aloysius College (Sixth Form), Birkirkara. He entered the Archbishop's Seminary in 1982. After completing his studies and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Faculty of Theology, he was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood by the Archbishop of Malta, Monsignor Joseph Mercieca, on 5 July 1991. Monsignor Galea-Curmi was sent to further his studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome and obtained a doctorate in Pastoral Theology in 1998. His doctoral thesis was entitled "The Diocesan Synod as a Pastoral Event. A Study of the Post-Conciliar Understanding of the Diocesan Synod".



**Building Bridges
between Communities**

A nation's history
and culture reside
in the heart and soul
of its people

Mahatma Gandhi

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora



**Missed the
previous issues?
No worries!!!!**



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Maltese-Canadian Museum
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Gozo National Library
Website: ozmalta.page4.me or
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Maltese Trio to Cross Europe and Asia in a Tiny Scrap Car

David Grech Urpani 5 months ago

Have you ever felt the urge to go on a cross-country road trip? A lot of Maltese people embark on adventures around the continent, making the most of their beloved brand new cars. One Maltese trio, however, is taking things up a notch. They're going to participating in the Mongol Rally this summer, a 10,000 mile adventure which starts from the UK and ends all the way in Russia. And they're doing it all in a tiny Peugeot 205 most would overlook as a scrap car.

Team Balzarsky's mission is as gruelling as they get, but the trio's spirits have been very high ever since they announced the initiative and started updating friends, families and fans on their constant shenanigans. Beating the trying challenge isn't the only thing on the team's mind, however. In the meantime, Balzarsky will also be raising funds for Cool Earth, an environmental charity that works in partnership with indigenous communities to protect rainforests.

Motorsports, particularly off-roading has always been a passion for the three Maltese guys, Daniel Zarb, Keith Baldwin and Cristian 'Starsky' Spiteri. Their weapon of choice for such a test of endurance? A tiny, rundown Peugeot 205 the team has affectionately called Lizzie.

Lizzie may be small, but the trio are hoping it has the same fighting spirit they share



The Maltese trio have set a £1,000 goal to help Cool Earth, but they've already set a plan in the eventuality that they exceed that. "Anything we collect over and above £1,000 will go for Puttinu Cares," Balzarsky announced.

Over the last couple of weeks, the team has been sharing constant updates, adding photos to their Facebook album *Lizzie's Makeover In Progress*. Everything from reinforcing the handbrake bracket, to adding a fifth gear, to being

donated a roof rack have been featured on the Facebook page, which has the young trio constantly looking like they're having the time of their lives.

Just this week, in an effort to create more storage space, Lizzie was stripped of most of its interior... converting it into a cool three-seater.



Kapsula Merrill – a night of local memories and a tribute to Gozo

Magna Zmien is a Valletta 2018 project as part of the Cultural Programme, and next month it is coming to Gozo.

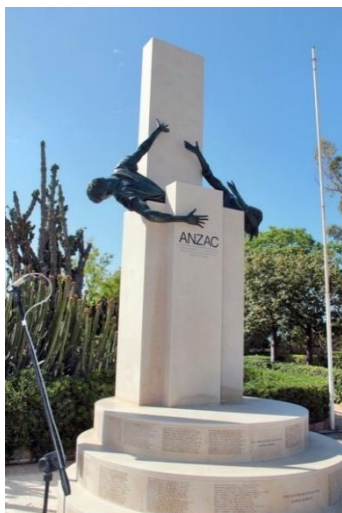
It is a movement to collect, convert and make available fading memories through the digitisation of sound and image home collections.

These salvaged memories will provide a fertile collective context for present and future cyberspace navigators and storytellers. Next month, Magna Zmien will be presenting Kapsula Merrill – the Magnificent Memories Machine – Landing #2 – a night dedicated to the collection of local memories and a tribute to Gozo. The event is taking place on Saturday, the 15th of September, starting at 8pm, at the Cathedral Square, Cittadella, Gozo.

MALTESE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1974



ANZACS MEMORIAL IN MALTA - some facts

Thank you for dedicating four pages to the Anzacs Memorial that was set up on the initiative of the Maltese Australian Association with the involvement of other entities and individuals as indicated on page 2 of your newsletter.

However, it is most inaccurate to give the impression that nothing is being done about the present state of the Memorial.

Actually, having noted the damage, particularly the disappearance of the names of the fallen, from the outset, the Maltese Australian Association drew the attention of the builders of the Memorial to rectify the damage. The builders immediately repainted the names, but after a few months the names once again began to disappear.

Expert advice suggested that it is useless to repaint the names and the best solution suggested to us is to erase completely the names from the monument, and put the names on two separate metal tablets one on each side of the Memorial.

The cost of manufacturing, and the setting up of the tablets is beyond the reach of the Association. Therefore, the Association is embarking on a fund raising campaign in order to get enough funds to be able to erect the tablets with the names of the fallen and cover the expenses of further maintenance on the Anzac Monument. The Association would be very grateful, if those who care about the Memorial would contribute towards its rehabilitation.

Victor Borg - President - Maltese Australian Association Committee



Mexican theme for this year's flower carpet in Brussels

The theme of this year's flower carpet in Brussels is "Guanajuato, cultural pride of Mexico". The 1,800 square metres carpet was made with over 500,000 dahlias and begonias, painstakingly laid down on the Grand Place.

Delegation in Brussels for the Brussels Flower Carpet



A delegation from Gharb led by Mayor David Apap, is currently in Brussels to take part in the Brussels Flower Carpet, which takes place from the 16th to the 19th of August.

The delegation visited the Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana before they departed, who remarked that Gozo will now be at the heart of Brussels. They presented the Minister with a framed copy of the design they will be working on, which is a scene showing the Gozo Cittadella.

This years Brussels Flower Carpet on the Grand-Place – a UNESCO World Heritage site – is devoted to Guanajuato, a Mexican region with an exceptionally rich culture and flower tradition.

Taking place every 2 years, the Grand-Place in Brussels will be covered with a flower carpet of 1,800 m² of begonias, dahlias, grass and bark, with over 500,000 flowers. A hundred volunteers assembled the carpet in less than eight hours. The first Flower Carpet of Brussels was created in 1971 and has been a showstopper every two years on the Grand-Place since 1986.

Activities In Malta September 2018



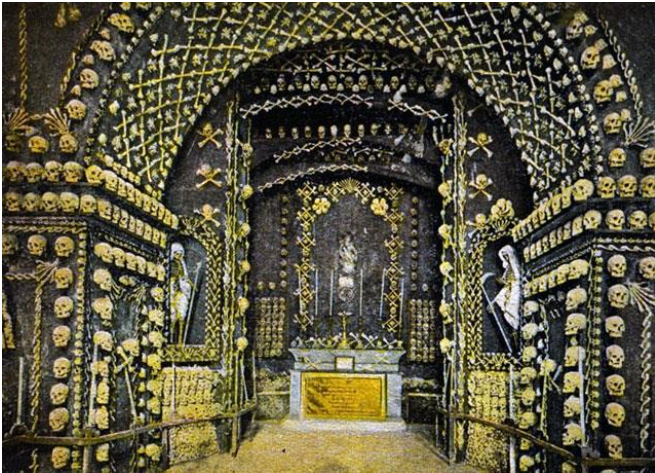
Things To Do In September

Top activities in Malta for September 2018 include **L-Ghanja tal-Poplu a Maltese Folklore musical Festival, Qala International Folk Festival** and the **Malta International Music Bands Festival**.

