



Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

Tickets: thalian.org

910-251-1788

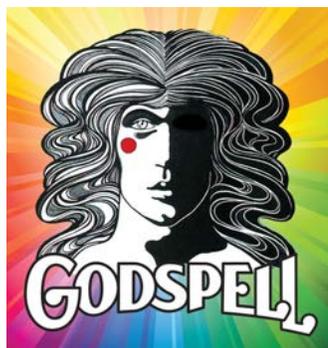
or

CAC box office 910-341-7860

Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities to help you make connections to your classroom curriculum before and after the show.

The production and accompanying activities address North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts & performances.

Look for this symbol for other curriculum connections.



GODSPELL

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

November 9-18

7:30 PM Friday - Saturday and 3:00 PM Sunday

Hannah Block Historic USO / Community Arts Center

Second Street Stage 120 South 2nd Street (Corner of Orange)

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About this Teaching Resource

This Teaching Resource is designed to help build new partnerships that employ theatre and the arts. Prepare Ye, for spirited entertainment as *Godspell* spreads the word onstage at the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center. This colorful, high energy production brings the messages of the Bible about hope, understanding and love thy neighbor to life through parables, rap and comedic sketches.

About the Musical & Its Relevance for Today

Based on the *Gospel* According to St. Matthew and drawing from various theatrical traditions, such as clowning, pantomime, charades, acrobatics and vaudeville, *Godspell*, is a groundbreaking and unique reflection on the life of Jesus, with a message of kindness, tolerance and love.

About Thalian Association Community Theatre

Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded in 1788, to provide arts education & bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina & produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall. In fact, Thalian Hall was proudly named for our organization in 1858. Our mission is to present quality live theatre that illuminates the human experience for the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County and beyond. We teach life skills through theatre education and provide an outlet for artists and technicians to develop and exercise their crafts. Established over 39 years ago Thalian Association Youth Theatre is an extension of Thalian Association Community Theatre non-profit organization & is dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. We offer Academy classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique, aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education. Thanks to generous support from the Landfall Foundation and Wilmington East Rotary we provide arts enhancement classes for the Community Boys & Girls Club, the Brigade Boys & Girls Club and the Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington with special school performances for A. H. Snipes Academy of Arts & Design, Rachel Freeman School of Engineering, Sunset Park Elementary, & The International School at Gregory. We want to turn out great theatre artists as well as great doctors, lawyers, teachers and bankers. Thalian Youth Theatre is about developing collaborative & thoughtful members of our community.

From Page to Stage

John-Michael Tebelak

John-Michael Tebelak (Book, Original Concept and Direction) originally wrote *Godspell* as his Masters Thesis project at Carnegie-Mellon in 1971. Subsequently, he directed productions of *Godspell* at La MaMa Theatre, the Cherry Lane Theatre, the Promenade Theatre, and on Broadway. He received the 1971 Drama Desk award for Most Promising Director. In 1972, Mr. Tebelak directed the play *Elizabeth I* on Broadway, and off-Broadway staged *The Glorious One* in 1975 and *Ka-Boom* in 1980. He is also co-writer of the 1973 film of *Godspell* with David Greene. He was dramaturge for the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York and staged liturgical drama there, and the church's theatre bears his name. John-Michael Tebelak died April 2, 1985 of a heart attack in New York City.

Stephen Schwartz

Stephen Schwartz (Music and New Lyrics) has also contributed music and/or lyrics to *Pippin*, *The Magic Show*, *The Baker's Wife*, *Working*, *Rags*, *Children of Eden*, *My Fairytale* and *Wicked*. He collaborated with composer Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's *Enchanted*, *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and wrote the songs for DreamWorks' *The Prince of Egypt*. He has written an opera, *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*; English texts for Bernstein's Mass; and two musicals for children, *Captain Louie* and *My Son, Pinocchio*. Schwartz has released two CDs of original songs, *Reluctant Pilgrim* and *Uncharted Territory*, and his career is the subject of the book *Defying Gravity*. He is the current president of the Dramatists Guild and has been inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame, the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Other awards include three Academy Awards, four Grammy Awards and four Drama Desk Awards. www.stephenschwartz.com.

