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Sworn to be True: The Women of Dillinger's Gang

Landmark Center's trial drama looks at the role of women in one of the most notorious gangs

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (Sept. 8, 2016)—Gangsters seem to be endlessly fascinating, but what about the women behind the men? Landmark Center's new trial drama, *Sworn to be True: The Women of Dillinger's Gang*, introduces the women of John Dillinger's gang, whose loyalty was rewarded with bullets and prison cells. Co-produced with Lakeshore Players Theatre, the new production takes a look at the women that stood by their men, and loved them when they shouldn't have. The play runs September 22-24, 7 p.m., in the F. K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium.

"Many people think John Dillinger stood trial here, but he never actually stepped foot in this building," said Amy Mino, Landmark Center Executive Director. "Our Dillinger connection comes from the women he associated with. Evelyn Frechette, Dillinger's long-time girlfriend, is one of the most notable defendants tried here, but Opal Long and Bessie Green, both associated with Dillinger's gang, were also on trial here."

The trial dramas draw audiences of both seasoned and emerging legal professionals, as well as fans of local history and historical drama. "Sworn to be True" features scenes from Frechette's trial, as well as slices-of-life of her and her friends leading up to their arrests.

The script was commissioned by Minnesota Landmarks. It was written for the stage by Lakeshore Players Theatre Executive Director, Joan Gill Elwell and is directed by Ben Ratkowski, Lakeshore's Artistic Director. The majority of the roles will be played by noted members of the Twin Cities legal community, such as Minnesota Supreme Court Judge, Paul Anderson (ret.); Assistant Attorney General, J. P. Barone; and District Court Judge, Kathleen Gearin (ret.).

The trial reenactment is co-presented by Minnesota Landmarks and Lakeshore Players Theatre. Tickets for the production are \$10 and can be purchased by phone or online. For more information or to purchase tickets call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org/programs/trials.htm.

About Landmark Center

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information, call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

About Lakeshore Players Theatre

Lakeshore Players is a community supported nonprofit arts organization with a mission to provide community enrichment opportunities through the performing arts. It serves as the premier performing arts center for the White Bear Lake area and is committed to providing opportunities for our community to participate in and experience live theatre and are proud to be one of the oldest continuously operating theaters in Minnesota. For more information, visit www.lakeshoreplayers.com.

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