The island buzzes with energy as schools start opening again by the end of September and Malta celebrates 8 September -IL-VITORJA- and Independence Day. The George Cross Commemoration is held in Valletta. Towards the end of the month you can attend the Malta International Air Show at the Malta International Airport entrance from Hal Farrug area. The **Qormi Wine Festival** takes place within one of our traditional villages. A fundraising activity by Puttinu Cares, a 60 hour football and volleyball marathon to raise fund to help needy people during their medical treatments abroad. The weather is still very hot and everyone still enjoying the sun and swimming. The Glitch Festival at the Gianpula Fields for electronic music enthusiasts.



The Lost Chapel of Bones in Malta



By Charlie Hintz Somewhere beneath the ruins of the Nibbia Chapel in Malta is an ossuary decorated in human bones exhumed from a nearby cemetery.

For nearly a hundred years a small church in Malta's capital of Valletta served as a place of powerful religious devotion, as well as a macabre tourist destination. Known as the Chapel of Bones, the vaulted crypt beneath the church was elaborately decorated with human skulls and bones exhumed from a nearby cemetery in the mid-1800s. Bombs dropped on the city during the second World War, on February 14, 1941, left the chapel damaged. What remained was later demolished sometime in the 1970s. Only the sarcophagus of the chapel's builder Fra Giorgia

Nibbia, along with remnants of the foundation, were left standing.

The Nibbia Chapel was built in the year 1612. Nibbia, a member of the Knights of the Order of St. John (who controlled the island at that time) funded the construction of the Roman Catholic chapel beside a cemetery where deceased patients of the nearby Sacra Infermeria hospital were laid to rest. It was dedicated to the *Madonna della Misericordia*, or Our Lady of Mercy, and was originally called *Taz-Zuntier*, a Maltese word for "cemetery." The altar had a Latin inscription that, "lamented the ephemerality of life and requested prayers for the dead." When Nibbia died in 1619, he was entombed in a stone sarcophagus within the chapel.

The chapel was dismantled in 1730 to make room for expansion of the hospital. At that time, Nibbia's tomb was opened, and his corpse was said to appear untouched by death. The church was rebuilt the following year in the Baroque style with architecture attributed to Romano Carapecchia. This new structure, as described by the *Times of Malta*, "consisted of a large portal panel having the main door set within two clustered sets of Doric pilasters on each side. The door's architrave was adorned with a marble plaque at the centre and topped by a broken rounded pediment. A thin cornice separated the upper section which was made up of a central light arched window set between two smaller clusters of pilasters and running scrolls. Above the whole was a triangular pediment."

In 1776, the decision was made to relocate the cemetery. The remains were exhumed and reinterred underground in a large ossuary beneath the chapel. Then, in 1852, hospital chaplain Rev. Sacco decided to use the bones as decoration, adorning the walls and ceiling of the crypt with elaborate shapes and patterns made entirely of human skeletal remains. He created intricate patterns with crossed long bones, scapulae were used for floral shapes, skulls lined the walls, and smaller bones were used as trim.

In the 1914 book *Six and One Abroad*, author Sidney J. Thomas wrote about the Church of St. John in Valetta, where a relic said to be the mummified right hand of John the Baptist was kept (after Napoleon stole the diamond ring from its finger), before moving on to describe the city's other macabre destination.

"But yet a more startling apartment in this remarkable edifice is a chapel whose walls and ceiling are lined with grinning human skulls," Thomas wrote. "This gruesome decoration of bones is not disposed at random and in sparse bits here and there, but is arranged with artistic skill into all sorts of designs, shaped into full framed skeletons that leer at you with ghastly smiles, into the curves of arm bones and arches of clavicles and windows and wainscotting of ribs. In the world, civilized and savage, there is not another such a gruesome and appalling spectacle. It was a clever artist who assembled these, the relics of the sturdy Knights of Malta, into such extraordinary schemes of drapery and friezes and ornaments – here and arm bone finished off with finger joints and meeting another of the same kind and together holding a grinning skull as the keystone of an arch; yonder a row of columns with their tops decorated with skulls."

Though little remains of the Nibbia Chapel, the underground crypt is believed to still exist, and may one day be found.

Maltese community found in Japan dates back more than 100 years



June 2015,

A crew from Japanese national television was in Malta in 2015 to make a documentary about a small Maltese community in Japan that dates back to the 1890s.

Directed by Teppei Okuso from the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation, and with the help of interpreter Mayuko Vassallo, the team has interviewed a few people, foremost among them Professor Henry Frendo, who coordinates the unit on emigration and

migrant settlement at the University's Institute of Maltese Studies.

From manuscript sources at Cospicua parish church, the National Archives and the University's Melitensia section, it transpires that the founder of this community was a Ruggiero Inglott, who was born in the harbour town of Cospicua in 1871 and died in Yamugucci, Japan, in 1950 at the age of 79. He married a Japanese lady, Nakayama, whom he very probably met in a Christian mission school context; she later converted to Catholicism.

They had three sons and a daughter, who changed their 'British' surnames during World War II, when Britain and Japan were enemies. During World War I, by contrast, Britain and Japan were on excellent terms and a Japanese naval squadron was based in Grand Harbour. The Japanese Navy rescued several Maltese sailors at sea and suffered scores of casualties at the hands of the Axis, as can be seen from their graves in the naval cemetery in Kalkara. Some Maltese ethnic inter-mixing with the sailors is also known to have occurred locally.

The then Crown Prince of Japan Hirohito visited Malta in April 1921 as part of his first European tour. He was present for the opening of the new Parliament, where Chev. Joseph Howard became Malta's Prime Minister under the first self-government Constitution. Hirohito visited Kalkara cemetery, planted a tree at Sant' Anton and was lavishly entertained at the Casino Maltese. As it happened, Professor Frendo noted, Chev. Joseph Howard, an industrialist and president of the La Valette Band Club, was also the Consul for Japan in Malta.

Ruggiero aka Roger Inglott attended the Lyceum from 1884 and began studying at the University, as did other members of his family, notably Emmanuel and Joseph. He opted for modern languages having studied English and Italian, which were standard subjects at the time, and he seemed destined to further his studies at University. Soon afterwards, however, he decided to venture further afield.

