



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota's Coldest Case: The Unsolved Murder of John Hays

Landmark Center's history drama looks into a Minnesota founding father

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (August 21, 2018)—A Minnesota founding father, Edward Phalen, is investigated for murder in this fall's history drama, *Minnesota's Coldest Case: The Unsolved Murder of John Hays*. Produced by Landmark Center, the new production is set in pioneer days before Minnesota's statehood, and when criminal investigations were based on eyewitness testimony, or lack thereof. The play runs September 13-15, 7 p.m., in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium. Tickets are \$10.

In 1839, in what is now Saint Paul, Sgt. John Hays was murdered and found below Dayton's Bluff. Pulling testimony from Justice of the Peace Joseph Brown's handwritten case notes, this play is a dramatized recreation of the events and investigation surrounding the primary suspect, Edward Phalen, a founding pioneer of the state of Minnesota.

"This year's play brings to life a name every Saint Paul resident recognizes: Edward Phalen," said Judy Brooks, Landmark Center Director of Community Programs. "One of the most amazing aspects of the story is that this episode in our city's history was virtually unknown, and almost lost, until Gary Brueggemann discovered the case files in Judge Brown's desk and brought them to light."

The history dramas draw audiences of both seasoned and emerging legal professionals, as well as fans of local history. The original script by William Sikorski, is based on the book, *Minnesota's Oldest Murder Mystery: The Case of Edward Phalen, St. Paul's Unsaintly Pioneer*, by Gary Brueggemann who discovered and researched the lost case files. The play is directed by Joe Hendren, and produced by Landmark Center. The majority of the roles are played by noted members of the Twin Cities legal community, including retired Minnesota Supreme Court Judge, Paul Anderson; prominent retired attorney, Tom Fabel; retired Assistant Attorney General, J. P. Barone; and retired District Court Judge, Kathleen Gearin.

Minnesota's Coldest Case is presented by Landmark Center. Tickets for the production are \$10 and can be purchased by phone or online. For more information or to purchase tickets call 651.292.3276 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.

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