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Godspell (1984)

Fall 10-26-1984

Godspell Playbill

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The Blackfriars Theatre

GODSPELL



PLAYBILL



A NOTE ON THE PLAY

When GODSPELL opened Off-Broadway in 1971, its author, John-Michael Tebelak, was 22 years old. How did he come to write GODSPELL? "I had been working on my master's thesis for Carnegie Tech's School of Drama, but put it aside," recalled Tebelak. "Then I went to the Easter Vigil service at the Episcopal Cathedral in Pittsburgh. It was snowing, and I was aware of the proper setting for a tremendous religious experience. But the people in the church seemed bored, and the clergymen seemed to be hurrying to get it over with. I left with the feeling that, rather than rolling the rock away from the Tomb, they were piling more on. I went home, took out my manuscript and worked it to completion in a non-stop frenzy."

In his thesis-play, Tebelak used clowns to retell the Gospel. Why did he choose to present the material in such an unconventional way? "The Church has become so dour and pessimistic," said the young playwright. "It has to reclaim its joy and hope. I see GODSPELL as a celebration of life. In its earlier version at Cafe La Mama, I called the intermission the 'party between the acts,' but reverted to the more conventional term 'intermission' when we moved to the Cherry Lane Theater."

Was there a special reason for choosing the title GODSPELL? "The word godspell is the Old English for gospel and is reminiscent of the medieval morality plays," Tebelak explained. Peggy Gordon, a member of the original cast, added: "John-Michael called me up and said he wanted me to do a part in a play he had written which was intended to 'weave God's spell over the audience.' The idea appealed to my imagination and I readily agreed."

Although the author anchored the play in St. Matthew's Gospel, there is some borrowing from St. Luke and St. John. Is there a reason for this? "I chose the parables very carefully," commented Tebelak. "The Prodigal Son, for instance, is extremely important for young people because it deals with the problem of the generations. The Woman Taken in Adultery, from St. John, stresses compassion and understanding."

GODSPELL played in New York for three years. It later toured every major U.S. city and several foreign countries. And all because of a visit to church!

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE THEATRE

presents

GODSPELL

A musical based upon
the Gospel according to St. Matthew

Conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Directed by	BARRY MARSHALL
Choreography	PATRICIA SHARKEY
Musical Direction	JAMES ASCOLI
Vocal Direction	MARILYN COCOZZA KRUSE
Scenery & Lighting Design	STEVE CROWLEY
Costume Design	DAVID M. CABRAL
Research Consultant	REV. MATTHEW POWELL, O.P.
Theatre Program Director	JOHN GARRITY

GUEST ARTIST

BARRY MARSHALL is a graduate of Yale Drama School. In New York he has directed for such theatre as New York Shakespeare Festival and Manhattan Theatre Club. He was co-founder and artistic director of the Yale Summer Cabaret in New Haven. Mr. Marshall is completing work on his sixth play—**The Son's Tale**. Other plays written by him have received productions off Broadway and in London.

THE BLACKFRIARS THEATRE

October 26-28, November 2-4, and 9-11, 1984

COMPANY

JAMES COLVIN

EDWARD GIBBS DEASY

MARIE LOUISE DeMAIO

LISA GOULD

WILLIAM LOVELY III

JAMES H. MAHER

SHEILA JANE McGRATH

JOSEPH M. MECCA

AMY E. ROBERTSON

MARY VINING

MUSICIANS

JAMES ASCOLI Piano

ANDY MANION Guitar

VINCENT ZANDRI Drums

GREG COUGHLIN Bass

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Tom Hardie, Graffiti Master

Special thanks to Rabbi Leslie Y. Gutterman

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

PROLOGUE	Company
PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD	
	William Lovely and Company
SAVE THE PEOPLE	James Colvin and Company
DAY BY DAY	Lisa Gould and Company
LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL	Mary Vining
BLESS THE LORD	Amy Robertson and Company
ALL FOR THE BEST...	James Colvin and William Lovely
ALL GOOD GIFTS	James Maher and Company
LIGHT OF THE WORLD	Company

INTERMISSION

ACT II

LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL (reprise)	Band
TURN BACK O MAN.....	Marie DeMaio and Company
ALAS FOR YOU	James Colvin
BY MY SIDE*	Sheila McGrath and Mary Vining
WE BESEECH THEE	Ted Deasy and Company
DAY BY DAY (reprise)	Company
ON THE WILLOWS	William Lovely
FINALE	James Colvin and Company

*Lyrics by Jay Hamburger — Music by Peggy Gordon

PROGRAM NOTES

Smoking is not permitted in the Blackfriars Theatre.

