

North Central University School of Music and Theatre
presents

GODSPELL



Conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

March 29-April 1, 2021
North Central University, Lindquist Sanctuary
Minneapolis, Minnesota

A Note from the Director

We are very excited to have the opportunity to perform the musical **Godspell** this spring at NCU! **Godspell** is a unique musical that invites creative approaches in regard to setting and presentation. We have chosen to set our production in the city at the site of a burned-down building. The setting elicits a variety of responses from those who have come to see what has happened. Those who are there, on this day, come from a variety of backgrounds and personal stories. Yet, they find themselves at the same juncture in life, a place of ashes and char. What happens next will impact their outlook, their lives, and their relationships forever!

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “the English word ‘gospel’ is derived from the Anglo-Saxon ‘godspell’ (‘good story’).” The question is, what difference can this “good story” make in the lives of people who find themselves at a place of ashes? That is what we set out to explore.

It has been a joy and a privilege to work with the amazing cast and crew of **Godspell!** They have worked very hard on this “deceptively difficult” production. I want to give special thanks to our choreographer, Jayna DeMell who put so much time and love into the movement, to Larry Bach and Cassie Bradshaw who have worked so hard to perfect the vocals, to Dan Musselman for putting together such an excellent team on the instruments, to Reagan Drury, Al Gill, and Taylor Sims for their many hours of volunteer work on the production team, to Tricia Hanson for laying so many beautifully painted bricks, and to Peggy Matthews for her help making effective breakaway costumes!! These are the people who have made **Godspell** a success!

We are extremely happy and excited that you have come to see **Godspell!** We hope that you will enjoy this simple, playful “good story” of Jesus!

Wayne Matthews

Director

Cast (In Alphabetical Order)

Lila	Maura Duggins
Gaza	Anna Gill
Anastasia.....	Sarah Graham
Elizabeth	Sydney Heitzman
Catherine	Lexi Hunter
Jesus	Sam Joson
Judas.....	Ryan Knight
John the Baptist	Tyler Leighton
Cali	Abigail Norman
Maya.....	Hadley Schlafman
William	Nathan Tucker
Jenny.....	Marissa Weaver

Musical Numbers

Act I

Prologue	Ensemble
Tower of Babble	Ensemble
Prepare Ye	John the Baptist
Save the People	Jesus
Day by Day	Jenny
Learn Your Lessons Well	Anastasia
All for the Best.....	Jesus, Judas
Bless the Lord	Maya
All Good Gifts	Catherine
Light of the World	Gaza

Act II

Turn Back, O Man.....	Lila
Alas for You	Jesus
By My Side	Elizabeth
We Beseech Thee.....	Maya
Beautiful City	Jesus
On the Willows	Judas
Finale	Jesus, Cali, Ensemble

Cast Bios (In Alphabetical Order)

Maura Duggins (Lila) is a junior majoring in Elementary Education. This musical is her theatrical debut. After college, Maura’s goal is to become an elementary teacher and eventually teach English overseas.

Anna (Al) Gill (Gaza) is a senior majoring in Theatre. Past credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Antigone*, and *Into the Woods*. After college, Al’s goal is to go to seminary and obtain a Master’s degree in Dramatic Writing.

Sarah Graham (Anastasia) is a freshman majoring in K-12 Vocal Music. Past credits include *High School Musical*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *The Music Man Jr.*, *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown Jr.*, and *Into the Woods Jr.* After college, Sarah’s goal is to become a vocal director and teacher, hopefully in Chicago to be close to theatre.

Sydney Heitzman (Elizabeth) is a freshman majoring in Vocal Music Education. Past credits include *Almost, Maine*, *Rock of Ages*, *Sister Act*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *All Shook Up*, *Vanya and Sonya* and *Masha and Spike*, *Robin Hood*, and *Blood Brothers*. After college, Sydney’s goal is to teach high school choir.

Alexis Hunter (Catherine) is a sophomore majoring in American Sign Language Interpreting. Past credits include the *Phantom of the Opera*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Sound of Music*, *Footloose*, and *Jonah at Sight and Sound Theatres*. After college, Alexis’ goal is to become an American Sign Language interpreter while also pursuing singing professionally.

Samuel Joson (Jesus) is a North Central University graduate (2020) who majored in Music. Past credits include *Seussical* (Horton), *The Secret Garden* (Dickon), and *Into the Woods* (Jack). Since graduating, Samuel has been serving as the worship director at Woodcrest Church in Eagan.

