

2009 Two Rivers Chautauqua

Doug Mishler as P.T. Barnum

Attendees of past Two Rivers Chautauqua will recognize Doug Mishler; he has been with us each year - Theodore Roosevelt in 2006, J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur in 2007 and Ernie Pyle in 2008. This year he brings us P.T. Barnum.

Doug has brought history to life in well over one thousand Chautauqua presentations and one-man shows. As well as Roosevelt, de Crevecoeur, Pyle and Barnum, he has performed as Henry Ford, William Lloyd Garrison, Capt. William Clark, Andrew Carnegie, the Reverend Billy Sunday, Thomas Hart Benton, Edward R. Murrow, President Jefferson Davis, Upton Sinclair and Governor George C. Wallace. With a Ph.D. in American cultural history, Doug is an independent scholar and teaches at the University of Nevada at Reno, and he acts and directs theatre to improve upon his performances.

Susan Marie Frontczak as Irene Castle

Susan Marie Frontczak is another familiar Chautauquan here in the Grand Valley. She brought Marie Curie to us in 2006 and Eleanor Roosevelt in 2008. In September she will bring us Irene Castle - fashion trend-setter, silent film heroine, animal rights activist and - above all - half of the inimitable Ragtime dancing duo of Vernon and Irene Castle.

For over two decades Susan Marie has brought literature to life, created stories from thin air and honed personal experience into tales worth telling again and again. She performs in theatres, corporations, schools, libraries and festivals internationally.

Frank Mullen as Babe Ruth

Frank X. Mullen has performed at Chautauqua events since 1997. He has played Huey Long, Albert Einstein, Henry VIII, Benedict Arnold, J.P. Morgan, mountain man Caleb Geenwood and Edward R. Murrow. Frank will bring us Babe Ruth.

Frank is the Reno Gazette-Journal reporter who is known for his hard-hitting investigative series, and is also a historian and author. In his spare time, Mullen teaches journalism classes at the University of Nevada.

Annette Baldwin as Coco Chanel

Annette Baldwin's repertoire includes Civil War spy Elizabeth Van Lew, social activist and peace advocate Jane Addams, journalist Dorothy Thompson and Susan B. Anthony. Annette will bring Coco Chanel to life for us.

Annette has been producing and performing stories of courageous, unconventional women since 1986 to libraries, colleges and universities, professional associations, community organizations, historical societies and museums.