Playwrights are people who write plays. They write lines of dialogue for the actors to speak. The dialogue gives us information about the story, the characters, and the way the characters feel about one another and their situation. The way the actors deliver (speak) their lines also tell you a lot about the character; something that makes the character convincing or believable.

Directors have the final say on all artistic aspects of a production, and are in charge of everything that happens on stage. This person must be a mixture of educator, diplomat, artist, mind reader and drill sergeant.

Actors experiment with different ways to deliver their lines before they decide which best works to both the story and shed light on the character.

Cast Of Characters and solos they sing in the in *Godspell*:

Jesus: A gentle, charismatic leader. Solos: Save the People, All for the Best (duet with Judas), Alas for You.

John the Baptist/Judas: Charismatic, slightly "dangerous" at times. Through much of the play, he's Jesus's right hand man. Solos: Prepare Ye, All for the Best (duet with Jesus).

Herb: (also known as Baggy Pants Comic). He's the funny one. He's also our "director" at the top of the show.

Lamar: Shy and sweet. Maybe a little slow on the uptake. Lets his dummy speak for him from time to time. Solos: All Good Gifts

Jeffrey: Very playful (does rope tricks or juggling).

Joanne: Confident and rather mystical. Bold and not afraid to take things on. Solos: O, Bless the Lord My Soul

Robin: A real sweetheart. Has a gentle, maternal nature.

Peggy: Great energy and enthusiasm.

Sonia: Has a playful sexuality, maybe a bit campy and vampy.

Gilmer: She's rather a tomboy. Throws many a character voice.

Listening for Lines

When you attend *Godspell*, listen for these lines; how they are delivered (sang/sung) and observe what that tells you about the different characters and how they feel.

*"Shall crime bring crime forever,
Strength aiding still the strong?
Is it thy will, o Father,
That men shall toil for wrong?"*

*"When wilt thou save the people?
Oh God of mercy, when? Not
kings and lords, but nations.
Not thrones and crowns, but
men!"*

*"Learnin' ev'ry line & ev'ry last
commandment, may not help you,
but it couldn't hurt.
First ya gotta read 'em,
then ya gotta heed 'em. Ya never know
when you're gonna need 'em"*

“Learn Your Lessons Well”

Discussion Questions:

- In *Godspell* there is a story about a man who is given more time to pay his debts but does not do the same for one who owns him. What do you think the message in this story is?
- The show's lessons are often told through metaphors, for example: “no servant can be a slave to two masters.” What do you think this phrase means?
- How can the morals of the parables used in *Godspell*, inspire people to be upstanding members of society?
- How can taking others into consideration before you make decisions positively affect you and your community?

Writing Prompts

In the musical *Godspell*, there is a story about the “Good Samaritan” who helped an injured person he saw by the side of the road. Other people passed by the man and had not helped him. The phrase “Good Samaritan” is now used to mean any person who helps out a stranger in need.

Have you ever helped out a person you didn't know? Write a story using your own experiences helping people.

The cast of *Godspell* sings about being “The Light of the World” and about the good things they are doing for their communities. In the middle of the light bulb below, write your name. Then use the light lines to write the good things that you are doing for your community. Your community can be your family, your town, your school, your class or other groups you belong to.

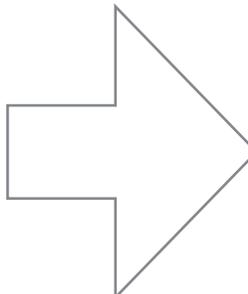


Choose a character from the play that went through a change between the beginning & end of the story.

1. In the first box, list traits the character displays at the beginning of the play.
2. In the last box, list traits the character displays towards the end of the play. Differences may be in how the character acts, how they treat others, or an emotional change.
3. Now go back to the middle, arrow box. What caused this character to change?
4. List people, events, decisions, and anything else you can think of that may have impacted this character.

Characteristics with we first meet the character

Factors that influence a change in personality



Characteristics of "changed character"

What's the difference between the phrases:

"an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"

"if someone says you on the right cheek, turn and offer him your left"?

