

NODA Review

GODSPELL

Director: Angie Briley

Musical Director: Dan Rickett

Choreographer: Natalie Wilson

A very united small company presented this modern version of "Godspell" which was much appreciated by the audience.

Written by Stephen Schwartz in just five weeks at the age of twenty three in 1970 this is a version of the gospel according to St Matthew and it is interesting that one year after it was performed "Jesus Christ Superstar" was also performed on the Broadway stage.

Many styles of staging have been used to present "Godspell" and this production was bright and relaxed.

The character of Jesus played by Tim Clarke was very laid back and modern. Tim played this part very well in all the varying styles from up tempo to very poignant numbers which he sung very well, and gave the character of Jesus a real feel of a caring forgiving man, even to Judas who betrayed him which gave real meaning to the concept of the show.

All the cast had various roles within the show, all were named characters and sung with great feeling in both joyous and thought-provoking songs in many different moods. "All Good Gifts"" We Beseech Thee" All for the Best" and many other great songs which were really presented very well from the many soloists in the company.

All were dressed in very bright hippy style flower power costumes, which with very good lighting gave the stage life and atmosphere on the one basic set with various set dressing as needed.

The Crucifixion scene always is a sensitive one to get just right in a modern setting but was played here with simplicity and gave a quietly reflective time at the end of the production which was so moving, leaving the audience totally absorbed.

Usually we come to expect this style of musical to be very loud both from the singing and sound system as it is mainly written, but very much to the credit of the Musical Director I found the light and shade musically was so very good from the band and the stand out number "On the Willows" from the band both singing and playing was beautifully presented.

Well done to Angela, Dan and Natalie for a show which was very enjoyable.

Review by Ann Platten