



Yavor Nikolov, sega.bg, 27.06.2000

ALEXANDER MORFOV:

**THE CELEBRATIONS OF IVAN VAZOV'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY WERE JUST
ANOTHER SERVING OF RAKIA AND CHALGA**



You love modernising classical texts. Which of Vazov's plays would you stage now and how?

Presently I find most appropriate "Toward the Abyss". I would stage it almost as the title goes. The celebration of Vazov's 150th anniversary was a pitty one. This is just another example that

our political elite is in an on-going action for destroying the Bulgarian nation. One year ago I was in Russia during the celebrations of 200th anniversary of Pushkin. It's difficult to describe them.

How are we supposed to celebrate Vazov? What do you think?

Just remember the way we welcomed Bill Clinton. As if we were in a national holiday spray. Our politicians did everything they could to curry favour with Clinton. Everyone was there, politicians, commissioners – all of them flattering His majesty Bill.

How would you organise such a celebration of Vazov?

I would probably do it with a scale at least equal to that of Clinton's reception. I would include everything that presents the modern Bulgarian culture, popculture, arts. Wit hall those young people who are not enjoying themselves in a senseless euphoria, but have the ability to see and assess serious events. I've seen those people in theatre, hey are young, intelligent and need something else – meet something new, feel their history, take pride in their history. What we are seeing now is a pitty imitation of past times, a poor memory about something unaccomplished.

It is only politicians' fault?

Well, of course, any politician and any government is supposed to have a clear image of what its nation should be like. What we saw now is another proof that our political elite does not wish to have a nation that is intelligent, mindful, spiritually rich. This government needs consumers, people in decay, unable to think. It needs people who take regularly their serving of rakiaⁱⁱ and chalgaⁱⁱⁱ. The nation is right to choose this, it's the only thing it knows. It was not presented with any alternative.

ⁱ The most prominent Bulgarian author and playwright, often referred to as “the Patriarch of Bulgarian literature”.

ⁱⁱ A highly alcoholic traditional drink.

ⁱⁱⁱ Brutally vulgar music that proliferates at the expense of the moral values of the growing generations.