

GODSPELL



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

TOWER OF BABBLE	Company
PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD	Tim and Company
SAVE THE PEOPLE	Bill and Company
DAY BY DAY	Helena and Company
LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL	Pat Spencer
BLESS THE LORD	Iris and Company
ALL FOR THE BEST	Bill and Tim
ALL GOOD GIFTS	Steve and Company
LIGHT OF THE WORLD	Company

ACT II

LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL (Reprise)	Ron
TURN BACK, O MAN	Pat Grant and Company
ALAS FOR YOU	Bill
BY MY SIDE*	Gail, Helena, and Company
WE BESEECH THEE	Joe and Company
ON THE WILLOWS	Gary Aldrich and Edmond Zeller
FINALE	Company

*Lyrics by Jay Hamburger

Music by Peggy Gordon

THE BAND

Rita Croteau	Piano, Organ
John Fragomeni	Guitar
Tony Riccobono	Bass
Don Bush	Percussion

The taking of photographs is strictly forbidden.

No smoking in the theatre, please.

STAFF FOR "GODSPELL"

Producer	Carolyn A. Hauke
Assistant Producer	Paul Croteau
Director	Don Mealy
Assistant Director	Christine Searle
Publicity	Peggi Drum
Set Construction	Dave Ulrich
Lighting	Marion Foster—Marty Berman, Jane Polansky
Properties	Lynn Dennis—Joseph Fava, Gail Garrison, Rosemary Miller, Pat Harned, Lynn Harned, Wendy Harned
Costumes	Kathy Blum and The Cast—Christine Searle, Karen Koch, Leslie Misenhimer, Debbie Peterson
Sound	Specialized Audio, Inc., Doug Shepherd
Program	Joseph Fava
Ushers	Grace Atwell—Marilyn Abrams, Wendy Benjamin, Lily Binder, Jane Coffey, Chris Campbell, Jean Clarke, Carol Cornicelli, Marlene Countermine, Micky Croteau, Nancy Croteau, Paige Gauvreau, Sally Hackett, Lynn Harned, Pat Harned, Wendy Harned, Pam Lenkewich, Jean Lewis, Andrea Lupi, Rosella Lupi, Susan Lupi, Rosemary Miller, Marty Misenhimer, Sue Talarico, Mary Pacelli, Nancy Timpanaro, Connie Zeh, Leslie Zeh, Lil Zola, Dale Atwell, Todd Benjamin, Varro Clarke, David Croteau, Art Gauvreau, Ira Gilman, Joe Greene, Al Harned, Dick Lupi, Drew Mills, Joy Misenhimer, Kurt Schiffner, Gene Zola
Tickets	Della Gilman—Paige Gauvreau, Fran MacMillan, Karen Koch, Gwen Karpluk, Virginia Mills, Maribel Gray, Jean Clarke, Gioia Ottaviano
Accompanists	Rita Croteau, Metta Hooker

Dressed as a clown, Christ seems more human, reachable, vulnerable. Through him we can make tangible our doubts, our ironic hope. Only by assuming a playful attitude toward our religious tradition, can we possibly make any sense of it. Only by learning to laugh at the hopelessness around us can we touch the hem of hope. Christ the clown signifies our playful appreciation of the past and our comic refusal to accept inevitability in the future.

The thing that takes *Godspell* out of the typical Jesus-freak category is the very simplicity and childlike exuberance with which it brings the message of St. Mathew's Gospel to today's society without the distortions of wayout interpretations. It is pure in heart and therefore comes across the footlights with the pure joy and exhilaration of a fresh story, freshly told in songs, dances and comedic highlights. The overpowering grief of the Crucifixion is made doubly devastating because of the happiness and laughter which have preceded it.

In *Godspell* the message is joy and hope. The cast sings "Long Live God" and tells about the day when "man's clouded sun shall brightly rise and songs be heard instead of sighs."