In *Godspell*, the characters bicker tease & fight, but never **bully**. Some of the lessons you will learn include:

1. Examining your own faults before faulting others.
2. Turning the other cheek.
3. Treating others as you would like them treat you.
4. Coming together as a community.

How would you use the ideas to create anti-bullying messages in your classroom? How can you use the ideas from *Godspell* to create a caring community in your school and city?

Storytelling In *Godspell*

Questions And Discussion Prompts

Godspell is presented as a story being shared with the audience by a group of storytellers.

- What is a story? What is the function of storytelling in a society? Between generations?
- What is the first story you can ever remember hearing? Reading for yourself?

Tell Your Story

Tell your own stories. Start out by gathering in a circle and, one by one, telling one thing about yourself. Then open it up to anyone who wishes to go into further detail.

Don't know what to talk about? Brainstorm on these ideas:

- Talk about your family. Describe your relationship with your parents or guardians, and your siblings. How many brothers and sisters do you have? Are you an only child? Relate one event that exemplifies your family life.
- What's your favorite subject in school? Least favorite? Why?
- Who are some of your heroes? Who is someone you admire, and why?
- What are your dreams for the future? Where you think you will be in the next 10 years?

Tape record the stories. Notice what you have in common with your peers.



N.C. Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy R.L.1.2: Retell stories, including key details, & demonstrate understanding of their central message and lesson. **SL.2:** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. **L.1.4a:** Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. **North Carolina Essential Standards, Information and Technology Standards 2.TT.1.1:** Use a variety of technology tools to gather data & information.

Production Elements In *Godspell*

Props are objects which are used in performance. Usually, they are things which are held or handled by actors. What are some of the props used in *Godspell*?

- How are the props treated? Are they tossed around or held with respect?
- Are objects ever given a different use? For example, is a shoe given a more significant purpose?
- How do the props draw you into the world of the musical? Are they ever distracting?
- Do the objects onstage ever seem to have more power than they would in every day existence? Do they ever seem magical?

Research the origins of the word, "props".

- Design your own sets and costumes for *Godspell*. Explain the reasons for your choices.
- Draw costumes for characters that portray their individual personalities.
- Be sure to include shoes for each of them.
- How can you differentiate Jesus and Judas from the rest of the characters?

Contest!

By My Side

Based on the themes of *Godspell*, create an art piece that conveys your message & how it makes you feel. (Ideas: draw, paint, write a poem or a song, choreograph a dance with props). Email submissions to: chandler.davis@thalian.org
Deadline for entry is Tuesday October 23rd. All entries must include: Student's name, age, parent's names, name of school, grade and teacher's name.

**Enter your masterpiece & you could win:
two free tickets to our special preview night of *Godspell*, 7:30 PM November 8th
and one free theatre arts class for your entire classroom!**

Youth Theatre Academy Classes

Over 39 years ago Thalian Association Community Theatre established the Youth Theatre program dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth.

We offer affordable classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique that are **aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education, N.C. Essential Standards in Theater Arts & N.C. Common Core.**

Starting as young as three years old (in TACT Tots) all the way to high school seniors, we have something for everyone! Classes are offered **downtown** at the **Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center Building & midtown** at the **First Baptist Activity Center.** 

Thalian Association Youth Theatre Academy is the place to be if you want to **learn "the ropes" from local professional artists currently working in their field.**

If you are an **aspiring performer** or just want to **build confidence & make new friends**, check out thalian.org for more information on the **Youth Academy.**

Learn what it is like to be part of a show. Join the Theatre Community!

Next on stage:

Stuart Little, January 18-27, 2019

Into the Woods, March 1-10, 2019

Footloose the Musical, April 26-May 5, 2019

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center

North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts 3.A.1.2: Evaluate formal or informal theatre productions. **North Carolina Essential Standards in Visual Art: 2.V.2.3:** Create art from real & imaginary sources of inspiration. **3.V.1.2.** Understand that artists use their art to express personal ideas. **4.V.1.2.** Apply personal choices while creating art. **North Carolina Essential Standards, Information and Technology Standards 2.TT.1.1:** Use a variety of technology tools to gather data & information. **NC Essential Standards Health Education 2.MEH.1.4:** Explain the influence on self-concept on performance and vice versa.