He was the 12th child of a medical doctor, Pietro Paolo, married to Antonia née Rosso, and the nephew of another, Gian Felice Inglott, who was better known. Another relative was Sir Ferdinando Inglott. This therefore was a well-established and reputable Cospicua family but, according to Professor Frendo, it appears that Ruggiero was somewhat of an adventurer and wanted to see the world. At the age of 21 he had a numbered passport, 1446, issued in 1892, and he possibly stayed for some time in Algeria before embarking for the Far East, almost certainly from Valletta.

According to Professor Frendo, he probably sailed on a P & O steamer, which made regular trips to India, Australia, Japan and China. One of these steamships, the first to have electric light in 1889, was named *Valletta*. In the 1890s, he added, the second-class fare to Japan was £42. The Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Company had an ongoing trade with Japan, sometimes selling or scrapping steamers there.

In Japan, Inglott settled down and spent a lifetime teaching English, starting at a Japanese naval school in the harbour town of Kagoshima. His children have now all passed away but some of his Maltese-Japanese grand-children still know of their ancestry and cherish the memory.

Unrelated to any organised emigration like that to the Caribbean or Australia, Professor Frendo judged Inglott's to be a *sui generis* trans-oceanic case, comparable to that of F.X. Grima of Birkirkara in New Orleans in 1870 or Antonio Azzopardi in Williamstown, Victoria, as early as the 1830s or, indeed, an explorer and trader such as Andrea Debono of Senglea in Egypt and the Sudan, in the mid-1800s. Maltese migrant settlement during the 19th century was largely limited to the Mediterranean littoral from Algeria to Turkey, but there were some exceptions all the way from the Americas to Australasia and, of course, Japan.

L-Ikla t-tajba – Community banquet and theatre at Xwejni salt pans

L-IKLA T-TAJBA – the ultimate community banquet with a difference is to be held between the 22nd and 26th of August, at the Xwejni salt pans, Zebbug, Gozo.



During the launch, Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana said that this gastronomic activity and theatre will become one and after the performance everyone is invited to join our community meal, and enjoy a traditional Maltese food – majjallta. Dine on slow-roasted pork with local grown vegetables and potatoes,

Patrons will watch a contemporary theatrical representation under the direction of Romanian

director Nona Ciobanu.

Dr Caruana thanked Teatru Malta and Valletta 2018 for this production – the biggest cultural production being organised by Valletta 2018 in Gozo.

Mr. Albert Marshall said that cultural identity has several aspects. He explained the event as an interesting marriage between theatre and gastronomy where the director has managed to create a particular concept which will be delivered to the audiences in Gozo. The Maltese meal will feature ingredients from our past, delicacies of today and a weird and wonderful food experience for all audiences to enjoy.



Under the direction of director Nona Ciobanu, the show will also include poetry by Immanuel Mifsud. The cast includes actors: Paul Portelli, Ruth Borg, Rebecca Camilleri, Charlotte Grech, Martina Georgina, Ira Melkonyan, Julia Camilleri, Liliana Portelli, Pierre Stafrace and Lisa Farrugia. The Set Design and Visuals are by Peter Košir and the Manager is Vanessa Attard. For more information, to buy tickets – which are priced at €20 each for the performance and meal, or to see the menu, [please see here](#) or call 21,220,255. The dates and times are as follows: Wednesday the 22nd to Sunday, the 26th of August, from 7.30pm onwards. Photograph: MGOZ/George Scerri – gozonews.com



Marian devotion reaches its peak

[Claire Caruana](#) times of malta

The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, was celebrated on August 15, marks the peak of Marian devotion on the Maltese islands.

The Santa Marija feast was celebrated in Mosta, Għaxaq, Gudja, Mqabba, Qrendi, Attard and Victoria, the morning marches running until well in the afternoon, with just a few hours to spare until the procession with

the statue of Our Lady in the evening.

For locals, the feast is also of special significance because it commemorates World War II's Operation Pedestal convoy, which brought much-needed food and goods to besieged Malta, which was on the verge of surrendering. Only five of the original 15 merchant ships forming part of the convoy survived the Axis onslaught. Among them was the tanker Ohio, which slowly made its way into Grand Harbour on August 15, 1942.

The activities included a charity ride by hundreds of motorcyclists. From Mġarr they headed to Dingli, both localities celebrating the feast of Santa Marija next week.



Charity ride is fun but ultimately held to honour Our Lady

Now in its third edition, the charity ride is organised by the parish churches of the two villages, with all proceeds collected during the event going to id-Dar tal-Providenza in Siġġiewi. Speaking during the blessing of the motorbikes on the Mġarr church parvis, parish priest Mgr Kalcidon Vassallo said while the ride was a fun part of the celebrations, it was crucial to keep in mind that the event was ultimately held to honour Our Lady.

Organisers said that, year after year, the turnout was improving and many bikers who did not live in either of the two localities involved were participating.

"Even those who are not part of one of the bigger bikers' groups show up. This year, the bikers themselves requested we take a different route, so the ride is even longer than usual," one

organiser said. (Above Mosta Church)



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

We have rendered 5 years of service to the community. Thank you for your patronage



'The Jew of Malta'

The Jew Of Malta

By Christopher Marlowe

Directed By: Christopher Gatt

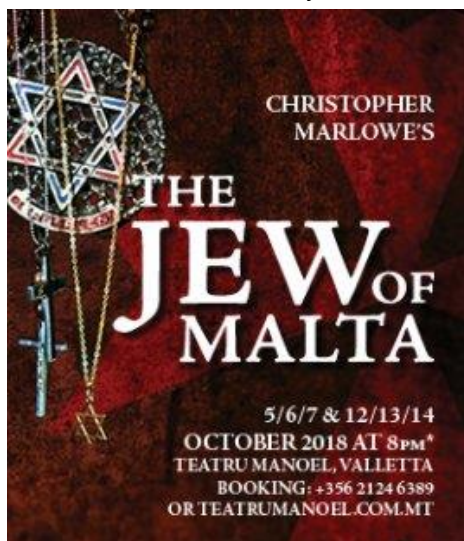
Venue: Manoel Theatre - Valletta

Dates: 05 October 2018 - 14 October 2018

Doors Opening Time: 19.00hours

<https://www.madc.com.mt>

Starring: Mikhail Basmadjian, Naomi Said, Antony Edridge, Erica Muscat, Edward Thorpe, Philip Leone Ganado, Nathan Brimmer, Alex Weenink, Joe Despasquale, Maxine Brimmer, Helen Osborne, Joe Zammit, Daniela Carabott Pawley,



Synopsis:

The Jew of Malta is one of Christopher Marlowe's lesser known plays. This may be because of its strange amalgam of tragedy and fiercely black comedy.

In many ways it was ahead of its time and today reads more like a Quentin Tarantino script where violence and bloody slapstick comedy clash in one vibrant, fast-moving play. It expects a lot from its actors who are sent rushing in and out of scenes with breakneck alacrity in a plot which has so many twists and knots you could construct a macrame basket out of it.