It is to John-Michael Tebelak that one looks for the inventive freshness and high spirits of *Godspell*. He comments on his conceptualization of *Godspell*:

"The clown has to save the cause. He takes on himself the sins and problems of others." He continued, "A clown is the highest form of the artist—the highest form of man. He not only laughs at himself but he makes other people laugh at him. And to be able to do that is to have tolerance and love and jubilation, which is what Christ is about—tolerance, love and jubilation. *Godspell* is more theatre than religion, but theatre started in religion. Church-going today, I feel, is too formal, too restricted, too organized. I hope *Godspell* is a joyful, total theatre experience."



Coming Events . . .

It Better Be Good featuring Robert Boggs and Marilyn Abrams
Saturday, November 13, here with cabaret, \$5.00

Man of La Mancha, November 25-28, Niskayuna High, \$4.25

Promises, Promises, March 3-5, 10-12, here with party, \$5.00

Carnival!, April 14-17, Niskayuna High, \$4.25

Box Office 393-5732

Fence Courtesy of

ANVIL FENCE AND SUPPLY CO., INC.

Mr. Hummel
Port of Albany
434-1181

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

Helena Binder

Helena returned from New York, where she was attending Circle in the Square Theatre School and Workshop, to do *Godspell*. She appeared in SLOC productions of *Gypsy* as Electra and Miss Cratchitt, in *George M.* as Josie Cohan, and did the "Nothing" song from *A Chorus Line* for SLOC's 50th Anniversary Concert. Helena has performed as Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Dorine in *Tartuffe*, Aunt Martha in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Shelly in *Moonchildren* with the Union College Mountebanks. She appeared as Lady Agatha in the Schenectady Civic Playhouse production of *Lady Windemere's Fan*. Helena has done stock at Bates Summer Theatre in Lewiston, Maine, has performed in her own show at Union College Cabaret, and done other area singing engagements. Helena choreographed *Guys and Dolls* and *The Music Man* for Schalmont High School. She holds a B.A. in Arts/Drama from Union College. Helena will return to New York after *Godspell*, where she eventually hopes for a career in cartoon voicing.

William J. Cavin

Bill is making his debut with SLOC in *Godspell*. Currently majoring in Theatre at SUNYA, Bill is also studying voice with Gary Aldrich. He has appeared as Joe Hardy in *Damn Yankees*, Finch in *How To Succeed* Dirk Sneath in *Love Rides the Rails*, and Wormy in *Bernadine*. Bill has also been active in children's theatre performing with Stone Soup Players and Albany Civic Theatre. In addition to musical theatre and plays Bill has performed in recitals at SPAC, the Palace Theatre, and will be featured in an upcoming recital at the College of St. Rose. He hopes to make the theatre his profession.

Iris Fagle

Iris' past featured roles include Lucy in *Charlie Borwn*, Doris in *The Owl and the Pussycat*, Jeannie in *Hair*, and in SLOC's *Once Upon a Mattress* and the 50th Anniversary Concert. She has also appeared in *Carousel*, *Stop the World*, *Threepenny Opera*, and *American Primitive*. Iris received her undergraduate degree from State University at Oswego majoring in Speech and Theatre. She just recently completed her master's degree in Library Science from Albany State. She presently works at the Schenectady County Public Library as a children's librarian. Outside of performing, her main interests are driving a motorcycle and watching rugby games.

Joseph Fava

Joe joined SLOC in 1960 and has appeared in *The Music Man*, *She Loves Me*, *The Mikado*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy Baron*, and *Charlie Borwn*. He has directed SLOC's productions of *Annie Get Your Gun*, 1776, and *Funny Girl*, and will be directing *Carnival!* this season. Active with Civic Players, Joe has been seen as Leo in *The Little Foxes*, The Mute in *The Fantastiks*, John in *The Lion in Winter*, and Barnaby in *The Matchmaker*. He has directed *Plaza Suite*, *Breath of Spring*, and *You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running*. He will be directing *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* this season. Joe also appeared as a Gangster in Albany Civic's production of *Kiss Me Kate*.

