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Bowen Park Theatre Company Opens it's 26<sup>th</sup> Season September 27 with Robert Bolt's  
*A Man For All Seasons*

**For Immediate Release**

**WAUKEGAN, IL - September 12, 2013** - Bowen Park Theatre Company will open its 26<sup>th</sup> season with *A Man for All Seasons*, a play written by Robert Bolt and directed by Barbara Anderson, is the retelling of the historic events surrounding Sir Thomas More, the Chancellor of England who remained silent regarding Henry VIII's divorce. Performances take place at the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre located in the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive-Bowen Park, Waukegan IL starting Friday evening, September 27 and closing with a Sunday matinee on October 13. Performances include September 27, 28, October 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13. Curtain for Friday and Saturday performances is at 8 pm and curtain for the Sunday matinees will be at 3 pm. Tickets may be purchased through on-line registration at [www.waukeganparks.org](http://www.waukeganparks.org) , by calling 847-360-4740, at Jack Benny Center or at the door. Single adult tickets are \$20, senior/military/seminary student tickets are priced at \$15 and student tickets are \$10. Season tickets may also be purchased in advance or at the door. *A Man For All Seasons* is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York, New York.

Director Barbara Anderson has brought together a wonderful cast which includes Joseph Jefferson Recommended/Nominated performance actors such as Henry Michael Odum as Sir Thomas More and Edward Kuffert portraying The Common Man. The cast also includes a number of Chicago and local actors such as Jonathan Crabtree (Richard Rich), Jay Cook (Duke of Norfolk), Elizabeth Rude (Alice More), Megan DeLay (Margaret More), Ron Mace (Cardinal Wolsey), Jerome R. Marzullo (Thomas Cromwell), Marc Rita (Eustace Chapuys), Stuart Conlon (Attendant to the Spanish Ambassador), Alex Ghattas (William Roper), C. Clayton Blackwell (Henry VIII), Carol Alleman (Catherine Anger) and Steve Willding (Archbishop Thomas Cranmer). The production and technical theatre staff includes Lake County residents Mary

Beavers (Stage Manager), David Miller (Resident Lighting/Sound Design), Linda Willding (Costumer) and Jason Clark (Artistic Director/Set Design and Construction).

The Common Man, acting as not only a character in this play but as the narrator and commentator, is our link to humor in this drama that was first performed as a stage play at London's Globe Theatre in 1960. Director Barbara Anderson notes that the playwright uses The Common Man as a character "everyone can identify with one way or another" and as "the means whereby we can laugh at ourselves." This humor is very important in providing the audience with a bit of comic relief in this historic drama. The play takes the audience to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and More as he refuses to take an oath endorsing the king's separation from the church in Rome and with that, we see More imprisoned, tried, and executed. Throughout the drama, More is forthright, witty, contemplative, and honest. The play asks, "How far does one go to remain honest?" In the case of Sir Thomas More, the audience will find a man who speaks with a sincerity that cost him his life. On one level, the play enacts the political intrigue central to the historical conflict between Henry VIII and Sir Thomas More over the King's desires to divorce Catherine of Aragon so that he can marry Anne Boleyn, and to take over the Catholic Church in England as its "Supreme Head." On a universal level, the play examines the consequences of the choices people make as they define their priorities in life. Main characters in plays usually transform themselves but More does not change, he remains consistent through the good times and the bad times – as a man for all seasons.

The Bowen Park Theatre Company is sponsored by the Waukegan Park District's Cultural Arts Division, a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency, through generous donations, and a promotional partnership with hibü. Information about the Cultural Arts Division, Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus and Bowen Park Theatre may be found at [www.jackbennycenter.org](http://www.jackbennycenter.org)

**Attached:** B/W and color photos of the Bowen Park Theatre Company's production of "A Man For All Seasons"



*Photo credit: Rachel Martindale Henry Michael Odum (Sir Thomas More) and Elizabeth Rude (Alice More) in the Bowen Park Theatre Company's production of Robert Bolt's A Man For All Seasons. (Color-0031)(B/W-0031... 2)*





*Photo Credit: Rachel Martindale*

C. Clayton Blackwell (Henry VIII) and Henry Michael Odum (Sir Thomas More) in the Bowen Park Theatre Company's production of Robert Bolt's *A Man For All Seasons*. (0137)



*Photo Credit: Rachel Martindale*

*L to R: Elizabeth Rude (Alice More) Henry Michael Odum (Sir Thomas More), Megan DeLay (Margaret More) and C. Clayton Blackwell (Henry VIII) in the Bowen Park Theatre Company's production of Robert Bolt's A Man For All Seasons. (0192)*

**About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates 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, 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 and special populations are included. Many special events are offered throughout the year, many are complimentary. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 54 full-time staff 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 sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013.

Bowen Park Theatre Company Presents

# MAMA MAMA FOR ALL SEASONS



by Robert Bolt

Directed by Barbara Anderson

September 27, 28

October 4, 5, 6\*, 11, 12, 13\*

8pm Curtain \*3pm Sunday Matinee

Tickets

\$20 Adult

\$15 Senior/Military

\$10 Student

Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre, 39 Jack Benny Dr.

Bowen Park, Waukegan, Illinois

Groups Welcome! Call 847-360-4740.

Always FREE parking for the BPTC productions

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



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