

**Commonweal Theatre Company**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Ibsen Festival**  
**April 17-19, 2015**  
**[www.ibsenfest.org](http://www.ibsenfest.org)**



**Schedule of Events** (subject to change)

**All Weekend/Ongoing**

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**Food & Spirits** (*Reservations recommended*)

Enjoy fine Scandinavian Specialty Menu Items at:

- Pedal Pushers Café (507) 467-1050
- Old Village Hall (507) 467-2962
- Intermission (507) 467-3381

**Art**

**Scenic Design Exhibit**

Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

- A collection of scene design sketches, renderings and models by Commonweal Resident Scenic Designer Kit Mayer
- Mr. Mayer will also be formally presenting on Saturday evening prior to the Opening Night performance of *The Master Builder*.

**To Be a Poet Is to See**

Commonweal Theatre

The Commonweal is proud to present this three-dimensional exhibit exploring the universal themes and continued relevance of Ibsen's works. Through the generosity of the Norwegian government, this exhibit has been permanently gifted to the Commonweal Theatre and will be on display throughout the run of *The Master Builder*.

**Photography**

**Stave Churches in Norway**

Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

Take a visual tour of both interior and exterior displays of Norwegian craftsmanship with this stunning exhibit. The beauty and attention to detail in this collection of all-wooden Norwegian Stave Churches is certain to impress. Built to be long-standing, The Stave church has a rich history across the landscape of Norway.

**Video**

**World's Tallest Buildings: Past, Present and Future**

Commonweal Theatre Lobby

This short film highlights architectural achievements from the Pyramids of Ancient Egypt to some of today's tallest skyscrapers as well as future plans to "reach new heights."

## History & Culture

Norwegian Residences in Lanesboro; in partnership with **The Lanesboro Historical Museum**

Enjoy a walking tour of Lanesboro to see the captivating architecture of our Norwegian ancestors. Wrap around porches, fairy-tale turrets, colorful house painting techniques and precision brickwork will be your bounty. And the Norse goddess of spring, Idun, has promised us glorious weather for an enlightening stroll through time!

## Friday, April 17

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### Culture

#### Aquavit Tasting

6:00 pm • Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

Mike McCarron of **Gamle Ode Aquavit** will host a free tasting of three distinctive aquavits. The craft distilled spirits offered will be *Dill Aquavit* which is infused with fresh dill, touches of caraway seed and juniper berries, *Holiday Aquavit* infused with fresh dill, caraway seed, touches of juniper berries, mint, allspice, and citrus from orange and lemon peels, and *Celebration Aquavit* infused with fresh dill, caraway seed, touches of juniper berries, coriander, vanilla bean, star anise, and citrus from orange and lemon peels. Light refreshments will be provided to pair with the tasting.

### Theatre

#### The Master Builder (Final Preview)

7:30 pm • \$20 • Commonweal Theatre

The Commonweal is proud to present Jeffrey Hatcher's world-premiere adaptation of one of Ibsen's most personal works. Join us for a post-show discussion with both adapter Jeffrey Hatcher and director Lee Gundersheimer.

- ***(Signed copies of this original script will be available for purchase.)***

## Saturday, April 18

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### Food

10:00 am • FREE • Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

Start your day with Scandinavian pastries and coffee courtesy of **Pedal Pushers Restaurant**.

### Food

#### Kaffepause

11:00 am—4:00 pm • \$\$\$ • Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

A social tradition in Norway, kaffepause means "coffee break." The Commonweal Theatre Events Hall will be set up all day offering coffee and selling old-fashioned, hand-crafted Scandinavian treats from **A Little Decadence**. Enjoy a coffee break while you view the SCENIC DESIGN DISPLAY and other exhibits.

## **Lecture**

### Norwegian American Domestic Architecture

Darrell Henning, former curator of The Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum

11:00 am—12:00 pm (12:30) • Commonweal Theatre

This illustrated lecture on the domestic architecture of the Norwegian Americans will trace several house types spanning from medieval Norway up to the period of emigration, ca. 1840 to 1900 and examines the effects climate, geography and culture had on traditional building practices in the New World. The talk will also include passing references to the Stave Church (public buildings) and later architectural decorative elements associated with the Norwegian population in America.

