

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

The Guys and The Mercy Seat Now Playing at Bowen Park Theatre

Waukegan, IL (October 1, 2015) – The Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts Division announces Bowen Park Theatre Company's (BPTC) production of Anne Nelson's *THE GUYS* and Neil LaBute's *THE MERCY SEAT*. The professional theatre company opened its 28th season last weekend. This production, under the artistic direction of Jason Clark, takes audience members back fourteen years ago to the tragedy of 9/11. Remaining performances of *The Guys* and *The Mercy Seat* will be held at the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre on Fridays and Saturdays, October 2, 3, 4, and 10 with an 8 pm curtain. Sunday matinees will be held on October 4 and 11 with a 3 pm curtain.

The Guys is a play by Anne Nelson about the aftereffects of the tragedy that took place with the collapse of the World Trade Center. The characters include Joan, an editor, and Nick, a FDNY captain. Joan is enlisted to help Nick prepare the eulogies for the firefighters who died under his command on September 11, 2001. This play is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.



James Stahl as Nick

The second play presented during the fall production is Neil LaBute's 2002 play, *The Mercy Seat* which was one of the first major theatre responses to the attack on September 11. The playwright and the two characters, Ben and Abby take the audience to September 12 and Ben's contemplation of escape from his unsatisfying life. Believing his family thinks he died in the collapse of the World Trade Center Ben contemplates using this tragedy to run away and start a new life. This play is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing, Inc.



Thomas Colvin and Margie Burba



James Stahl and Laura Jansen

In addition to the two plays opening the season, Bowen Park Theatre Company will present John Peilmeier's AGNES OF GOD and William Shakespeare's A COMEDY OF ERRORS.

Season tickets may be purchased at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan IL. The season ticket package includes three shows for the price of two with tickets for adults at \$40, seniors and military are \$30 and student tickets with ID are \$20. Single tickets may be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets or by phone at 1-800-838-3006. First Responders and Active Military/Veterans please call 847-360-4740 for a special ticket offer as a thank you for your service.

Options for tickets include season tickets, single tickets, and single tickets may be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets. Find our events at www.brownpapertickets.com or call 1-800-838-3006.

The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, Bowen Park Theatre Company and the multi-disciplinary programming of the Jack Benny Center for the Arts are partially funded through a grant provided by the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency. To learn more about the performing arts season, cultural arts programming, questions on auditions and to order season tickets for the Bowen Park Theatre or the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, please call the Jack Benny Center for the Arts 847-360-4740 or stop by the Center in Bowen Park at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Waukegan, IL.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 725 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness

initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

7.6.15Comm. Relations

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