

Standard-Speaker

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Minneapolis brimming with culture

By JANET SUTTER
Copy News Service

The trouble with St. Paul and Minneapolis is there is just too much life. The vacation time will run out long before the list of "must see's."

Yet some folks still haven't caught on that the Twin Cities are great for a getaway — a stimulating place to catch good shows and meet new people.

They have more theater performances per capita than any other American city except New York. What's more, an East Coast radio commentator said that the Twin Cities theater audiences are among the most sophisticated in the United States.

Plus there are the amenities of shopping, restaurants, night life. (Prize, the rock star who now has a symbol for a name, got his last here and owns two live discs.)

Both cities are interesting and attractive with clusters of high-rises interspersed with views of the prairie. The mighty Mississippi River curves around and about the Twin, and there are lakes, not to mention the best yards, right in town.

There's also that quality called "Minnesota nice." People are polite, helpful, nice. The cities are clean, too, and safe. Now that's out of a lot of competition.

Oh, yes, you know what about the winter? Well, New York and other cities do winter, too. But they don't have downtown high-rises connected by skyways (enclosed walkways above traffic level). I met a woman who walks to work by skyways from her Minneapolis downtown apartment. She said she could do without a coat in January. And there's always spring, summer or fall.

region. Even the Science Museum of Minnesota has a resident theater company creating "dynamic learning experiences" for visitors.

Old theaters, some of them venerable or historic, have been brought back to life. Curran Kellier led the drive to save the World Theater, which he renamed the Fitzgerald.

Theater is literally everywhere. The Jagie Theater merged just three years ago in a neighborhood, with a director who takes old plays like "Dial M for Murder" and puts them into the theater.

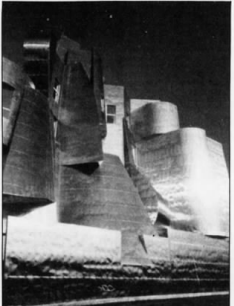
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Her's a sampling of what that support goes. The Guthrie, Minneapolis. The not-for-profit theater, well away from downtown, was established in 1959. The Guthrie Center, located in the early 20th century American art, but it has much more. On one visit, the place was in a happy state, with children making masks, with artists at their desks.

Minneapolis Institute of Art. This museum also houses the Children's Theatre Co. Behind its neoclassical columns is a rich collection of art works from many centuries and periods, accompanied by impressive educational technology (and an in-house computer staff). In a gallery of cubist paintings is an audio station offering visitors the choice of a lecture on cubism or jazz music of the period. In the African exhibit, a video responds to a touch on the screen and has its subject ready at hand.

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. This museum is another gem. It emphasizes art, the distinguished Guthrie. It emphasizes art, the distinguished Guthrie. It emphasizes art, the distinguished Guthrie.

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Seeing live radio worthwhile treat

By JANET SUTTER
Copy News Service

Hearing Curran Kellier's radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," is one thing. Seeing it in another, call it radiovision, is another thing entirely.

At St. Paul's Fitzgerald Theater, formerly the World Kellier and company play to a live audience, as well as a radio one. Here a little bit of a radio one. Here a little bit of a radio one.

Picture Kellier in red socks and sandals about. Well, that's what he called them. They definitely weren't wingers.

Some commenters dressed up as though they were onstage in front of a big audience, which they were. Others looked ready for a swag meet — or at least as if they were not worried about viewers, like the singer in yellow squares with serious suitcase wrinkles.

There is a little house on the prairie stage. And there's a sky with white fluffy clouds. There clouds come and go, like a real sky. Also come and go, like a real sky.

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seemed to be all over the stage, playing the clarinet, the piano or something else. Since it is his music that he heard, not his voice, those out in radioland aren't aware how important he is.

This show of an improbable mix that works, like opera and country singers, was inspired by the Great Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. Its 19-21st every "Prairie Home" is carried on 300 public radio stations. Kellier and company play to a live audience, as well as a radio one.

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London's smaller museums get specific

By JENNIFER MERLIN
For AP Special Services

LONDON (AP) — The British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum are among London's biggest tourist attractions. But some 300 other museums and galleries are tucked away in quiet corners of the city.

A full list is overwhelming, but London's smaller museums are worth a visit. The Cabinet War Rooms, Civic Square, King's Cross, SW1. A museum of the British Empire, 100, Strand, WC2R. The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Palace, SE1. The London Transport Museum, 200, Strand, WC2R. The London Transport Museum, 200, Strand, WC2R.

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