

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE 27<sup>th</sup> BOWEN PARK THEATRE COMPANY SEASON OPENS WITH D.L. COBURN'S TRAGI-COMEDY-"THE GIN GAME"

**WAUKEGAN IL (SEPTEMBER 12, 2014) WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT CULTURAL ARTS**

**DIVISION-** THE GIN GAME opens the 27<sup>th</sup> season of the Bowen Park Theatre Company (BPTC) with a "tragi-comedy" in two acts penned by D.L. Coburn. "The Gin Game" is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. Under Jason Clark's artistic leadership a wonderful season has been planned for the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre, located at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan IL. Mr. Clark brings in Mary Reynard to direct the fall production of "The Gin Game" which will run September 26, 27, October 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12. Friday and Saturday curtain times are at 8 pm and the Sunday matinees are at 3 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and military, and \$10 for students. Call 847-360-4740 for tickets or to learn more about "Of Mice and Men" and "More Fun Than Bowling" which round out the remainder of the 2014/15 season.

"The Gin Game" is a 1978 Pulitzer Prize winning play written by D.L. Coburn that uses this common card game as a metaphor for life. Attached to a convalescent home is a screened-in porch. This porch has outlived its purpose with the exception that it has become a repository for discarded items that are no longer of use and in the way. It is on this porch that Fonsia meets Weller, and they become companions, thrown together

by mutual misfortune and loneliness. As the two aging characters meet and play hands of Gin, a relationship is formed. Through the play and our characters' game of Gin, we all learn that there is something to learn about life, mortality and truth no matter where we are in the "game".

"Gin Game" director, Ms. Reynard has directed, acted and taught workshops in the Chicago and North Shore area for more than 30 years. Ms. Reynard studied with Chicago legends Ted Liss and Del Close, as well as in London with Geoffrey Connors, coach to the National Theatre of Great Britain, David Parry, June Kemp, Robert Palmer and Malcolm McKay at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Ms. Reynard brings professional actors Patricia Tinsley and Gary Grenholm to the stage of the Schornick in the presentation of *The Gin Game*. The character of Fonsia Dorsey is played by Patricia Tinsley who holds a BFA in performing arts from Rockford University and an MA in speech from Northeastern Illinois University. Some of her Chicago-area acting credits include *The Shadow Box* (Rebekah Theatre Project); *The Tempest* (Theatre-Hikes); *The Sandbox* (InnateVolution); *The Wake* (Chemically Imbalanced Comedy); and the web series, *Ped Crossing*. She recently shared the stage with her husband Paul in "The Gin Game" for the Rebekah Theatre Project, where they serve as co-artistic directors. Gary Grenholm plays Weller Martin and has worked with a number of theater groups along the North Shore—Attic Playhouse, Center Stage, Northminster Players, North Shore Theater, Second Stage, Theatre in the Woods and Waukegan

Community Players among them. Gary is retired as Director, Graduate Medical Education, University of Illinois College of Medicine. Gary holds a PhD in the History and Sociology of Health Care Systems.

The technical and artistic staff includes set design and construction by Jason Clark, lighting and sound by David Miller, and costumes designed by Kylie Welker. The stage manager is Josh Armstrong with a support staff of Paul Tinsley acting as the associate director and casting associate Barbara Anderson.

Join us as we celebrate our 27th year of serving our community with professional theatre, over 30 years of being a division of the Waukegan Park District, and the Music Center of Lake County/Jack Benny Center for the Arts for its fifty years of being a part of this community and bringing music, dance, theatre and art to Waukegan and its residents. Since 1987, Bowen Park Theatre has grown from a larger community company to regional status through its actors and audiences coming from the Chicago/Milwaukee corridor. Bowen Park Theatre credits are found on the resumes of some of the North Shore's finest actors, directors and designers. Many seasoned professionals have "trode the boards" in Goodfellow Hall providing exceptional theatre to audiences.

Bowen Park Theatre Company, the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, 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, private and group music lessons, 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Contact: Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts  
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**About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 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, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. 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.

Bowen Park Theatre Presents



# The Gin Game

BY  
D. L. COBURN

Directed by Mary Reynard

September 26, 27 & October 3, 4, 5\*, 10, 11, 12\*, 2014

Circle in at Open and \*Sunday Matinee in at Open  
Produced by special arrangement with Sound French Inc.

Tickets  
\$29 Adult  
\$16 Senior/Military  
\$10 Student

Dr. Lynn Schwartz Theatre  
30 Jack Kemp Dr., Bowen Park, Washington, D.C.  
Group Discount Call 847-388-4744.  
Always FREE parking for the BPTC productions



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