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The Hesston College Theatre and Music Departments Present

GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed by John-Michael Tebelak, Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz,
Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

Performances in the Studio Theater in Northlawn 109 on the
Hesston College Campus

Hesston
College

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February 19, 20, 21 @ 7:30 p.m.
February 26, 27 @ 7:30 p.m., February 28 @ 8:30 p.m.

Godspell

An Allegorical Musical Based on the Book of Matthew
Conceived and Originally Directed by John-Michael Tebelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

Director	Megan Tyner
Music Director	Matthew Schloneger
Assistant Music Director	Ken Rodgers
Technical Director	Doug Peters
Choreography	Rachel Hebison
Ensemble	Peter Garry Matt Lehman Ana Loucks John Murray Louisa Nickel Erin Peters Kaitlin Schmucker Nathan Snyder Hanna Titus Maggie Tyner Tessa Walters Lauren Zehr
John the Baptist/Judas	Carson Stutzman
Jesus	Mitch Stutzman
Off Stage Quartet, On the Willows	Chris Moyer Jonathan Hershberger Peter Wintermote Logan Miller

There will be a 10 minute intermission between Act I and Act II.

For the safety and consideration of our cast and audience, photographic and recording devices are strictly prohibited. Turn off all cell phones and pagers. We encourage recycling. If you do not wish to keep your program, please place it

in the box provided outside of the theater.

Musicians

Piano/Keyboard	Ken Rodgers
Guitar	Logan Miller
Percussion	Ren Flickinger
Bass	Aaron Diller

Production Crew

Stage Manager	Naomi Nussbaum
Set and Lighting Designer	Doug Peters
Sound	Glanzer Pro Audio
Light Board Operator	Chris Flamion
Back Stage Crew	Peter Wintermote
Set Construction	Doug Peters
	Carson Stutzman
	Chris Flamion
	Megan Tyner
	Noami Nussbaum
Costume Design	Megan Tyner and Cast
Costume Help	Erin Peters
	Andrea Peters
	Sophia Miller
	Megan Tyner

Special Thanks

Mary Upton, Toby Tyner, Rita Peters, Elizabeth Hill, Talashia Keim-Yoder, Bill Zuercher, Phyllis Weaver, Gary Oyer, Bradley Kauffman, Nora Miller, Wendy Nugent at The Newton Kansan.

A Brief History of the Musical

John Michael Telbelak was a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University in 1970. As a requirement for his master’s thesis, he was to direct a play. Being a religious person, Tebelak was interested in producing some of the church dramas from the Middle Ages. Yet they all seemed to be too bleak and heavy. He decided to try a hand at writing his own and in one sitting read the four Gospels. Then, Tebelak, who was raised in the Episcopal Church, attended an Easter service and was dismayed at the lack of celebration or community that was offered. It was then that he decided that he would create a musical that encompassed the joy

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and togetherness that he perceived to emanate from the Gospels and the story of Jesus that he had read. And that was how "The Godspell," as it was originally called, was born.

Little known facts:

- Most of the lyrics for the songs in Godspell were taken from the *Episcopal Hymnal 1940*.
- Godspell premiered at the Studio Theater at Carnegie Mellon University in December of 1970. It played for only a few nights, but each showing saw an increase in attendance until the final show played to a standing room only crowd.
- Stephen Schwartz didn't sign on to provide the score until he saw the show in Manhattan's East Village in March 1971.
- In rehearsing Godspell, Tebelak used the Bible instead a set script. He had the actors improvise the stories and as a cast they decided what worked and what didn't. Directors Note: This is largely the format that we followed in producing this version as well.
- "By My Side" was brought into the show in 1971 when cast member Peggy Gordon played it for the cast and Tebelak.
- The conceptual idea of Godspell came from "The Feast of Fools" by Harvard Professor Harvey Cox who described the idea of Christ as a Clown, or one who brings joy to others.
- In 1974, Godspell became the first show to break the color barrier in South Africa. As a requirement for receiving performance rights, Tebelak and Schwartz required an integrated cast.