

Naselle film screenings kick off 2017 Finland 100 celebrations

NASELLE, Wash. — After being under Swedish rule from 1150-1809, and being a Grand Duchy of Russia from 1809 to 1917, Finland finally gained its independence on Dec. 6, 1917.

To celebrate Finland's 100th year anniversary, Finland 100 was formed. During 2017, activities involving Finnish culture will occur all over Finland, Canada and the United States. These include concerts, lectures, cooking classes, films, even a traveling sauna.

Local events will happen on both sides of the lower Columbia River as well as in Portland and Seattle.

The Appelo Archives Center has set up a special display that will be on view for all of 2017. It is housed in a display case donated by Messiah Lutheran Church of Portland. The items being displayed were donated by Donald Klebe of Walla Walla, Washington. His brother-in-law served during the Winter War in Finland. Some of the items include spurs he wore during that war, his service medals, and his certificates signed by Gen. Mannerheim.

The Appelo Archives Center is located at 1056 Washington State Route 4

'UNDER THE NORTH STAR': PART ONE

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21

Appelo Archives Center

1056 WSR 4, Naselle, Wash.

\$5 suggested donation

Not recommended for children

two miles east of the schools in Naselle. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The first special local event is the showing of the film "Under the North Star" at the Appelo Archives Center. It will be screened at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21.

"To understand Finland and the Finns one needs only read one book: 'Under the North Star,' by Väinö Linna," said Esko Aho. This historical trilogy, written in Finnish from 1959 to 1962, was translated into English by Richard Impola in 2001. The trilogy has been considered the most

significant novel published in Finland between 1917 and 1997. It won the Nordic Prize for Literature in 1965.

In 2009, a film adaptation was produced in Finland. The screenplay was written by Timo Koivusalo, who also directed the film. Stars are Ilkka Koivula, Vera Kiiskinen and Risto Tuorila. It was nominated for five Jussi (equivalent of Oscars) awards the following year: Best Film, two Supporting Actors, Best Supporting Actress, and Costume Design.

Part One covers the years 1884 to 1907. Jussi Koskela is a tenant farmer on a parsonage estate in the rural village of Pentti's Corner in south central Finland. He lives there with his wife and three sons struggling to turn wild swampland into productive farming land. At this same time, Finland is becoming more secularized, socialist thought is becoming more popular, and the labor movement is gaining momentum. National newspapers such as Suometar, The Worker (Työmies), and the People's Journal (Kansan Lehti) are gaining readership. The Russian czar, meanwhile, is attempting to curb the Finns' increases between tenants and

landowners. Jussi's son, Aksele, becomes an active socialist. In addition, the upper classes are upset with language strife and their homeland's relationship with Russia.

There is no admission charge for the film screening, but donations of \$5 are recommended. The film is 193 minutes and is in Finnish with English subtitles. It is not recommended for children due to sexual content and nudity, violence and gore, frightening/intense scenes, profanity, and alcohol/drugs/smoking.

Part Two of the film will be shown at the Appelo Archives Center on the following Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m. Part Two covers the third book of the trilogy, "The Reconciliation," which deals with the aftermath of the Civil War in Finland, the Lapua movement of 1929 to 1932, the depression in the 1930s, the Winter War of 1939 to 1940, the Continuation War of 1941 to 1944, and finally the calm of the post-World War II years. It includes the history of the Koskela family in these events.

For more information on Finland 100 events, check out the websites for Appelo Archives Center, the Finnish American Folk Festival of Naselle, Columbia Pacific Chapter Finlandia Foundation, Nordic House, and the Nordic Heritage Museum.



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This year's run is sponsored by Buoy Beer Co.

For more information and to register, visit astoriaparks.com



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