Gail Garrison

Gail appeared in SLOC's *Oliver*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and the 50th Anniversary Concert. She was rehearsal secretary for 1776 and *Funny Girl*. Gail also worked on props and costumes for *Godspell*. Elsewhere, she has been in *Pajama Game*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Guys and Dolls*. She holds an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education and is employed at WIC Industries. Gail is presently studying voice with Gary Aldrich.

Patricia Grant

Pat was seen as Emma the maid in *Funny Girl*, Lady Larkin in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and in SLOC's 50th Anniversary Concert. She appeared as Philia in Theatrical Services Production of *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*. Pat is director of the Folk Music Choir at St. Luke's Church. She recently sang at the re-dedication of St. Clare's Hospital, and did a Mechanics Exchange Bank commercial. Pat studies voice with Gary Aldrich.

Ron Kidd

Ron makes his third appearance with SLOC, having played the Old Actor in *The Fantastiks* and the Wizard in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Ron teaches English and Dramatics at Linton High School, and has served as New York State Director for the International Thespian Society for the past three years. He has directed *Alice*, *Nobody*, *What Would I Do Without 'cha?*, *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*, and *Story Theatre* for Linton's Plaza Players. Ron has also appeared in *Hamlet*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Crucible*, and *Moon Magic*. In his five or ten minutes of free time, he relaxes with his hobby of Indian dance and costuming where he has become nearsighted.

Timothy D. Koch

Tim, an English teacher at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Junior High, makes his ninth appearance on the SLOC stage. He has portrayed Riff in *West Side Story*, Hero in *Forum*, Matt in *The Fantastiks*, the Jester in *Mattress*, Snoppy in *Charlie Brown*, and others. Tim has also appeared at the Civic Playhouse and in the Playwriters Theatre production of *The Awakening*. During the Winter, Tim is Varsity Wrestling Coach at Burnt Hills, and has been a deacon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the past three years. Tim is a graduate of Oneonta State and SUNY at Albany.

Steve Misenhimer

Steve is returning to Light Opera after a four year absence, having graduated from S.U.C. at Geneseo with a B.A. in Secondary English Education. Since age 12, Steve has worked on a number of SLOC productions, both backstage and on stage. First appearing as Snowboy in the 1969 production of *West Side Story*, he then worked in the choruses of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Mame*, and *Oliver*. With the Geneseo Musical Theatre Club, Steven played such roles as Stephen Hopkins in 1776, Harry in *Company*, and Ernst Ludwig in *Cabaret*. Having taught English for a semester at Guilderland High School, Steve plans to continue his education at Columbia University.

Pat Spencer

Pat appears with SLOC for the first time. She has had several leading roles in area productions including Nellie Forbush in *Colonie Triune's South Pacific*. Pat is a teacher at the Boght Hills School in Latham. She serves on the Board of Directors for *Colonie Triune Players*, and has been active in every phase of theatre from acting to directing and choreography. Pat also serves on the Governing Board at the College of St. Rose and is Vice-President of her school's PTA. In her spare time she enjoys dancing, art, and writing.

Gary Aldrich—"On the Willows"

Gary has appeared with most of the major theatres in the area in over twenty musicals, most recently as Petruccio in *Kiss Me, Kate*, George M. Cohan in *George M.*, Curley in *Oklahoma*, Paul in *Carnivall*, and Rutledge in 1776. Last season he was seen in the musical revue, *A Touch of Rodgers* at Cohoes Music Hall. A resident concert soloist, Gary has sung with the Lake George Opera, New York's Metropolitan Opera Studio, and with the area's leading choral groups. He operates his vocal studios in Schenectady, Delmar, and East Greenbush.

