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**The mission of the Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts
is to provide professional instruction and a performance-based
resource for young people in the greater Rogue Valley.**

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Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts

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The Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts
presents



A Musical Based upon the Gospel According to St. Matthew

Conceived by John-Michael Tebelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Performed with the Permission of Theatre Maximus

Directed and Choreographed by Wendy Spurgeon-Couraud
Musical Direction by Marcia Katzmar

Godspell

A Musical Based upon the Gospel

According to St. Matthew

Cast

Erik Jansen Jesus
Russell Wonsely Judas/Ensemble
Zach Tomlinson John the Baptist/Ensemble

Ensemble

Manaema Batte
Hillary Burrell
Brianna Houck
Jeni Jansen
Gracie Katzmar
Cailey McCandless
Meghan Muriset
Aubree Rasmussen
Mara Bauermeister
Danielle Gaumont
Tessa Houck
Jennifer Jensen
Cyrus Khan-Hartwell
Eli Morland
Leah Pfenning
Alexandra Schireman

Production Team

Producer Jeff Tabler
Director/Choreographer Wendy Spurgeon-Couraud
Musical Director Marcia Katzmar
Set Designer/Technical Director Charles Spurgeon-Couraud
Stage Manager Amber Lhamo
Rehearsal Pianist Aaron Blenkush

Band

Aaron Blenkush piano
Hiro Yajima guitar
Will Lidgate bass
Matt Fleming percussion

Act I: Formation of a Community

Overture

“Prologue” Tessa, Jeni, Hillary, Danielle, Aubree, Russell, Gracie, Mara, and Ensemble
“Tower of Babbie” Ensemble
“Prepare Ye” Zach and Ensemble
“Save the People” Erik and Ensemble
“Day by Day” Cailey and Ensemble
“Learn Your Lessons Well” Brianna
“Bless the Lord” Alexandra and Ensemble
“All for the Best” Erik, Russell, and Ensemble
“All Good Gifts” Cyrus and Ensemble
“Light of the World” Erik, Eli, Gracie, Hillary, Danielle, Leah, and Ensemble

Intermission

Act II: The Beginning and the Challenges

Entre’acte

“Turn Back, O Man” Meghan and Ensemble
“Alas for You” Erik
“By My Side” Manaema, Brianna, Erik, and Ensemble
“We Beseech Thee” Zach and Ensemble
“Day by Day” (reprise) Ensemble
“On the Willows” Marcia and Band
“Finale” Erik, Jennifer, and Ensemble
“Day by Day” (bows) Ensemble
“Beautiful City” (encore) Erik, Eli, Russell, Mara, and Ensemble

See the cast of *Godspell* open for

Stephen Schwartz & Friends at the Craterian Ginger
Rogers Theater on February 22.

Director's Notes

Wow! What an amazing cast of young performers! Marcia and I were blown away by the talents of all who auditioned for this show, which, incidentally, is OCPA's very first winter production. Our many thanks to Jeff Tabler, the OCPA Board of Directors, the parents, volunteers, and you—our audience—who make this production possible. I must acknowledge and praise our technical director, Charles Spurgeon-Couraud, for literally *everything*. The design and construction of all the technical elements, and his insight, creativity, and resourcefulness have taken our production to an exciting new level. These elements actually form the history in which our story is set.

And speaking of history. I think it fair to say that *Godspell* in no way attempts to portray the life of the historical Jesus, but rather focuses on Jesus' teachings, which we hope to present in a fresh, entertaining, and memorable way. *Godspell* is not set in the time of Jesus, nor is it necessarily set in the early 1970s, when the play was first produced. It is one of those rare gems of theatre that begs each director reinterpret it and send it out into the world, reverberating through audiences on new levels of understanding.

Imagine our world, our country, in the not too distant future. Imagine a war on our soil. Imagine the majority of our children and teachers fighting in this war, leaving our schools abandoned, save the few children who have not yet been forced to choose sides and who use this school's theatre as a shelter from the bombs that fall during the day while their parents are out fighting.

Now enter our player, we'll call him Erik. He receives a message: the Director of the Universe has cast him in the role of Jesus. He must impart the teachings of love and peace and justice to these poor souls ravaged by harshness of their world. They must form a community. With their tremendous energy united and focused, of what is this group capable? *Can you imagine?*

—Wendy Spurgeon-Couraud

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THE PRINCE OF EGYPT ★
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An Oregon exclusive...
an unforgettable evening!

Oscar and Grammy winning composer Stephen Schwartz, Tony winner Debbie Gravitte (currently in *Chicago* on Broadway) and cabaret sensation Scott Coulter perform hit songs from Broadway and Hollywood.

From *Godspell* ("Day by Day") to *Pocahontas* ("Colors of the Wind") and his newest Broadway blockbuster *Wicked* ("Defying Gravity"), Stephen

Schwartz is the genius creator of a body of work that sizzles on stage and dazzles on screen.

Don't miss a rare opportunity to see these stars shine!

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Live at the Craterian
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