

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

The Good Life May Not Be So Good After All

Waukegan, IL (July 18, 2016) . . . Theatre Mask Productions brings together two local Lake County actors, Lorrie Ferguson and Laura Jenson, as well as director Linda Willding from Antioch for this summer production of *'night Mother*. *'night Mother* is a 1983 Pulitzer prize winner and was nominated for a Tony as Best Play. Playwright Marsha Norman wrote this one-act drama that has its moments of dark humor.

The production will take the stage on Saturday, July 30 at 8 pm and on Sunday, July 31 at 3 pm. The performances will be held at the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre in the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, located at 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, IL in the beautiful and historic Bowen Park. The Waukegan Park District's Cultural Arts/Theatre programming will benefit from the proceeds of this production. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at the door before the performances, online by using Brown Paper Tickets <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2566468> or by calling their 24/7 ticket hotline at 1-800-838-3006. Questions may be directed to the Jack Benny Center for the Arts by calling 847-360-4740. Due to the sensitive nature of this play, it is not advised for children.

The playwright explains, "The things we as women know best, have not been perceived to be of critical value to society." She uses the Mother/Daughter relationship to illustrate the perception of that lack of value. This ninety-minute play written over 30 years ago brings before its audience a middle aged Jessie and her mother Thelma, along with Jessie's plan to take her own life. Her mother uses all her usual cajoling and pleading in an attempt to convince Jessie to abandon her plans. Jessie has never felt in charge of her life but takes charge of her death. Over the years, critical discussion has focused on the issue of suicide, but feminism is also a major theme. When approached about the violence of the play, Norman's comment was, "Women are not afraid to look under the bed or wash the sheets, we know that life is messy."

Join us as we spend time with these two very complex characters as they live their very simple lives and one sends us reeling as she ends her unhappiness.

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 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, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 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 Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains 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.

5-11-16/Comm. Relations

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