



**The Slovenian Union of America
And Branch 23, Ely**

**Present
2013 Salute
Slovenian Cultural Expressions
Vermilion Community College
July 12, in Ely, Minnesota,**

Once again, Ely, Minnesota will be saluting their Slovenian heritage. Our theme this year, Slovenian Cultural Expressions. Also participating are the Ely-Winton Historical Society and the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Mark you calendar for Friday July 12th at Vermilion Community College. The festival is free and open to the public.

Exhibits open at 8:00 a.m. On display: Bishop Baraga on loan from the St. Louis County Heritage Society; the artworks of Albin Zaverl entitled, "The Old Country"; Dolly Grahek lace artistry; button box exhibit.

Also on exhibit, a new discovery in Ely, MN, a Harvey Gregory Prusheck painting. Purchased in 1926 from a peddler who was selling his paintings outside the Kotchevar shoemaker shop on Sheridan Street. Today, Prusheck is recognized as a world famous painter.

Theater Program: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00

Ely High School students present a historical overview of Slovenian history; poetry readings

The Gastronomy of Slovenia: sample the foods and wines of Slovenia; enjoy the beautiful scenery of Slovenian lands.

Apple Strudel: Mary Jo Pouchnik creates an apple strudel before your eyes

BeeHive Panels: the unique folk art of Slovenia

View exhibits and lunch on your own, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Theater Program: 1:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m

Joe Valencic presents:

Bogdan Grom: Biography of a famous Slovenian American artist

Shanghai Gypsy: Top Slovenian film

Joe has been active on Slovenia's film scene for nearly twenty years and worked on both films. "Bogdan Grom" profiles the artist from his life under the Mussolini occupation, through the tribulations of World War II and post-war Yugoslavia, to the challenge of rebuilding his career in New York City and acclaim as a sculptor, painter and graphic artist. Grom still produces art. The documentary was written by Joe Valencic and directed by Slovenian filmmaker Damjan Kozole. Grom recently made a large donations of Slovenian books and archival materials to the museum and library of the Slovenian Union of America headquarters in Joliet, Illinois. "Bogdan Grom" screens at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 12.

"Shanghai Gypsy" is the saga of the Mirga family, a fun-loving and charismatic Slovenian Roma clan whose upward mobility over the course of four generations leads them far from their traditional way of life. The film was directed by the Marko Nabersnik from the popular novel by Prekmurje author Feri Lainscek. Nabersnik is best known for *Rooster's Breakfast*, also based on a Lainscek story, which broke Slovenian box office records soon after its release in 2007. This May, "Shanghai Gypsy" won first prize at the South-Eastern Europe Film Festival in France, as well as Best Screenplay at last year's Montreal Film Festival. Joe Valencic, who wrote the English subtitles for the film, will open the program with a brief overview of film as a cultural expression in Slovenia and share behind-the-scenes stories of the making of "Shanghai Gypsy." The film will be shown at 2:30 p.m. (Viewer discretion advised: strong language and brief nudity.) Joe's appearance for the film presentation is made possible in part from a grant from the Office for Slovenes Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia.

To follow tradition, the Slovenska Miza (Slovenian Table), a buffet of authentic Slovenian foods, will take place at the Creek Ridge Lodge on Friday evening.

Social hour at 5:30 p m - 6:30 p m .

Slovenska Miza 6:30 p.m. with Slovenian music and dancing

Cost: \$25 per person

Reservations required 218.365.7314

Vermilion Community College is located at 1900 Camp Street in Ely. Creek Ridge Lodge is at 1752 Creek Ridge Trail, east of Ely. For more information on the festival, contact Mary Lou Deyak Voelk, ottolou@gulftel.com 715.292.1960.

Photo Caption:

Bogdan Grom, the 94-year-old Slovenian artist, is profiled in a documentary film directed by Damjan Kozole (left) and written by Joe Valencic (right)



and screening at the Salute to Slovenian Cultural Expressions festival presented at Vermilion College, Friday, July 12, 2013.

Photo Caption:

The award-winning new Slovenian film, “Shanghai Gypsy,” about a fun-loving and charismatic Slovenian Roma clan, makes its Minnesota debut at the Salute to Slovenian Cultural Expressions festival presented at Vermilion College, Friday, July 12, 2013.

