



PROCLAMATION

HOUDINI 100 & Heights Theater Centennial: October 2026

Harry Houdini, one of the world's most celebrated escape artists and magicians, arrived in Appleton, Wisconsin, as Erik Weisz, a four-year-old Hungarian Jewish immigrant. He got his big break right here in Minnesota. In 1899, vaudeville manager Martin Beck saw his handcuff act in St. Paul and launched the career that captured the world's imagination.

October 2026 marks 100 years since Houdini passed away on Halloween, October 31, 1926, and 100 years of Columbia Heights' historic Heights Theater.

Halloween week brings a spirit of mystery, creativity, and imagination, making it a fitting time to remember Houdini and for our community to gather and celebrate the magic of live performance.

Sparkle Theatricals and the Heights Theater have partnered to present HOUDINI 100, with support from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Legacy Amendment.

This centennial performance celebrates independent art, community collaboration, and the power of live theater to bring people together, spark joy, and connect us to our shared humanity.

HOUDINI 100 honors Houdini's legacy of wonder, resilience, and creativity, and shows how much our local arts organizations and historic venues add to the life of Columbia Heights.

As Mayor of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, proclaim October 2026 HOUDINI 100 & Heights Theater Centennial Month in Columbia Heights, and I encourage all residents to join in this observance and to support local history, independent art, and live performance throughout our city.

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor
October 26, 2026