## **Art**

Artist Demonstration sponsored by Lanesboro Arts

1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Rochester artist Leisa Luis Grill will demonstrate acrylic painting techniques. Coming from an eclectic background, Leisa's subject matter is whatever happens to resonate with her in a given moment. Join Leisa as she reflects on what painting means to her and the things which drive her to create. Following the demonstration, take a stroll up the street from Lanesboro Arts to see larger examples of Leisa's work on the walls of the Commonweal Theatre Lobby.

## **Lecture-- KEYNOTE**

### Solness's Faustian Bargain

Dr. Marvin Carlson, Graduate Center of City University of New York

1:30 pm—2:30 pm (3:00) • Commonweal Theatre

There is no question that Goethe's *Faust* is among the sources contributing to the creation of Ibsen's major drama of ambition and destruction, *The Master Builder*. In fact, however, both Goethe and Ibsen were also drawing upon an international body of folk literature involving deals with the devil or a devilish figure. Early in his career Ibsen received a governmental grant to study such folk tales and clearly used motifs from them in many of his plays. This lecture will look at the folk tales that seem to have inspired Ibsen in the creation of his play, resulting in some striking parallels between the German and the Norwegian dramatic texts.

## **Culture**

Author Talk and Book Signing; sponsored by Crown Trout Jewelers

2:00 pm • Crown Trout Jewelry in downtown Lanesboro

Author Odell Bjerkness will deliver a short talk followed by the signing of his book *Norwegian Folk Weddings: Origin of Modern Cultural Traditions*. Bjerkness will explain the colorful origins, variety, and exquisite folk art of Norwegian folk wedding traditions. The book includes maps, historical texts, and over sixty photographs, paintings, and lithographs.

## **Culture**

### Ibsen Fest High Ropes Challenge

2:00 pm • Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center

\$25 per person

Challenge the fear of heights like Ibsen's Master Builder! Travel tower to tower while traversing wires and wooden boards at an exhilarating 30 feet in the air! Ages 10 and up. Reservations are required and can be made online at [www.eagle-bluff.org](http://www.eagle-bluff.org) or by calling 507.467.2437. Use the code IBSEN15 for a \$5 discount!

## **Art**

### Scenic Design – a chat with Kit Mayer

6:00 pm • Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

Delve into the mastery of set design from resident designer Kit Mayer. Mayer will show the evolution of *The Master Builder* set from his initial ideas and early sketches to a model and photos of the finished product. Kit will also talk about his typical design process and share images of previous Commonweal designs. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be provided for purchase at Commonweal Encore Lounge.

## **Theatre**

### *The Master Builder*

7:30 pm • \$35 • Commonweal Theatre

Celebrate the world premiere adaptation of *The Master Builder*! After the show, join the cast and crew for a gala opening weekend reception.

## **Sunday, April 19**

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## **Worship**

### Norwegian/English Worship Service

9:00 am • Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro

Experience a special and rare treat for the soul—a worship service celebrated in both the Norwegian and English languages.

## **Theatre**

### *Birds of Passage* (Staged Reading)

11:00 am • Commonweal Theatre Events Hall

An epistolary drama for two voices, adapted by Harold N. Cropp from collections found in "Land of Their Choice," "Their Own Saga" and "Frontier Mother: The Letters of Gro Svendsen." The piece details, in their own words, the experiences of Norwegian immigrants on coming to America during the three great waves of migration in the nineteenth century. The work contains not only reflections of the Norwegian view of American life but also insights into the issues that Norwegians faced and fled from during that most turbulent of centuries.

## **Theatre**

### *The Master Builder*

1:30 pm • \$35 • Commonweal Theatre

The Commonweal is proud to present Jeffrey Hatcher's world-premiere adaptation of Ibsen's rarely produced epic.

## Film

### Thale

6 pm • Commonweal Theatre

Elvis and Leo run a crime scene cleanup business and are hired to clean up after a death, when they discover Thale, a female humanoid creature that appears to be incapable of human speech, hidden in a basement. Playing a tape left behind by her captor, Elvis and Leo learn of her life in captivity and that she has been the subject of medical experimentation. Later, her fellow creatures come to the rescue as paramilitary soldiers come to recapture Thale.