You want to know more about the plot? Sure you do. Ok, here goes: We meet Machiavel, the amoral philosopher who believed that the end always justifies the means. He acts as godfather to the play. Because this is a play where every character is totally working to their own very selfish agenda. Sound familiar?

Then there is the governor of Malta who, forced to pay a tribute to the Turkish Sultan Calymuth in order to stave off war, decides that the easiest way to do this is to take it off the Jewish community based in Malta. One particular fellow is silly enough to protest and immediately sees all his goods and wealth (worth more than all of Malta's GDP) seized along with his house. Barabbas, for that is his name, retaliates by tricking the Governor's son and his friend into fighting over the affections of his daughter, Abigail. When they both die in a duel, Barabbas becomes further incensed when Abigail, horrified at what her father has done, runs away to become a Christian nun. In retribution, Barabas then goes on to poison her along with the whole of the nunnery, strangles an old friar who tries to make him repent for his sins and then frames another friar for the first friar's murder. Get the picture?

It is a difficult play which refuses definition: at turns political, satirical, farcical and even tragic. It brings together characters of the three major monotheistic faiths, and roundly condemns all three. It is, in short, and typically of Marlowe, a revolutionary play which stings and hurts even as it entertains.

Brilliant content and presentation. Would not miss it for anything. I think that you are doing a wonderful job, linking Maltese settled abroad and updating them with what is happening in Malta. Grazzi hafna Joe Lanzon

I cannot understand how you succeed in making every new issue even more interesting than the previous! Antoine Mangion

Many thanks for your most excellent newsletter. As I indicated earlier some of your articles are of interest to our St John Knights Hospitaller Order members of which I am a senior member and newsletter editor. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your newsletter.
Hon. Roger Goldsworthy, AO Bailiff Emeritus, OSJ, CMSJ.



RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL FESTIVITIES IN MALTA



FRANCESCA MIFSUD CROWNED MISS UNIVERSE (MALTA)



Francesca Mifsud- (Miss Zejtun) has crowned Miss Universe Malta 2018 by Tiffany Pisani (Miss Universe Malta 2017) at the Hilton Malta Conference Centre, Saint Julian's on Friday night of 13 July 2018. The Third Edition of 'Miss Universe Malta was' live televised on TVM and Facebook Live. 25 Maltese contestants from different localities around Malta and Gozo competed for the national beauty title 'Miss Universe Malta'.

Francesca Mifsud will represent the Islands of Malta at the world's most prestigious beauty contest 'Miss Universe'. There was a four round in the Miss Universe Malta contest. The First is the Top 15 Evening Gown Competition and People's Choice award. The Second was the Top 10



Swimsuit competition. The Third was the Top 5 Question Answer round and the last and final round was the Top 3 Final Answer round. Francesca Mifsud is from Zejtun. She lives in Zejtun. Her birthdate is 19th July 1996. She is 22 years old. She studies Law at the University of Malta. Francesca knows English and Maltese very well. Photo Credit: Francesca Mifsud facebook page missuniversemalta facebook page miklosxuereb photography

CAMOUFLAGE IN MALTA DURING WW2

maltacommand.com



The pattern, which was only used in Malta, had two main variations; Light vehicles, guns, generators, motorcycles, tanks, etc. which had an irregular outline were painted in a pattern resembling the rubble walls which bordered each and every field. This consisted of shapeless blotches of light stone paint, with a darker colour (dark green or dark brown mostly, but sometimes any dark shade available) between the blotches. Larger vehicles, especially those that had a squarish outline had the stone-coloured paint applied in rectangular blocks to resemble walls of buildings. The darker colour

would thus be in straight lines to mimic the mortar and the gaps between the blocks. These vehicles would be parked next to a farmhouse and camouflaged further to resemble an extension of the building.

If the vehicle to be painted was in light stone colour, the dark pattern only was applied. If on the other hand it was in green or dark earth, the light stone blotches would be painted on, leaving the original colour showing between them. In this case the census (or WD) number would not be painted over, leaving a dark patch with the white numbers on it. Sometimes it is possible to tell from photos how the pattern was applied. If the stones had rounded corners, the stone colour was probably applied over a dark background, whilst if they had sharp angular corners the dark paint was probably applied on a stone-coloured background.

The Painting - This would usually be done by hand, and various factors, such as the availability of paint in suitable colours, the ability of the individual entrusted with the job, and his interpretation of the official instructions would all be working against any uniformity of results. The 'rubble wall' effect sometimes ended up resembling pebbles, while the building block pattern could give one the impression that the builder was completely ignorant of his trade! A wartime photo even shows a truck with the blocks painted in VERTICAL courses! Another photo shows square blocks placed in a grid pattern. So much for blending in with buildings. Smaller items were usually not camouflaged but only painted in light stone to show their military ownership. Bicycles, petrol cans, tools, etc. did not have enough area to take the camouflage pattern, so were just left in light stone colour.

In an effort to further improve the effect, sand was sometimes sprinkled over the freshly-painted surface, especially on steel helmets. This eliminated glinting in the harsh Mediterranean sun, which would often be enough to give away one's position. Many objects which would not usually be taken into the field would be left in their original paint, but if obtained from the North African theatre of operations they would invariably be in light stone (or sand, as it was called over there). Many photos of anti-aircraft guns show that the pattern was not applied, possibly because it is difficult for a pilot not to spot a gun that happens to be firing away at him, even if it is camouflaged!

Bhas-soltu Prosit - Ghandek gurnal bilancjat u mhux imxaqleb u lanqas offensiv. Jirrispetta l-intelligenza tal-qarrejja b'mod generali.- Roderick Bovingdon



THE UNDERGROUND CRYPT IN MELLIEHA

Posted by Flora In the last article we went to visit the World War II Shelters in Mellieha an impressive historical complex in the city centre of this lovely town. Then I promise you that I will have brought you to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Grotto

One of the many reasons that makes Mellieha unique is surely the elevated location of its core centre, all the village is lying on a group of hills on the northern area of Malta. This position gives to Mellieha a sort

of sovereignty on the North East coast of Ghadira Bay (called Mellieha Bay), the Selmun peninsula, and St Paul's Islands just about 80 metres off the coast ending on its East side to Mistra Bay, the eastern limit with the territory of St Paul's Bay.

Then Mellieha overlooks her northern territory that comprehends the large Marfa Peninsula, where locals appreciate in Summer a swim in Armier Bay and Paradise Bay, while the harbour of Cirkewwa is always crowded with the coming and going of tourists directed to Gozo.

To the South of Marfa Ridge, Mellieha boosts two others renowned bays: Anchor Bay (which is the natural set of Popey Village) and Golden Bay, the west boundary with Ghajn Tuffieha Bay being part of the Mgarr territory.

If nowadays a tourist looking for beaches, tranquillity, scenic views and nature will probably choose Mellieha, once upon a time Mellieha was moreover a pilgrimage destination, too much exposed to the pirates for being inhabited.

