

Community Planning and Economic Development Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

Cinema in the Cemetery Returns with Buster Keaton's, The Navigator, Memorial Day Weekend to Benefit the Friends of the Cemetery Restoration Efforts

Film score to be played by local music group Dreamland Faces

WHAT: On Saturday, May 23, at approximately 8:30 p.m., the Friends of the Cemetery in partnership with The Tylon Microcinema will show a special screening of Buster Keaton's film "The Navigator" accompanied with a live score by local music group Dreamland Faces at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery located at 2925 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis. The proceeds from the Memorial Day weekend event will help support the Friends of the Cemetery's efforts to restore the limestone pier fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

Gates will open at 7:00 p.m. on May 23; moviegoers arriving early will have the opportunity to experience the historic cemetery and partake in a smart phone history hunt. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs, but alcoholic beverages, pets and recording of the event will not be allowed. Food will be available for purchase from the Taco Taxi food truck.

The Friends of the Cemetery hope to have more than 500 attendees come out and enjoy the festivities. Tickets can be purchased online at [Brown Paper Tickets](#) or at the gate the evening of the event (cash only). Tickets purchased on or before May 15 are \$5. Tickets purchased after May 15 are \$10; kids under 12 are free. If you are unable to attend the event, but would still like to support the fence restoration project, please visit the Friends of the Cemetery [website](#).

WHEN: Saturday, May 23, gates open at 7:00 p.m.; the film begins approximately 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 30 has been set as an alternative date for inclement weather

WHERE: Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery
2925 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis

On-street parking is available; no vehicle parking allowed in the cemetery. Using public transportation or biking to get to the event is encouraged as the Lake Street light rail stop is a short walk from the cemetery and bike racks will be provided within the cemetery.

MORE: **About Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery:** Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, established in 1853 and originally named Layman’s Cemetery, is the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis. It is also a Minneapolis landmark and the only cemetery in Minnesota that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the final resting place of over 21,000 pioneers, veterans, and immigrants. It contains the graves of some of the first settlers of the city, many of whom made major contributions to local history; soldiers and veterans of the War of 1812, the Dakota Conflict, the Civil War, the Mexican American War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I; mid to late nineteenth century European immigrants, early African American citizens, and abolitionists. Notable individuals buried in the cemetery include Philander Prescott, Charles W. Christmas, and William Goodridge. In 1925, a group began to organize to save the cemetery for its historical importance. The group’s effort is recognized as an early, local attempt at historic preservation.

One of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places: In 2008, to raise awareness about the challenges of maintaining this landmark, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota placed the cemetery on its “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” list.

Fence Restoration Project Update: The eight-year, \$1.2 million metal fence restoration project is complete. This was in part funded by a grant from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Program. Funds are now being raised to restore the 65 limestone piers that line the cemetery on Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

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