Ryan Knight (Judas) is a sophomore majoring in Music Performance. This musical is his theatrical debut. After college, Ryan's goal is to become a songwriter and/or to record music for himself and others.

Tyler Leighton (John the Baptist) is a sophomore majoring in Youth, Family and Children's Ministries. Past credits include *Hello Dolly*, *Oklahoma*, and *Into The Woods*. After college, Tyler plans to get credentialed as a minister and become a youth pastor at an Assemblies of God church.

Abigail Norman (Cali) is a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education with a Math endorsement. Past credits include *Antigone* and *Into the Woods*. After college, Abigail's goal is to become a middle school teacher and to remain involved in theatre in some way.

Hadley Schlafman (Maya) is a senior, majoring in Worship Leading. Her past credits include *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *Anne of Green Gables*, and *My Fair Lady*. Hadley's goal is to become a credentialed AG worship pastor and to help lead and teach growing worshipers.

Nathan Tucker (William) is a freshman majoring in American Sign Language Interpreting. This musical is his theatrical debut. After college, Nathan's goal is to become an American Sign Language Interpreter and a pastor at a Deaf church or be an organizer within Deaf ministry.

Marissa Weaver (Jenny) is a senior majoring in Music Education. This musical is her theatrical debut. After college, Marissa's goal is to teach middle school choir.

Who are the Characters

Lila, girl on the streets. She has suffered abuse in the past. Today she does what she has to do to survive.

Gaza, artist who lives nearby. She has been reminded all of her life that artists don't make any money and that she will never amount to anything.

Anastasia, homeless person. She was a professional in what seems like in another life. There have been a lot of mistakes and bad choices. She lives with the regret of those lost opportunities.

Elizabeth, recently lost a child. The pain is unbearable and brings waves of grief, anger, numbness, deep sadness, and hopelessness.

Catherine, drug user that no one would ever suspect. She somehow developed a habit that is taking control. She is starting to find herself with people and in places she shouldn't be.

Jesus is hope! He shows up at the burned-down places of our lives!

Judas, a skater. He comes from a dysfunctional family. They don't understand nor do they take the time to understand who he is. Alienated from family, he is a loner with a skateboard as a friend.

John the Baptist, a fireman. In his youth, he experienced a fire where a family member died. He believes that if he would have known what to do, he could have saved them. Since that time he has devoted himself to fighting fires.

Cali, reporter who has a heart full of broken dreams. She thought she might have been a foreign correspondent by now, but instead finds herself working insignificant stories like burned-out old buildings.

Maya, activist. She is disillusioned by the system and believes that she has been lied to and ripped off by government and the powers that be. She wants to stand up for something but feels powerless and is not sure that her voice even matters.

William, businessman who has just been let go from his job. This is not the first time this has happened. He is living in an identity of failure and can't see any way to escape.

Jenny, just experienced the end of a long-term relationship she hoped would be lifelong. Her identity, dreams, and future plans have all collapsed. She finds herself lost, alone, and empty.

Production Team

Director	Wayne Matthews
Music Director	Larry Bach
Band Director	Dan Musselman
Assistant Music Director	Cassie Bradshaw
Choreographer	Jayna DeMell
Dance Captain.....	Abigail Norman
Stage Manager	Reagan Drury
Set Designer	Anna (Al) Gill
Costume Designer.....	Taylor Sims
Light & Sound Designer	Parker Wruck
Light Board Operator	Jared LoVan
Sound Board Operator	Chris Joseph
Video and Sound Cues.....	Parker Wruck
Video Switching.....	Allison Carver

Musicians

Keyboard	Dan Musselman
Guitar.....	Toni Li
Bass.....	Justin Rieken
Drums	Reid Kennedy

A Note from the College of Fine Arts

Theatre, at its core, is the art of telling people’s stories. As an educational program, the Theatre Department at North Central University seeks to equip our students with the ability to ask questions about faith and life, and to grapple with those stories that are different than our own. As a result, many characters in our productions do not reflect people who follow Christ.

We do not always agree with these characters, but we wish to represent them honestly and with excellence. And it is in examining these characters—their histories, their convictions, their choices, and their responses to the world—that our students are challenged to develop discernment as artists who do follow Christ in a world that does not.



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GODSPELL is presented through special arrangement
with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
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