We discovered along the Xemxija Heritage Trail, that it was also called "the pilgrim road" that the faithful used to walk to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mellieha.

I visited the Sanctuary but I couldn't take photos to share with you, so I invite you to come and explore Mellieha, maybe in the most colourful moment of the year during the Feast of Our Lady on the 8th of September.

What is preserved in this beautiful Sanctuary is the Icon of Our Lady that has been dated at around 1000-1100 AD and shows Byzantine-style characteristics. The lower part of the Icon suffered the attack of the corsairs in 1614. Even if Mellieha was so exposed since antiquity the Sanctuary was so much in the heart of the locals probably because, as the tradition wants, St Luke, who shipwrecked with St Paul near Mellieha, painted the figure of Our Lady on the bare rock-face of a natural cave, where now is the Sanctuary. Walking out from the Sanctuary after the visit the shelters of World War II went to explore the underground crypt known as the **Sanctuary of our Lady of the Grotto**.

Walking down the stairs to get the crypt I met Antonio, a 85 years old Maltese volunteer. He gently started speak with me in Maltese. I told him that I don't speak his language but anyway I manage to understand him. He showed me a tree and he told me "Zebbug". Well, after all the experience with Zejtun I could understand that he was referring to a wild olive tree. (Curious to know why? In fact the beauty of the crypt is that it is cut in the rocks in the heart of Mellieha and built over a source of spring water.

Antonio accompanied me to the Crypt and he showed me the spring water beneath the statue of the Madonna holding Baby Jesus. The crypt is considered sacred for the many miracles happened here; in fact, together with the Sanctuary it has been a place of pilgrimage over the years.

A paper in the Grotto reports that it was constructed by Mario de Vasi, a Sicilian merchant, in 1644. He was greatly devoted towards Our Lady and he paid for all expenses for the passageway and crypt to be cut into the rock to create a small chapel where the spring water could freely flow.

I can say that my experience of the Grotto was of a Holy place able to clear my mind by the surplus of unuseful thoughts. **You can really enjoy a moment of true peacefulness and feel light.**



Festival Mediterranju tal- Letteratura ta' Malta 2018

Juana Adcock (Messiku/I-Ingilterra) |
Clare Azzopardi (Malta) | Massimo Barilla
(I-Italja) | Asli Erdoğan (it-Turkija) | Jean-
Rémy Gandon (Franza) | Arjan Hut (I-
Olanda), Laia López Manrique (Spanja) |
Caldon Mercieca (Malta) | Teodor Reljić
(Malta) | Philip Sciberras (Malta) | Sjón (I-
Iżlanda) | Ali Thareb (I-Iraq).

Dan il-festival letterarju indipendenti organizzat minn Inizjamed se jittella' l-Ħamis 23, il-Ġimgħa 24, u s-Sibt 25 ta' Awwissu, fil-Forti Manoel, Manoel Island, fit-8.00pm, bis-sehem ta' awturi ewlenin fosthom Juana Adcock (Messiku/I-Ingilterra), Clare Azzopardi (Malta), Massimo Barilla (I-Italja), Jean-Rémy Gandon (Franza), Arjan Hut (I-Olanda), Laia López Manrique (Spanja), Caldón Mercieca (Malta), Teodor Reljić (Malta), Philip Sciberras (Malta), Sjón (I-Iżlanda), u Ali Thareb (I-Iraq).

Din it-13-il edizzjoni tal-Festival u l-laboratorju tat-traduzzjoni qed jittellgħu minn Inizjamed bl-appoġġ shiħ tal-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti bħala parti minn ftehim ta' tliet snin magħruf bħala Cultural Agreement Partnership. Inizjamed tixtieq tiringrazzja lill-Kunsill li qed jagħti l-appoġġ tiegħu lil dan il-festival indipendenti.



Fl-edizzjoni ta' din is-sena se jkun hemm varjetà ta' xorb għall-bejgħ u ikel maħdum minn CORE GREEN organic & fairtrade.

Il-Festival qed jikkollabora wkoll ma' Literature Across Frontiers, il-Fondazzjoni Valletta 2018, l-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, u l-Fondazzjoni Manoel Island. Dan il-Festival ingħata rikonoxximent internazzjonali permezz tat-timbru tal-EFFE Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe, u dis-sena qed jissieheb ukoll fil-proġett Ir-Rotta tal-Feniċi tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Dan huwa l-programm provviżorju tal-konferenza stampa. Fil-jiem li ġejjin naġġornawkom bil-programm shiħ.

Merħba

Kelmtejn – Is-Sur Albert Marshall (Kunsill Malti għall-Arti)

Kelmtejn – Fondazzjoni Valletta 2018

Kelmtejn – Prof. Adrian Grima (Inizjamed)

L-awtriċi mistiedna Clare Azzopardi taqra silta minn xogħolha

Mistoqsijiet minn dawk prezenti - Bibita

Inizjamed minn din is-sena ssieħbet f'HELA (Hub for Excellency in the Literary Arts) – inizjattiva oħra ffinanzjata mill-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti permezz tal-Pjattaforma għall-Industrija Kreattiva. Dakinhar nieħdu l-opportunità biex inniedu wkoll HELA, fondazzjoni li qed taħdem biex il-letteratura Maltija tiġi rikonoxxuta anke barra minn Malta permezz ta' ħidma mill-qrib bejn entitajiet lokali u barranin marbuta mal-qasam tal-ktieb.

Leanne Ellul, Amministratriċi, Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta

<https://inizjamedmalta.wordpress.com/>



TEODOR RELJIĆ

Photo by Virginia Monteforte

Teodor Reljić is a writer of fiction with extensive experience of film criticism and cultural journalism. He has been contributing to the national newspaper *MaltaToday* since the early 2000s, and his debut novel, **Two**, is published by Merlin Publishers in 2014, and was shortlisted for the National Book Prize in the following year.

He has previously been published in **Weird Fiction Review**, **Le Monde N'Est Pas Rond** and **Filmkrant**. He has written **MIBDUL**, Malta's very first serialized comic, which will be illustrated by Inez Kristina and launched in late 2018 through Merlin Publishers.

For film production company Shadeena Entertainment, Reljić has co-written **Camilla**, a short film adaptation of the Clare Azzopardi short story of the same name, which won the National Book Council's Literary Short Film Contest. Co-written and directed by Stephanie Sant, *Camilla* will be screened in November 2018.

Reljić's other collaboration with Shadeena is a forthcoming horror feature film, entitled **Inheritance** and slated to commence filming in the autumn of 2018.

Reljić is also the current editor of the quarterly arts and culture publication, **ENCORE**.

