



Selma Lagerlöf

*Presenting a staged reading  
of the new play*

**LOVING SELMA LAGERLÖF**

By Gunilla Boëthius and  
Marianne Goldman  
English translation by Verne Moberg,  
directed by Robert Greer, featuring Mary  
Keefe as Selma, Elise Rovinsky as  
Sophie, and Ingrid Kullberg-  
Bendz as Valborg.

7 P.M., Weds., November 11

The public is invited, admission is free,  
and donations are welcomed. No  
reservations are necessary.

Selma Lagerlöf went down in Swedish history as a great storyteller and everybody's favorite maiden aunt. But beneath her public personality she led a rich emotional life nourished by the love of two women: Sophie Elkan, a rich Gothenburg widow known for her popular historical novels, and Valborg Olander, a determined schoolteacher who made it her mission to organize the author's international literary career from a small town in central Sweden.



Sophie Elkland



Valborg Olander

A half century after Lagerlöf's death in 1940, her archives were opened to the public, disclosing the thousands of intimate letters she had written to her dearest colleagues. Since then scholars have set to work analyzing the mysteries of her private life, as they have been passed down to us a century later.

This new play by Gunilla Boëthius and Marianne Goldman is based on personal correspondence and records, recreating the authentic drama of the lives of this legendary writer's circle.

Entitled *Selmas kärlekar* (Selma's Loves) in the original Swedish, the play premiered earlier this year to enthusiastic reviews in Falun and later in Sundsvall, Sweden.

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Since Selma Lagerlöf won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1909, ten other women writers—and 94 men—have received the award. This play reflects what a struggle it was for Lagerlöf to succeed at a time when words like “feminist” and “homosexual” had not yet come into common usage.



Sophie and Selma



Selma and Valborg