



Angela Briley Dan Ribbits Natalie Wilson



Tim Clarke Michael Stewart Bailey Whitnell



Matt Waldie Christina Coe Patrick O'Brien



Richard Herring Sarah Grant Sarah Waldie



Sophie Morton Marcin Raczek Trevor Drury



Kath Adkins Rachel Clapp George Jordan

Credits

WAOS would like to thank the many people who have given their time and support to ensure the success of this production, especially:

Robert Hayward of Texo Construction 01376 533966 for the provision and erection of stage set scaffolding

Emily Lyndon for publicity photographs

Tawny Press for all printing.

Production Team

- Director - Angela Briley
- Musical Director - Dan Ribbits
- Choreographer - Natalie Wilson
- Assistant Accompanist - Darrel Drake
- Director's Assistant - Bailey Whitnell
- Stage Manager - Keith Radley
- Assisted by - Graham Green,
- Ben Hermon
- Sound - Paul Galley
- Lighting - Nigel Northfield
- Front of House Manager - Patsy Page
- Bar Manager - Ron Howe
- Props Manager - Janice Hawkes
- Wardrobe Mistresses - Sara Lyndon,
- Debbie Stirling
- Make-up - Marea Irving,
- Sophie Brown
- Prompt - Nick Clough,
- Peter Fishwick
- Marketing/Box Office Manager - Tim Sheppard
- Foyer/Publicity Display - Cynthia Stead,
- Janice Hawkes
- Programme and Ad. Boards - Stewart Adkins
- Production Manager - Janet Hawkes
- Business Manager - Trevor Drury

Dates for Your Diary

Witham Drama Club presents — Terra Nova — a story of Scott's epic voyage to the South Pole. November 16–19, 2011

WOW presents — Footloose — this is a fabulous all singing, all dancing show. February 13–18, 2012

WAOS presents — Guys & Dolls — the ever popular musical fable of Broadway based on Damon Runyon characters and Frank Loesser music. April 23– 28, 2012.

WITHAM AMATEUR
OPERATIC SOCIETY

Presents

GODSPELL



Witham Public Hall

Monday 24th to Saturday 29th October 2011

BY ARRANGMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH

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

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
was inaugurated in 1921, is a registered charity
(No. 265029) and is affiliated to the
National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA)

The 'Tower of Babble' (Prologue)

Socrates 469-399 BC

Athenian philosopher - suggested the good person never knowingly does wrong.

St Thomas Aquinas 1226 - 1274

Roman Catholic philosopher saint - argued that reason and faith are compatible.

Martin Luther 1583 - 1546

German monk - founded Protestantism with his strong opposition to papal authority.

Leonardo da Vinci 1452 - 1519

'Renaissance man' - all-rounder famed for scientific investigation as well as arts.

Edward Gibbon 1737 - 1794

British historian - converted to Roman Catholicism and back to Protestantism.

Friedrich Nietzsche 1844 - 1900

German philosopher - rejected Christian values and 'slave morality'.

Jean-Paul Sartre 1905 - 1980

French philosopher - rejected religion, saw man as responsible for his own actions.

Buckminster Fuller 1895 - 1983

American creator of the geodesic dome - saw everything as an evolutionary process.

President's Message

Welcome to our Autumn production of *Godspell*. The show is directed and choreographed by mother and daughter team, the award-winning, Angela Briley and Natalie Wilson. Our congratulations to you both. In charge of the music is Dan Ribbits. This is Dan's first show with us as musical director and we hope it won't be the last. We hope you all enjoy the show and thank you for your support.

Helene Jones

All About Godspell

- *Godspell's* original author was an American student, John-Michael Tebelak. Producers Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan and Joseph Beruh brought on board Tebelak's fellow student, the songwriter Stephen Schwartz, and the show opened in New York in 1971 to instant acclaim.
- The show is based on the Gospel of St Matthew, with added parables from the Gospel of St Luke. The parables are illustrated with songs and enactments by Jesus's followers, demonstrating the hope and joy he and his stories bring to their lives.
- The show's representation of parables from the Gospels of St Matthew and St Luke was influenced by a work called 'Feast of Fools'. In it, Harvard Divinity Professor Harvey Cox wrote: '*Enter Christ the Harlequin, the personification of festivity and fantasy in an age that had almost lost both*'.
- Cox pointed out how Christ had defied convention and custom, scorned the rich and influential, satirized authority and enjoyed friendships and celebrations; he had no place to lay his head and, at the end, faced betrayal by a friend, mockery from his enemies and execution as a subversive.
- Stephen Schwartz's songs incorporated elements of pop, gospel, folk, rock and vaudeville - demonstrating the versatility which later took him to international acclaim as the writer of the musical smash hit *Wicked*.
- The show begins with Jesus speaking, as God the Creator, of the "pleasant garden" he made for Mankind. There follows a short but tumultuous prologue, the '*Tower of Babble*'. Famous philosophers illustrate how easily conflict can arise in the absence of shared values and a sense of community.
- The song '*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*' ushers in a group of "Greens" protesting against the building of a new supermarket on green belt land. During the course of the show a community is formed between this varied group of people and Jesus which enables them to carry on his teachings after he is gone.
- We hope our version of *Godspell* conveys to the full the fun and festivity that the show sets alongside the enduring truths of the Gospel story.
*Come sing about love, that caused us first to be,
Come sing about love, that made the stone and tree,
Come sing about love (love), love (love),
love that draws us lovingly,
We beseech thee, hear us!*

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Prologue
Prepare Ye
Save the People
Day by Day
Learn Your Lessons Well
Bless the Lord
All for the Best
All Good Gifts
Light of the World

ACT II

Learn Your Lessons Well (Reprise)
Turn Back, O Man
Alas For You
By My Side
We Beseech Thee
Day by Day (Reprise)
On the Willows
Finale
Beautiful City

The Cast

Tim Clarke (Jesus)
Michael Stewart (Judas)
Kathryn Adkins
Rachel Clapp
Christina Coe
Trevor Drury
Sarah Grant
Richard Herring
George Jordan
Sophie Morton
Patrick O'Brien
Marcin Raczek
Matt Waldie
Sarah Waldie

The Band

Dan Ribbits—Piano
Darrel Drake—Guitar
Belinda Barnes—Bass
Tim Shelley—Drums