



**** MEDIA ALERT ****

Reliving History for Another 15 years At the Minnesota Renaissance Festival

What: Mid-America Festivals, the producers of the Minnesota Renaissance Festival and the Trail of Terror are proud to announce a new 15 year lease agreement. All parties are excited to be working together thru 2023. "We are thrilled to continue celebrating and growing the tradition of the Renaissance history on a site we've called home for over 35 years!" said Jim Peterson, President of Mid-America Festivals.

The Minnesota Renaissance Festival began its journey in September of 1971 on a 22 acre field in Jonathan, MN. More than 25,000 people visited the two weekend grand opening of the festival then named "A Celebration of Nature, Art, and Life!" That celebration has since relocated to Shakopee, MN and has grown to be the largest Renaissance Festival in the United States with more than 700 entertainers, 275 crafters, 120 food booths and an annual attendance of 275,000, all adding to the magic that draws in visitors from across the nation.

Theme weekends for the 2008 season are:

A Silk Road: Discover the Riches! Aug. 16-17
Highland Fling! Aug. 23-24
Royal Ale Festival!, Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1
Irish Heritage! Sept. 6-7
Wine Gala! Sept. 13-14
Italian Carnival! Sept. 20-21
"Sweet Endings:" Chocolate and Romance! Sept. 26-28

New for 2008:

- ☛ The Minnesota Renaissance Festival will play host to the 2008 World Amateur Highland Heavy Games and the Minnesota Amateur Highland Heavy Games during our Highland Fling weekend!
- ☛ The Renaissance is going to the dogs on August 16 & 17 for our second annual Pet Fest! Join dozens of pet organizations for free samples and great pet tips! This weekend only!
- ☛ A Silk Road: Discover the Riches! Your chance to win the 2nd annual Minnesota State Belly Dance Competition. Other Festivities include belly dancing lessons, Arabian horse show, and yoga lessons!
- ☛ Join the sweetest side of the Renaissance as we celebrate "Sweet Endings:" Chocolate and Romance weekend with our second annual chocolate festival! More than 15 chocolate vendors with demonstrations and free samples!
- ☛ Italian Carnival, a weekend dedicated to exploring Italian history and enjoying a little taste of Italy!

When: August 16th through September 28th, 2007
Weekends, Labor Day and Festival Friday (School Day), September 26th
Gates are open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Shakopee, MN

Cost: Adults..... \$19.95
Children \$10.95
Seniors \$17.95

For More Information Contact: Deb Schaber, Marketing, (952) 445-7361 or dschaber@renaissancefest.com