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Godspell (1984)

Fall 1984

Godspell Press Release

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The Blackfriars Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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G O D S P E L L AT THE BLACKFRIARS THEATRE

The jubilant musical GODSPELL will open at the Blackfriars Theatre on Friday, October 26. Acclaimed as one of the major long-running off-Broadway successes in New York, this lovably playful musical will present the Gospel according to St. Matthew in a high-spirited wonderful way.

Composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz and adaptor John-Michael Tebelak have produced a joyous re-enactment in song and dance of the parables and teaching of Jesus. The music itself is almost as eclectic as the staging -- it varies from "operetta to salvation rock, from soft shoe shuffles to a kind of country and Eastern style."

The play opens with a stylized presentation of the "Tower of Babel" with members of the cast portraying major voices from the history of philosophy. This seriousness quickly dissolves into a kaleidoscope of color, song and movement, as the performers spill onto the stage to portray Jesus and his closest followers, acting out an assortment of high-velocity parodies, sight-gags, vaudeville routines, charades, visual puns and pantomines.

Guest-director Barry Marshall, who received his Master of Fine Arts Degree in acting/directing from Yale Drama School, has united the performers for the ensemble work and also has kept the connection to the individual characters. Mr. Marshall, a director and actor who has taught at both The University in Baltimore and Farleigh Dickinson University, is also a playwright who has written six plays, many of which were produced off-Broadway.

GODSPELL will be presented on Friday, October 26 at 8:00 PM and will continue through November 11 on Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$4.00 regular admission and \$2.00 students/senior citizens. Groups are welcome and special rates are available. For further information and reservations, call 865-2327.