Conceived and Originally Directed by JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK
Music and New Lyrics by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by
EDGAR LANSBURY/STUART DUNCAN/JOSEPH BERUH

Friday & Saturday, October 7 & 8 and 14 & 15, 1994
8:00 p.m. • Fine Arts Theatre
Jefferson College Speech & Theater
Departmental Philosophy

The Speech & Theater department at Jefferson College emphasizes involvement of students regardless of major or area of interest. Students are given opportunities in acting or technical theater, such as set construction and design, lighting, sound, costuming and make-up.

The department encourages all students, at any talent and experience level, to participate in productions and related classes. An effort is always made to provide each student with the opportunity to play a variety of leading and supporting roles. If students aren’t cast in a particular production, they are still encouraged to participate in the production in a technical capacity, offering them a chance to experience firsthand the collaborative nature of the theater event.

It is the policy of Jefferson College that no person shall, on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion or sex, be subject to discrimination in employment or in admission to any educational program or activity of the College.

Please note: If accommodations for a disability are needed, please contact Bryan Herrick at 789-3000, 789-3951, or 492-3000, ext. 169.
Jefferson College Presents

GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed by JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK
Music and New Lyrics by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by
EDGAR LANSBURY/STUART DUNCAN/JOSEPH BERUH

Godspell is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, 545 Eighth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018.

About the Play...

Godspell, as conceived by John-Michael Tebelak, is a jubilant celebration of the Gospel as told by St. Matthew. Its conception was unusual... Tebelak had been working on his masters thesis for the Carnegie Tech School of Drama, but was becoming disenchanted with it and took a break. He attended an Easter vigil service at an Anglican cathedral in hopes of being uplifted. Instead, he found a congregation who were bored by clergymen who were hungry to get finished. He went home and wrote nonstop until Godspell was completed. The play was his attempt to create the religious experience he expected, but missed at the Easter vigil—an attempt to "weave God's spell over the audience."

Godspell was dominated by amateurs from the beginning which makes its success surprisingly unprecedented. The cast were his schoolmates who put old Episcopal hymns to original music. The show played at Cafe La Mama, an experimental theatre in New York, in this form. Later that year, 1971, Stephen Schwartz, another classmate, was called in to write a score. He finished it in five weeks and Godspell opened at the Cherry Lane Theatre Off-Broadway on May 17, 1971—just a year after Tebelak attended the Easter vigil.

The prologue of the play make it clear that Godspell is about the experience of conversion, and how conversion affects those who experience it. The characters are drawn with more anonymity than other character of musical theatre—emphasizing the fact that anyone could have these experiences. Each character has a solo which is his/her response to the conversion and the audience identifies the cast by song rather than by name.

Harvey Cox, in his 1969 essay called the Feast of Fools, points out that there are many ways in which play and prayer are similar. He identifies four different types of prayers: supplication, intercession, thanksgiving and petition and says that each can be understood as a form of play. Each type is represented in one or more songs in Godspell: supplication, Day by Day; Intercession, Save the People; thanksgiving, Bless the Lord and All Good Gifts; and petition, We Beseech Thee.

Although most view Godspell as a religious experience, Stephen Schwartz, the composer, never viewed it as a Christian play. He saw rather the idea of community and the need for people to understand and support each other which transcends any specific religion. Even so, the need to understand each other demands some type of conversion and the dramatization of that conversion is what makes the play successful.

Source: The Broadway Musical
The Cast
In Alphabetical Order

Trudy Bequette
Jason Christ
Michael Corley
Dean Leftridge
Stacey Garcia
Erinn Gavaghan
Dawn Leslie Lenz
Jason Pierce
Kristen Schumacher
Cat van Besoyen

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

Directors

Director ....................... Jane Sullivan
Musical Director .................. Paul Westcott
Choreographer .................. Sharon McGuire
Technical Director ............. Wes Robertson

Musicians

Keyboards ..................... Paul Westcott
Guitar .......................... Shane Maue
Bass ............................. Charles Fowler
Drums ........................... Paul Ayers

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GODSPELL

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Cast Changes

On the Willows .............. Diana DeCloe, Barb Dohack, Lou Hunter & Heather Martin

Technical Crew

Light Control ......................... Darold Murry, Tom Schuessler, Wes Robertson
Follow Spots ................................ Dawn Renee Fallert, Chad Beene
Sound .................................................. Bradley Dele, Pamla Cowan
Set Construction .................. Bradley Dele, Darold Murry, Tom Schuessler,
                               Dawn Renee Fallert, Chad Beene, Pamla Cowan,
                               Cindy Jones, Wes Robertson
Vocal Coach ........................................ Richard Bell
Graphic/Program ................... Joyce Lehnoff, Donna Wilhite
Costumes ................................................... The Cast
Stage Manager .............................. Sherry Freund
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Special Thanks to:

The Brooks
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Julia Hampton
Trish Loomis
Sharon McGuire
Dora Mitchell
Ruth Quinn
Nicola Robertson
Tom Schuessler
Vickie Shephard
St. Anthony's, High Ridge
Lori Wolfmeyer
Cindy Missey
Kelly Berger

And...

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**Hey, Hey, the Blues Are All Right!**, Sat., Oct. 22, 8 p.m., FA Theatre, Admission: Adults $5, Students $4

**Jefferson County Artists' Exhibit**, November 2–23, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Viking Room Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Free Admission

**Jefferson College Singers' Concert**, Tues., Nov. 8, 8 p.m., FA Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1

**Children's Play Production: Wind of a Thousand Tales**, November 16–19, 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon, FA Theatre, Admission: $2

**Jazz Combos Concert**, Sun., Nov. 20, 8 p.m., FA Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1

**Jazz Concert Combo Big Band Concert**, Tues., Nov. 22, 8 p.m., FA Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1

**Jefferson College Student Art Exhibit**, November 29–December 13, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Free Admission

**Madrigal Christmas Dinner Show**, Thurs.—Sat., Dec. 1–3, 8 p.m., Brophy's Place, Admission to be determined at a later date

**Jefferson College Band Concert**, Mon., Dec. 5, 8 p.m., FA Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1

**Music Major Recitals**, Tues. & Wed., Dec. 6 & 7, 7 p.m., FA Theatre, Free Admission

**Community Chorale: The Messiah**, Sun., Dec. 11, 2 p.m., FA Theatre, Free Admission

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This event is made possible by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council and the Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis

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