

FinnFest 2008 Plays

A number of plays will be delight theater attendees throughout the entire FinnFest. They will be held in several different venues in the area. Shuttles may be available for several of the performances. Check with registration for departure times.

Three Finnish One-Act Plays

Douglas County Historical Society, 1101 John Avenue, Superior, WI
www.douglashistory.org

Thursday, July 24, 7 p.m.; Friday, July 25, 7 p.m.; Sunday, July 27, 2 p.m.

\$10 Register at www.finnfest2008.com

Gurley and the Finn, by David Brunet

In 1916, the famous labor organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn came to the Mesabi Iron Range to organize a strike and to help create a labor union for miners. She had been arrested many times for her efforts to organize labor events around the nation. So she was arrested once again in northern Minnesota. But eventually it was discovered that the woman who had been arrested was not the notorious Gurley Flynn but rather a young Finnish woman whose husband was a miner. *Gurley and the Finn* explores that story.

The Strike, by Kathy Laakso

The August 1st, 1913 Superior Telegram newspaper's frontpage headlines screamed, "Ore Dock Men Quit Work When Fellow Laborers are Crushed Beneath Cars." Two men were killed; others were injured. Most of the men were Finnish immigrants. Two weeks later another headline read, "Great Northern Bars Finn Laborers from Ore Docks in Future." What happened between August 1st and August 14th that caused this strike to end with such a discriminatory decision? *The Strike* unfolds the true story of workers' - especially the Finns' - involvement with the radical anti-capitalist I.W.W. and their protest against the Great Northern Railway.

Not Red, Just a Little Pink by Dan Reed

Rounding out a program of labor plays is the play *Not Red, Just a Little Pink* which delves into issues of Finnish-American workers from the points of view of two men with differing political ideas. The play has been performed several times throughout the state to enthusiastic audiences and will be performed here with a new cast and director.

Finnish One Acts: *The Search for Vainamoinen*

Renegade Comedy Theatre

Teatro Zuccone, 222 East Superior Street, Duluth, MN

July 17-19 and 24-26 at 7:00 pm

\$15/\$12 - call 218-336-1375 for ticket reservations

www.renegadecomedytheatre.com

An Evening of Finnish Dinner Theater

Rubber Chicken Theater

Enjoy an authentic Finnish dinner, followed by three Finnish one act comedies!

-*The Betrothal (Kihlaus)* by Aleksis Kivi

-*No Wonder! (Ihmekos Tuo!)* by Matti Kurikka

-*Personal Ad (Naimailmoitus)* by Edith Koivisto

All translated by Harri Siitonen

Proctor Area Community Center, 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor, MN 55810

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, July 24, 25, 26 - 6:30pm dinner seating, 8pm show

Sunday, July 27 - 2noon dinner seating, 1:30pm show

\$30 - for Reservations call (218) 213-2780

Ole & Lena's Wedding

Fitgers, Midi Change of Pace Interactive Dinner Theater, 600 East Superior St. Duluth,
1-888-872-4880 or 218-727-4880, <http://www.midirestaurant.net>

Oh, for fun! In this original hit comedy and Finnish/Norwegian wedding, Lena Handspringinnen will tie the knot with her sweetheart, Ole Olaf Olafsson, Jr. at the Lutheran church up here in northern Minnesota. Join her cousin Karlene Kinnunen, her Uncle Eino, relatives and family friends. Guests will receive a nametag and relationship to the bride or groom. They'll attend the ceremony followed by a reception complete with hot-dish, jello, and also some fancy food prepared and served by Midi Restaurant. There's gonna be a dollar dance, gift-opening, a polka party and everything. But a guy doesn't hafta dance if he doesn't feel like it. Whatever.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sunday, 12 - 2 pm

\$40, advance tickets required.

Heroes in Action

In this presentation of *Heroes in Action*, Harold Haapoja, who understands Väinämöinen, "man of quiet waters," plays a kantele player and singer of runos. Paul Webster, who studies ancient metal works and appreciates the spirit of Ilmarinen, ancient magician in metal, plays an exceptional blacksmith. Kelly Smith plays Lemminkäinen with humorous gusto and Margaret Webster, who has a unique understanding of the leader from Northfarm, performs the part of Louhi, Mistress of the North. Andrew Webster narrates this humorous and action-packed play which imparts the meaning of the Kalevala in today's terms. An optional short discussion of the play follows the half-hour free presentation of the play.

Wed, 4:30-5:30 pm, DECC, Lake Superior Ballroom L - Sat, 8 pm, DECC Lake Superior Ballroom O,
No charge.

