

# Bunbury Theater Production Of '12 Angry Men' Begins Tonight

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By JOHN WHITTAKER

The Robert H. Jackson Center for Justice will take on a new dimension today when it plays host to The Bunbury Theatre Company's performance of *12 Angry Men*.

Matt Kraft, Bunbury Theatre member, said the play centers on jury deliberations of a man charged with murdering his father. The content lends itself for a performance at the Jackson Center, according to Gregory Peterson, the center's president.

"When Matt Kraft proposed the idea of the Jackson Center hosting the play it seemed appropriate that the location be the Carl Cappa Theater in the Robert H. Jackson Center," Peterson said. "Since we are incorporated for the purpose of advancing Jackson's legacy, part of his legacy is his career on both sides of the judicial system as a lawyer and a judge. What better way to see the dynamics of the system than through this play."

Performances will be held today through Saturday at 7 p.m. and at 2 p.m. Sunday. Chautauqua County Judge John T. Ward will address the crowd before Thursday's performance.

Kraft, Bunbury Theater organizer, said using the Jackson Center is a great opportunity for his group.

"We have several new members in the play that we were able to bring in," Kraft said. "The Jackson Center provides us with an opportunity to do it on a bigger scale to accommodate more people. It's a show of some renown. It's two community organizations working together in benefit of one another, which is good. It's a great script and one that seemed like a good thing to end the year with." The Bunbury Birthday Celebration will be held after Friday's performance at the Jackson Center. Theatre officials will be giving away two sets of tickets for the 2003 season and one set of tickets for each individual production.

"Anyone is invited to come around 9 p.m. at the Jackson Center even if they didn't come to any performances," Kraft said. "We'll have cake, refreshments and information about next season, program advertisements and support. The crew will be there talking about next year. We'd like to hear from everybody and have another opportunity to get to know the people that have come to support us."

Tickets are available at the Reg Lenna Box Office and cost \$10 for general admission and \$7 for students and senior citizens.

As the 2002 season nears its end, there are plenty of changes in store for the group. The theater, which is at the company's 210 Cherry St. home, is undergoing a complete renovation and Kraft said he is trying to secure sponsorship so he can expand programming in 2003.

"We're very excited," he said. "We've obviously had our ups and downs, but we're starting to get bigger audiences and much more interest. We have the new 2003 season announced. We're excited about that. It's really going to be something."