Reljić read English and obtained his Master's degree from the University of Malta in 2010. Born in Belgrade (1985) but raised in Malta (1992-present), he is interested in myth, metamorphosis, monstrosity, film history and pop culture; a melange of which you will likely see dripping into his blog in semi-regular intervals. *You can follow him on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). He can be reached on teodoreljic@gmail.com.*



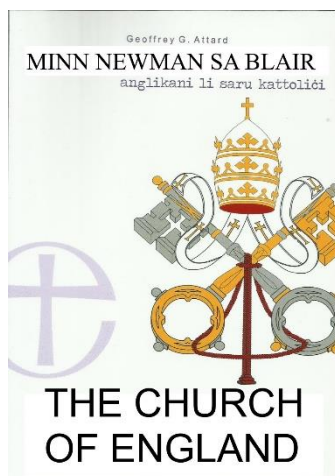
MIBDUL

Set to be launched in late 2018, MIBDUL is a six-issue comic book series written by Teodor Reljić and illustrated by Inez Kristina. Hear about MIBDUL on the Multiversity Comics podcast hosted by Chris Thompson. Published by Merlin

Publishers, it will be Malta's very first serialized comic, running in monthly instalments for six months and available in all leading outlets. International readers will be able to order it stress-free from Merlin's own website.



Minn Newman sa Blair - Fr. Geoffrey Attard



Mill-pinna tas-Saċerdot u kittieb Għawdx i Geoffrey George Attard għadha kemm ħarget din il-pubblikazzjoni *Minn Newman sa Blair* li tiġbor fiha mas-sebghin bijografija ta' persuni mir-Renju Unit li minn Anglikani saru Kattoliċi. Biex inkunu iktar eżatti naqbel mas-Sależjan Don Fabio Attard meta jgħid li dan ix-xogħol li għandna quddiemna huwa proposta ta' laboratorju kbir li fih nistgħu niltaqgħu ma' tant persuni li b'għarfien sħiħ tal-ħajja tagħhom u b'intelliġenza onesta ħadmu biex jaraw il-konsegwenzi ta' dak li fih emmnu, impenjaw ruħhom biex jisfruttaw dak il-potenzjal moħbi fil-qalb u fil-moħħ tagħhom, dejjem b'mod awtentiku u koerenti. Dawn ir-rakkonti ta' konverżjonijiet ikun sewwa li naqrawhom mhux fid-dawl tal-'bidla' li seħħet imma fid-dawl tal-'mixja' li fiha hemm tfitxija dejjem għaddejja. Il-konverżjoni ta' dawn ħutna m'hijiex ċaħda ta' dak li kienu, imma tišhih ta' dak li dejjem fittxew li jkunu.

Bosta kienu dawk il-persuni li matul is-snin - wara riflessjoni profonda u mumentu ta' talb u meditazzjoni - ħadu d-deċiżjoni irrevokabbli li jhaddnu l-fidi Kattolika. Dawn il-persuni, fosthom John Henry Newman, li wara sar ukoll Kardinal u Beatu, Tony Blair, darba Prim Ministru tal-Ingilterra, Gilbert Keith Chesterton, kittieb magħruf Ingliż, Henry Graham Greene, kittieb ieħor magħruf, Alec Guinness, attur magħruf tal-films, Malcom Muggeridge, kittieb, dawn li naf bihom jien, ilkoll ħaddnu l-fidi kattolika wara li kienu twieldu u trabbew fil-Komunjoni Anglikana. Il-Komunjoni Anglikana hija fenomenu partikulari; hija Knisja li tinsab nofs triq bejn il-Knisja Kattolika u l-knejjes Protestanti. Il-Komunjoni Anglikana mhijiex Knisja purament Protestanta. Għall-kuntarju tal-knejjes jew denominazzjonijiet Protestanti l-oħra kollha, il-Komunjoni Anglikana ma nfirditx minn Ruma għal raġunijiet ta' teoloġija bħalma seħħ fil-każ tal-Kalvinizmu. Il-Komunjoni Anglikana kienet l-invenzjoni tar-Re Neriku V111 tal-Ingilterra; dan wara li talab lill-Papa Klement V11 biex jagħtih id-divorzu mill-ewwel mara tiegħu, Katarina ta' Aragona. Meta r-Re ntebaħ li l-Papa ma kienx se jagħtih li jrid, huwa ddeċieda li jaqta' lill-Knisja Kattolika fl-Ingilterra mill-ħakma tal-Papa u ta' Ruma. Hekk twieldet il-Komunjoni Anglikana; b'hekk beda l-proċess biex il-Knisja Kattolika fl-Ingilterra ssir il-'Knisja tal-Ingilterra'. Fil-fatt l-isem uffiċjali tagħha huwa 'The Church of England'.

Il-ktieb fih żewġ taqsimiet. Fl-ewwel taqsimu wieħed isib bijografiji ta' Anglikani li għexu fl-era Vittorjana (1819 – 1901) jew qabel il-bidu tagħha; ir-Reġina Victoria kienet fuq it-tron mill-1837 sal-1901, u tat isimha lil din l-epoka. It-tieni taqsimu tittratta dawk l-Anglikani li joqorbu ktar lejn żmienna li mietu ftit taż-żmien ilu jew li għadhom magħna sallum. L-iskop uniku ta' dan il-ktieb huwa wieħed storiku aktar milli apoloġetiku, jiġifieri damma fl-qosor tal-ġrajjet ta' xi wħud mill-aktar Anglikani magħrufa li minn jeddhom u mingħajr sforz ħaddnu l-fidi kattolika li ġejja għandna minn żmien l-Appostli u f'għaqda ma' Pietru u s-suċċessuri legittimi tiegħu.

Minn Newman sa Blair għandu kelmtejn ta' Preżentazzjoni mir-Rev Dr Fabio Attard sdb, awtorita' fuq il-kitbiet tal-Beatu Kardinal John Henry Newman u disinn tal-qoxra ta' Stefan Attard. Francesco Pio Attard ħa ħsieb il-qari tal-provi waqt li Anthony Grech, għalliem fis-Seminarju ħa ħsieb l-issettjar tal-ktieb li jagħlaq bil-Biblijografija u Appendiċi interessanti ħafna. Stampat l-Italja għand Pixart Printing SpA.

Kif itenni l-awtur fil-kelmtejn li għamel għad-Daħla tal-ktieb tiegħu, illustrat ukoll b'għadd ta' ritratti tal-protagonisti, huwa ttamat li din il-pubblikazzjoni tiswa mhux biss biex insiru nafu iktar mill-qrib lil dawn il-persuni li saru Kattoliċi, imma wkoll biex nintebħu kemm hija qawwija l-vuċi tal-verita' kif imxandra u mxerrda permezz tal-kitba u tal-eżempju. Kif kienu jgħidu l-antiki Rumani 'veritas nihi veletur nisi abscondi'; il-verita' ma tistax tinħeba għal dejjem! 'Minn Newman sa Blair' jinbiegħ €15 u jista' jinkiseb mingħand il-Bookshop ta' Vajringa Str., Victoria inkella billi ċċempel 79551325.

Kav Joe M Attard

emarjos@hotmail.com

NB L-awtur Fr Geoffrey huwa ibni l-fustani!



