

AUDITIONS

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
Based on The Gospel According to St. Matthew

A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

Godspell opened off-Broadway on May 17, 1971, and has played in various touring companies and revivals since, including the 2011-2012 Broadway revival, the version of the show we will be producing. The musical is based on the Gospels in the Christian Bible, primarily the book of Matthew. It tells the story of Jesus mostly through parables interspersed with modern music and lyrics primarily taken from traditional hymns. The first act is driven by Jesus' parables and songs from multiple cast members, as the eclectic group following Jesus begins to form a cohesive community of love, based around Jesus' teachings. Act two follows the story of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion, ending with his followers going out into the world to continue his' message of love and justice.

Auditions will be held at Liberty Center Association for the Arts in Sedalia, MO, on February 14th, and 15th with callbacks on Feb 16th if required. Two 90 min sessions are available on each day for 10 people at each session. Auditioners shall sign up for one session and should plan to stay the entire time. Auditioners should come prepared with two contracting musical selections of 30-45 seconds each, bring accompaniment on a mobile device. Be prepared for a dance/movement audition and cold readings.

Godspell features 10 performers of all ethnicities, genders, beliefs, identities, ages, and abilities. Performers are required to be 16 years or older. Any auditioners under the age of 18 will be required to have a release signed by a responsible adult.

This production will rehearse weekday evenings from February 19th through April 24th from 6:15 – 9:15 based on actor availability. Tech rehearsal shall be Sunday April 21st. Performances will be April 25th-28th, and May 2nd-5th. Strike will take place immediately after the production on May 5th and all production members are required to participate.

Godspell requires a diverse ensemble of 10 actors. All roles are featured with strong vocals and movement ability. In the script, other than the characters of Jesus and John the Baptist/Judas, the characters are called by the first names of the original cast members. In this production all characters other than Jesus and John/Judas will be called by the cast members actual name.

While the original cast was broken down into 5 male and 5 female actors, the production will be open to casting differently than those gendered roles. The descriptions below provide an idea of the differences between the personalities and arcs of each character, much of each character's personality is developed by the actor and director and are based around the song each character sings.

All roles available, open to any age, ethnicity, or gender

Character Breakdown:

Anna Maria (Alto): A bit of a tomboy, but basically open and sweet. Perhaps the youngest of the group. She is the first of the group to commit to following Jesus in the song "Day by Day."

Celisse (Mezzo-Soprano): The female equivalent of the class clown. Goofy and a cut-up. In the 2012 Broadway revival, she played several instruments, including conga, ukulele and guitar. She sings "Learn Your Lessons Well."

George (Tenor): The comedian, the class clown. The guy who can do a hundred voices and imitations. He sings "Light of the World."

Jesus (Tenor): Must be the most charismatic individual in the cast. High energy, charming, funny, gentle but with strength. He is the sort of person others instinctively follow.

John the Baptist/Judas (Baritone): He has attributes of both Biblical figures: He is both Jesus' lieutenant and most ardent disciple and the doubter who begins to question and rebel. Like Jesus, he is also charismatic, but in more of an overt revolutionary way. Usually played by someone handsome and masculine, with an undertone of sexuality. He is the most "serious" and intellectual of the group, though as with all the actors, he must still possess a good sense of physical comedy. He sings "Prepare Ye," "All For the Best," and "On the Willows."

Lindsay (Soprano): The confident one, the show-off. The first one to volunteer, sometimes she jumps in before she really understands what's going on. She sings "Bless the Lord."

Morgan (Alto): Sassy and slightly cynical, the most urban of the group. Also the “sexy” one, but her sexiness contains a large element of put-on, in the manner of Mae West or Madonna. She sings “Turn Back, O Man.”

Nick (Tenor): Very high energy. Impish and playful. In the original, he played several musical instruments, including concertina, recorder and guitar. He sings “We Beseech Thee.”

Telly (Tenor): Not the brightest in the bunch, he is a little slow on the uptake. But there is a great sweetness and innocence about him. Because he sings “All Good Gifts” he must be a very good singer.

Uzo (Alto): The shy one. Sometimes a little slow to get things, but when she does, she commits all the way. Has an “earth mother” kind of warmth to her. She sings “By My Side.”

Ensemble roles may be added at director’s discretion.