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Dylan Days taps Range roots May 27-30 in Hibbing

HIBBING, Minnesota – The 9th annual Dylan Days event in Bob Dylan’s hometown will be May 27-30 and organizers are “bringin’ it all back home.”

“This year our mix of music, art, literature and theater will take on even more of a hometown feel,” said spokesman and co-organizer Aaron Brown. “We’re showcasing the Minnesota arts community with the hopes of exploring the connection between Bob Dylan and the Iron Range.”

Hundreds of visitors are again expected for all or part of Dylan Days activities. Popular events include live music, the Dylan Days literary showcase featuring the original winning one-act play, the singer/songwriter contest and the Bobby Zimmerman interpretive bus tour. Authors, musicians and artists will be on hand throughout the long weekend interacting with guests and doing their own exploration of Hibbing.

“The true magic of Dylan Days is the connections that people make on their own and the sense of community, both among Dylan’s fans and in Hibbing, where our history and arts community always manage to surprise people,” said Brown.

A complete schedule with times and locations is available at www.dylandays.com. Most events are free with the purchase of a \$5 Dylan Days button while others have a modest ticket price. This year’s button features a picture of Dylan’s elementary school class photo at the former Alice School in Hibbing.

Dylan Days 2010 is dedicated to the memory and legacy of B.J. Rolfzen, who passed away last year. Rolfzen was a longtime high school and community college English teacher in Hibbing whose students included thousands of Iron Range men and women, among them Bob Dylan. In honor of Rolfzen, on May 27 Dylan Days welcomes guests and supporters with a welcome reception and a tour of Hibbing High School’s new museum room. A special plaque commemorating Rolfzen and the winners of the Dylan Days writing contest that now bears his name will be unveiled. That night Dylan Days regulars The Grunt Monkeys from Anchorage, Alaska will entertain the masses at Jimmy’s.

On Friday, May 28 the Dylan Days literary showcase takes place at 3 p.m. at the Hibbing Community College Theater. The winning one-act playwright contest play “Armigideon” by Sandra Dempsey will be given its world premier stage presentation featuring Iron Range actors and accomplished Minnesota theater director Mike Ricci. In addition, winners of the fiction and poetry contests from all over the country will be invited to share excerpts from their work.

After the literary showcase, the much anticipated Dylan Days Singer/Songwriter contest takes place at Zimmy's at 7 p.m. Local and national musicians will take the stage to compete for a guitar and other prizes performing one Dylan song and one original.

On Saturday, May 29, the fan favorite Bobby Zimmerman interpretive bus tour will take place. In addition Zimmy's hosts the Dylan Days postal cancellation, author and past Dylan Days speaker Bill Meissner will sign books, a special "bonus" singer/songwriter contest for last-minute entries will take place and other events around town.

That night, the Dylan Days Benefit Concert featuring The Little Dipper Jazz Band, a new group of seasoned northern Minnesota musicians will take place at the Hibbing Memorial Building Little Theater, the site of Bob Dylan's first paid gig. Gene LaFond, a past Dylan Days headliner, will serve as emcee and the Duluth band The Wheeler Dealers will open. Afterward, Bob Dylan birthday cake and more music from the Wheeler Dealers and others will happen at Zimmy's.

Sunday morning, May 30, brings the Dylan Days farewell brunch at Zimmy's. Many visitors form lasting bonds with people from all over the world during their time in Hibbing and like to say goodbye in style on the event's last day. This year, Dylan's birthplace of Duluth is hosting an interpretive tour of that city's Dylan history that same afternoon. Find out more at www.bobdylanway.com.

Throughout Dylan Days you can catch the entrants in the Dylan Days Visual Arts Contest at Zimmy's, see artwork and other displays as part of a student art exhibition/contest at the Hibbing Public Library (proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Library) and additional events involving area businesses. Other surprises are also possible. For up-to-the-date information see www.dylandays.com, see the Dylan Days special section in the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* the week of Dylan Days or pick up a copy of the annual Dylan Days literary journal and program "Talkin' Blues." Dylan Days is also on Facebook (@dylandays) and Twitter (@dylandays).

Dylan Days of Hibbing, Minnesota is a nonprofit organization focused on honoring Dylan and supporting the arts community of Hibbing and the Iron Range. The Dylan Days Benefit Concert and Hibbing Arts Council also support Dylan Days efforts. Dylan Days began informally as a Bob Dylan birthday party at Zimmy's in 1991 and became a Hibbing city-wide event in 2001.

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