Press conference announcing the festival – Studio Solipsis, Rabat

MALTA MEDITERRANEAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2018 LITERARY INTERSECTIONS AT FORT MANOEL

Posted on August 12, 2018 under Books,
Malta, Writing
Teodor Reljić

To say that I'm deeply honoured to have been invited to participate in the **13th edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival** is something of an understatement. While I can't claim to have attended every single edition of the

event, organised by local literary NGO Inizjamed, with the help of a number of crucial satellite bodies and initiatives, I certainly have fond memories of it which go way back. I've covered the festival for MaltaToday back when it was still the "day job". As it happens, the festival had also hosted one of my favourite writers, **Marina Warner**, and her conversation with Prof Gloria Lauri-Lucente during the festival's 2015 edition was sensitive and illuminating, so much so that I **took to Soft Disturbances to muse about it**.

It is a festival put together with care, taste and conscientiousness, bringing together as it does local and international writers while boasting an unwavering political commitment that feels particularly urgent at this point in time. I also get the impression that meeting and hanging out with the eclectic mix of writers who form part of this year's edition — and which hail from countries as varied as Turkey, Iraq, Iceland and beyond — will be rather fun indeed. This year's edition of the festival will be taking place at **Fort Manoel in Manoel Island, Gzira on August 23, 24 and 25**.



11th Chinese Film Festival

Pretty Bay Garden, Birżebbuġa, the venue for this evening's screening.

The 11th edition of the Summer Chinese Film Festival, consisting of a series of films screened in the open air in various towns in Malta and Gozo, started this week. This year's edition of the festival, which runs until August 27, is being organised by the China Cultural Centre in Malta in collaboration with the local councils of

Birżebbuġa, Santa Luċija and Qrendi, and the Gozo Ministry's Culture Unit.

A scene from the film.



The first film – Good Bye Mr Loser, a 104-minute comedy certified 12A – will be screened today at 8.30pm at Pretty Bay Garden, Birżebbuġa. The plot centres on Xiao Luo, who goes to the wedding of Qiu Ya, the prettiest girl at university and the target of his secret affections. When he comes face to face with his old classmates, now successful professionals, he finds he's the only loser. Feeling bitter, he creates a massive scene at the wedding.

He then falls asleep in the restroom and dreams he is back in high school taking revenge on bullying teachers, getting the girl of his dreams and becoming a rock star. Immersed in this incredibly successful life, his heart swells but he also discovers that the innocence and joy he once had is now lost.

www.facebook.com/cccmalta.

PRO WRESTLING IN MALTA



The Pro Wrestling Malta is the first ever and only Pro Wrestling Promotion in Malta. Starting as a Pro Wrestling Academy back in February 2014, it was founded by the only pure Maltese

*pro wrestler at the time, Wayne Pace, also known by his ring name "The Maltese Warrior" **Gianni De La Valette**. After leaving to the UK at 20 years of age to learn the art of Pro Wrestling, as there were no training centres in Malta at the time, he spent years training and wrestling around UK and parts of Europe before deciding to open Pro Wrestling Malta to give a chance to anyone to learn the art of Pro Wrestling in his home country of Malta.*

In addition to the monthly private shows at the PWM Academy, Pro Wrestling Malta has a schedule of having 3 major shows a year around the country, which includes local talent as well as attracting major talent from all over the world.

Our mission is that over the coming weeks, months and years we plan to continue evolving and expanding as we continue to entertain thousand of fans around the country! If you want to know when the next Underground Series event is going to be held, please like our [facebook page](#) and keep yourself [updated](#).



Maltese DownUnder community TV show returns for fifth season on Channel 31



The community TV show *Maltese DownUnder* is returning to our screens for another season going to air on Channel 31 on Sunday 2nd September. This will be the fifth season of the Melbourne produced show, which showcases stories that are diverse and outside traditional Maltese circles to a broader audience.

"The production of the show is a massive commitment for me. To produce such a show you have to be a Jill of all trades! You have to be able to organise guests, film and interview guests, edit the show, script and produce every episode and, of course, chase sponsors to make the show possible. And then update our social platforms to keep our followers engaged," director and producer of *Maltese DownUnder* Marlene Scicluna said.

"It's a full time job really and I wouldn't be able to do it, if I was still in full time employment. Our viewers think there is a big team behind the show but this is far from reality. Funnily enough, we even had viewers asking us for employment!" she added.

Production of the show depends on financial backing from sponsors and this has proved to be quite a challenge.

Marlene Scicluna and Mark Avellino

"The mere fact we manage to get sponsors does say a lot about the quality of the show. But most people don't realise that every time we start prepping for another season, we need to approach previous sponsors, send numerous emails, make numerous phone calls and try to find new sponsors. We re-invest everything into the show. Once we

pay our broadcast fees to Channel 31 and production costs, it leaves us with hardly anything in reserve for later," said Co-producer Mark Avellino.



“Every season we reach out to Maltese businesses in Melbourne as well as Maltese Associations, but money is very hard to come by! So we would like to thank all our Season 5 sponsors who made this season possible,” Marlene Scicluna said.

Previous seasons of the show have featured sports people, authors, inventors, artists even a snake catcher. Season 5 is promising to be yet another packed season featuring magicians, film makers, dancers, politicians and even a paranormal investigator.

Presented in Maltese and English, the show has attracted not only Australians of Maltese descent, who neither speak nor understand Maltese, but also viewers of various other ethnic backgrounds. This has made *Maltese DownUnder* the top multicultural show on Channel 31 and in the top 5 overall.



***Maltese DownUnder* will start screening on C31 (channel 44 in Melbourne) on Sunday 2nd September at 4.00 pm with repeats on Tuesday at 2.30 pm and Friday at 12.30 pm.**

By popular demand, every episode will be available on demand every Monday on YouTube Channel Maltese DownUnder TV.



A burning passion for fireworks... Josef Camilleri



by Raphael Vassallo

Malta's pyrotechnics tradition seems to be under fire, as questions about safety and noise/air pollution overshadow the spectacle of the traditional village 'festa'. JOSEF CAMILLERI, President of the Malta Pyrotechnics Association, defends his lifelong love-affair with fireworks

Josef Camilleri, President of the Malta Pyrotechnics Association, defends his lifelong love-affair with fireworks

It is often said that the passion of a fireworks aficionado can only ever be understood by people who have worked in places like the one we're in now: the Santa Marija Assunta Fireworks factory, limits of Mqabba. How true is that impression?

Like all other pastimes, it has to be a passion coming from the heart. You could almost say it's something you are born with – and when a passion

is born inside you, it becomes like your mother. You love it and respect it that much. Part of it is down to the beauty of fireworks themselves. It's a beautiful thing to work with and create: it requires great craftsmanship, and there's an entire culture attached to it. When you come here to the fireworks factory, you find yourself at peace with the world. You are cut off from everybody, from the problems of life. We practically live our entire lives here: from eight in the morning till late at night, all year round. Now that Santa Marija is passed, we will start again in early October; and from then on, it's 'gas down' until next year's Santa Marija. We never stop. It's a big sacrifice we all make. In fact we've already started: we're cleaning the fields, collecting the pipes... but when the first rains come and clean up the air, that's when we will start working in earnest. All for one feast...