The use of cameras during the performance is prohibited.

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list,
please fill out an address card in the lobby.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager Mia Anastasio
Assistant Stage Managers Marianne Lamy, Janine Patnaude
Technical Director Stan Spilecki
Assistant Scenic Designer Steve Dias
Assistant Costume Designer Elizabeth Arendt
Costume Shop Supervisor Mary Tramonti
Costume Shop Crew Elizabeth Arendt
Peter DeNegre, Pamela Pratt, Clelia Smalley
Costume Running Crew Elizabeth Arendt, Margie Bower
Lola Brito, Peter DeNegre, Susan Dewhirst
Rosemary Farrell, Theresa Finegan, Charlotte Leucke
Pamela Locke, Kelly Malone, Kathleen O'Brien
Pam Pearson, Pamela Pratt, Casey Schneiders
Clelia Smalley, Kathleen Smith, Mary Tramonti
Graffiti Artists Ted Deasy, Steve Dias
Electricians James Colvin
Stan Spilecki, Richard Greene
Properties Mia Anastasio, Janine Patnaude
Scene Shop Crew Steve Dias
Vincent Lupino, Ted Deasy, Terri Finegan
James Colvin, John Brewer, Janine Patnaude
Kristen Hallett, Patty Tomei, Mary Jane Brennan
Publicity Alicia Roy, Stacy Vaughn, James Maher
Kelly Sullivan, Mark Enright, Lori Kiley, Amy Robertson
Box Office Manager Alicia Roy
Box Office Assistants Kathy McAreavey
David Llewellyn, Mark Enright
House Managers Nancy Shaughnessy, Pamela Pratt
Ushers Providence College Friars Club
Office Assistants Christine Lagonigro, Lisa Gould
Photography Randall Photography
Theatre Program Secretary Elaine Pontarelli

Blackfriars Theatre Coming Events

AFFETTI MUSICALI

A Baroque Quartet — Wednesday, November 14 — 8:00 PM

THE WILLIAM ROBINSON LAW AND EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Keynote Speaker: Fr. Robert Drinan, S.J.

Thursday, November 15 — 2:00 PM

DANCEWORKS

A Modern Dance Performance—Wednesday, November 28—8:00 PM

TRINITY REP CONSERVATORY

production of

WAITING FOR GODOT

Directed by Larry Arrick — Thursday, November 29 — 8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Providence College Wind Ensemble and Chorus

Sunday, December 2 — 7:30 PM

PROVIDENCE ART THEATRE COMPANY

production of

LITTLE VICTORIES

a play by Lavonne Mueller— Friday, December 7 — 8:00 PM

In The Theatre Lab

Siena Hall Room #212

CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRESENTATION

TALES OF THE WINDSHIP by Mary Koisch

Directed by Mark Enright — Friday, November 30, — 10:00 AM

Saturday, December 1 — 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

STUDENT DIRECTING PROJECTS

KRAPPS LAST TAPE by Samuel Beckett

Directed by John Brewer — December 10 — 4:30 PM

THE BEAR by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Joseph Mecca — December 11 — 4:30 PM

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VANISHING BREED — THE AMERICAN
UPPER MIDDLE CLASS

the
**dining
room**

BY A. R. GURNEY

FEBRUARY 1-3 & 8-10

Michael Grando

MIME

sunday
MARCH 3 • 8pm

**ROSE
WEAVER**

Rose Weaver's Honeysuckle Times
An Evening of Jazz &
Great American Show Tunes
Friday, March 15 at 8 pm

Antigone
by Sophocles

The Moving and Dramatic
Legend of One of the
Greatest Greek Heroines
Who Stood for the
Individual Conscience
Against the Evils of
Civil Authority

APRIL 19-21 & 26-28

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The Dining RoomDate.....	Tkts @ \$4 ea.....
Michael Grando	3/3/85	Tkts @ \$5 ea.....
Rose Weaver	3/15/85	Tkts @ \$5 ea.....
AntigoneDate.....	Tkts @ \$4 ea.....
TOTAL	