



## Community Planning and Economic Development Department

# Media Advisory

Contacts: Rose Lindsay, CPED Communications (W) 612.673.5015 (C) 612.250.8661  
John Moret, The Trylon and Lagoon Cinema, 612 790-0815  
Sue Hunter Weir, Chair, Friends of the Cemetery, 612.874.9233

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## **Cinema in the Cemetery returns with Buster Keaton's, *The General*, Memorial Day Weekend to Benefit the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Restoration Project**

*Film score to be played live by local music group Dreamland Faces*

**WHAT:** On Saturday, May 24, at approximately 8:30 p.m., the Friends of the Cemetery in partnership with The Trylon Microcinema and All Star Productions will show a special screening of Buster Keaton's film "The General" 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 steel picket and 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 24; 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 pets and video/taping will not be allowed during the event. Coolers and alcoholic beverages will also be prohibited during the event, but 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 are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the gate for attendees age 12 and up; kids under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at [brown paper tickets](#) or at the door, but for cash only. If you are unable to attend the event, but would still like to support the fence restoration project, you can go online to the [Friends of the Cemetery site](#) and learn how to Adopt-A-Picket for \$30 or make any size donation.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 24, gates open at 7:00 p.m.; the film begins approximately 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31 has been set as an alternative date for inclement weather

**WHERE:** Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

2925 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis

On-street parking is available; no 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 it is also easily accessible from multiple bike routes.

**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. Today, the cemetery is in need of substantial capital improvements. The most immediate of those is the restoration of the historic fence that lines the cemetery on Lake Street and Cedar Avenue. The steel fence is 1,953 linear feet, contains 3,510 pickets, 67 metal sections and 65 limestone piers.

**Fence Restoration Project Update:** The metal fence restoration project is nearly complete. The last remaining 16 sections along Cedar Avenue are scheduled to be reinstalled in June 2014. This portion of the fence restoration project was funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Program. Funds are currently being raised to complete restoration to the 65 limestone piers that line the cemetery on Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

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**Attached:** Photos from 2013 Friends of the Cemetery event featuring Classic 1931 Spanish-Language Dracula (Photo credit Friends of the Cemetery)