Unlike other traditional mainstays of village life, Malta's festa culture seems to have retained its hold even over the younger generations. How do you explain this attraction among young people in particular?

Speaking for myself, I cannot confirm that youth involvement has either increased or decreased. But judging only by our feast, the amount of youths who are licensed to work in fireworks factories – who spend a year here, away from vices that may otherwise be harmful – is impressive...

Read the full interview on the MaltaToday Digital Edition.

Gozitan Musician, Conductor and Teacher becomes the first Band MASTER OF A GOZITAN BAND CLUB

Mro. JOSEPH GRECH Ph.D (Nott.), M.Phil (Music), B.A. Hons Music, F.L.C.M.

Kav. Joe M Attard – Victoria – Ghawdex



Maestro Joseph Grech from Victoria, Gozo, started his artistic career in music at the age seven and received his early musical instruction under such distinguished teachers as Ms. Rossignaud, Paul Borg and Lawrence Borg leading to his diplomas – A.L.C.M., L.L.C.M. and F.L.C.M. in brass playing. For seven years, Grech had conducting lessons under the eminent Maestro Joseph Sammut (founder of the Malta National Orchestra and Resident Conductor till the mid-90s)

Among his various posts, Mro Grech was Choir Director of the Marija Assunta Cathedral Choir (1989-1994) and the Aurora Opera House Choir. Under his baton as Music Director, Nadur's Mnarja Band Club (1992-) performed at the renowned Ariston Theatre in San Remo. He is also the Music Director of Zebbug's Santa Marija Band (1993-). In 1995, Joseph

Grech graduated B.A. (Hons.) in Music from the University of Malta with his thesis Brass Soundscapes Since the End of the Modern Era. As from 1990 he has been teaching brass instruments at the Sannat School of Music while in 1995 he was appointed as a fulltime music teacher at Sir M'Ang Refalo – Centre for Further Studies (a post he still occupies).

In 1996, Mro Grech co-founded the student-teacher group The Helping Hands Group. As the group's Music Director and Chairman, he was primarily responsible for boosting the musical genre with such performances as Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Miserables, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Best of Musicals, The Scarlet Pimpernel, A Night with the Musicals and Les Mis Saigon Guerre the last of which featuring the National Orchestra at the Hilton Malta Theatre. Maestro Joseph Grech obtained his M.Phil degree from the University of Malta with his thesis 19th-Century Music at the Gozo Cathedral following extensive research at the Gozo Cathedral's Music and Chapter's Archives. Mro Grech is also the Music Director of the Oratory Don Bosco Theatre and the founder/musical director of the Gozo Youth Wind Band and Orchestra (founded in 2002). He also was the music director of the rock orchestral concerts Dark Side over Gozo and Dark Side over Valletta held at Aurora Theater (Gozo) and MCC Theatre (Valletta) in 2017. In July 2018, Mro Grech obtained his PhD degree in Musicology at the University of Nottingham, U.K.



IL-MSTERU TAL-GHOGOL TAD-DEHEB *THE MYSTERY OF THE GOLDEN CALF*

Director: Alenka Falzon **Writers:** Ruth Frendo

Stars: Neve Mansueto, Aiken Buhagiar, Henry Zammit Cordina, Christabelle Scerri, Deandra Agius, Mandy Micallef Grimaud.

Synopsis - The story starts off in Malta in the 1940s. During a school visit group of children and their teacher mysteriously disappear in an underground labyrinth. In the present day we are introduced to Pia, a lonely orphan, who feels unwanted and unlovable. After hearing that the Golden Calf mentioned in the Bible is hidden in Malta, and after finding an ancient treasure map, together with her cousin Sandro, who is an unsecure geek, the children embark on a fantastical adventure. After uncovering a number of clues, they end up lost in the same mysterious underground labyrinth as they face a number of dangers. The cousins' adventure also leads to unearthing important family secrets that will forever .



AHNA REFUGJATI WE ARE REFUGEES

Date: Fri 31 Aug
2018 **Time:** 21:00
Venue: FLORIANA, IL-
FOSSOS

Date: Sun 02 Sep
2018 **Time:** 21:00
Venue: FLORIANA, IL-
FOSSOS

Description

In recounting the struggles of a family attempting to escape their war-torn country, Ahna Refugjati addresses timely concerns in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the human cost of large-scale migration and the universal theme of loss as a result of political convenience, racism and prejudice. Ahna Refugjati is Mario Sammut's first operatic venture after working on multiple international and local media projects. The opera will include musical direction by Richard Merrill Brown and a libretto by Mario Philip Azzopardi. Cast includes Maltese operatic soprano Miriam Gauci, tenor Nico Darmanin, counter tenor José Hernandez Pastor, mezzo soprano Claire Ghigo and mezzo soprano Federica Falzon as part of the cast, amongst others.

Buy your tickets online and be in the chance to win an iPhone. Draw closes on the 2nd September 2018 and the winner will be announced following the performance on the 3rd September. Good luck!



Places where our newsletter is read

Malta, Gozo,
(Australia) NSW,
Victoria, South
Australia, Darwin,
Tasmania, Queensland
and Western Australia.
USA, Canada, South
America (Peru, Bolivia,
Brazil and Cuba),
Israel, Egypt, Tunisia,
India, (Europe) Italy,
Brussels, France,
South Africa and Kenya



Following the success of various international Festivals organised in Italy, Spain and Malta, Euroart Production and Leon Promotions are proud to announce that they will organise the first edition of the 'Malta International Folk Festival' in September. This Festival will be held in Valletta and other venues which will be announced later. Various folk groups, pipe bands and flag-wavers will participate in street parades and performances. If you wish to learn more about this event visit Facebook or send an email at euroartproduction@gmail.com. Venue All Maltese Islands
Organiser Euroart Production Website: <http://www.euroartproduction.it>



NOTTE BIANCA is Malta's biggest annual arts and culture festival.

For one special night every October, Notte Bianca lights up the Valletta cityscape with a spectacular celebration that is open to the public free of charge. Festivalgoers can expect to experience the very best in music, dance, theatre, visual arts, literary events, as well as an exploration into the emerging world of new and digital arts.

During Notte Bianca, Valletta's streets and public spaces are used in innovative, creative ways thanks to a mix of roaming and site-specific projects. State palaces and museums open their doors to delight patrons with visual art exhibitions and theatre performances. Streets and piazzas are transformed into venues for open-air theatrics and concerts, while many cafes and restaurants extend their hours. Every which way you turn, you are bound to stumble upon another festival treat. All of Valletta, from City Gate to Fort St. Elmo, comes alive on Notte Bianca, guaranteeing a memorable night that truly holds something for everyone.