

# ***1912: FULL STEAM AHEAD!***

## ***SILENT FILMS, MEET IRENE CASTLE, RAGTIME DANCING***

April 13, 2012, 6:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm)

Temple Events Center Auditorium

1595 Pearl Street, Denver, Colorado

**\$20/person** Make reservations at: <http://mchartrand.com/titanic2012/registrationpre.html>

Allow time for parking (surface lots are all for pay in the evening, including the one next to the Center.)

Join us for a fantastic evening in this magnificent 1899 national historic landmark. The evening opens with a selection of silent short comedies that feature dancing. While they are not primarily *about* dancing, they show how social dance permeated the culture of the time, and formed a backdrop to the social life of the teens and twenties. Oh, and they're very funny! The movies will be introduced and accompanied on piano by Rodney Sauer of the Mont Alto Ragtime and Tango Orchestra.

***Tango Tangles (1914)***: Keystone Comedies were famous for crashing real events for backgrounds, and this time it's the Venice Dance Hall. A simple, short, silly comedy in which Charlie Chaplin, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, and Ford Sterling fight over the hat check girl.

***Foxtrot Finesse (1915)***: Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew star in a light marital comedy about the foxtrot craze.

***His Wooden Wedding (1925)***: This very silly Charley Chase comedy, involving a wedding, a wooden leg, a betrayal, and quite a lot of alcohol, ends on a luxury liner where Charley Chase kicks up his feet on the dance floor to dislodge a precious jewel that was accidentally dropped down Gale Henry's dress.



***Mighty Like a Moose (1926)***: Another Charley Chase comedy, in which a man accidentally dates his own wife. They end up at a dance party, with a woman who can only dance the polka. After a prohibition raid, things get even stranger.



Following our silent films, enjoy a unique opportunity to hear the story of Vernon and Irene Castle's skyrocket of dance from **Irene** herself, looking back from the 1940's.

Vernon and **Irene** Castle, were responsible, more than any other couple, for the rage in social and ballroom dancing that swept across America in the years leading up to the first world war. They took a dance form frowned upon by respectable society as unseemly, and transformed it with their grace and style into a most elegant and fashionable hobby for rich and poor alike, for old and young. Vernon and **Irene** shattered the lowlife reputation of Ragtime - the new, uniquely American, syncopated music – by winning high-society approval with their elegant dancing style. They challenged the color barrier by hiring black musicians, set new directions in fashion, and broke ground in promoting animal rights. For centuries Americans had wanted to emulate Europe. Suddenly, Europe wanted to imitate America.

One-hour program includes presentation in-character, a Q&A with "Irene Castle" and a Q&A with the presenter, Susan Marie Frontczak.

Following this delightful entertainment, **enjoy dancing** the one-step, tango, and other frolics from the Ragtime Era, or watch from the balcony if you are not a dancer.

Come as you are, or, for even more fun, dress in 1890's-teens period costuming!