Edmond Zeller—"On the Willows"

Ed has been seen in SLOC's *Fiddler*, 1776, *Fiorello*, *High Button Shoes*, *Damn Yankees*, *Funny Girl*, *Ten Nights in a Barroom*, *George M.*, and as the Prince in *Once Upon a Mattress*. He was a soloist in SLOC's 50th Anniversary Concert. Ed appeared in *Where's Charlie?* and *Kiss Me Kate* at Albany Civic, and in *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* with Theatrical Services Unlimited. Ed studies voice with Gary Aldrich, and is an avid numismatist.

HERMIE'S MUSIC STORE

Musical Instruments and Instructions

Pianos and Organs

Instruments Repaired and Reconditioned

Gibson and Fender Guitars and Peavy Amplifiers

727 STATE STREET

Schenectady, N.Y. 12307

PHONE 374-7433



Schenectady Light Opera Company

presents

GODSPELL

A Musical Based Upon
The Gospel According to St. Matthew

with

Helena Binder
William J. Cavin
Iris Fagle
Joseph Fava
Gail Garrison

Patricia Grant
Ron Kidd
Timothy D. Koch
Steven Misenhimer
Pat Spencer

Directed by **DON MEALY**

Assistant Director, **CHRISTINE SEARLE**

Produced by **CAROLYN HAUKE**

Music & New Lyrics by

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Conceived and Directed by

JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK

Originally Produced on the New York Stage by
EDGAR LANSBURY / STUART DUNCAN / JOSEPH BERUH

WHO'S WHO in PRODUCTION

Don Mealy—Director/Musical Director

Don held the same position for SLOC's *Charlie Brown* and was Musical Director for *Amahl, Globolinks, Mame, Annie Get Your Gun, Jacques Brel, 1776, Funny Girl*, and SLOC's 50th Anniversary Concert. He appeared as Barnaby in *Hello Dolly* and the Minstrel in *Once Upon a Mattress*. He studied directing at Ithaca College, Alfred University, and Albany State. He has directed over two dozen shows, his favorite production being Albee's *The Sandbox*. He studied conducting with Frederick Fennell and Gregg Smith, and presently studies voice with Gary Aldrich. He has previously been associated with Moravia Summer Theatre, Cornell Octagons, Kinyia Summer Theatre, Ithaca Opera Co., Albany Civic, Schenectady Civic, and Playwrites Theatre. Don is currently a member of SLOC's Board of Directors and is serving as Vice-President of Artistic Operations. He has participated in several recordings for Columbia Records including the recent *Charles Ives: the 100th Anniversary*. Don is Director of Music at Burnt Hills Methodist and a teacher at Shenendehowa where he is director of the Pumpnickel Players. He is a graduate of Ithaca College.

Christine Searle—Assistant Director

Chris was born and educated in England, where she worked with the New Vic Theatre group both onstage in several roles, and backstage, as director, choreographer and make-up artist. Her roles include Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*. Her directing credits include *Romanoff and Juliet*, and *Billy Liar*. Since coming to Schenectady ten years ago she has worked with several area groups. Last season she was make-up chairman for *George M.* and has worked on several other SLOC productions. She was make-up chairman for three years at SCP and appeared onstage in *Major Barbara* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She has appeared with the Stockage Theatre Productions, and has acted and directed with area children's theatre groups. Chris is employed as a registered nurse. In her spare time she enjoys reading, dancing, and catching up on sleep.

Carolyn A. Hauke—Producer

Carrie was Producer for *Charlie Brown*, Co-Producer for *Oliver*, and is currently Vice-President of Company Operations. She has been very active in all phases backstage here and at Schenectady Community College. Carrie is employed at Schenectady Chemical. She enjoys camping, sewing, and transactional analysis.

Paul Croteau—Assistant producer

Paul has been active in the company for five years. He is presently a member of the Board of Directors and is chairman of sound. Paul has been sound technician for several SLOC shows and has served on transportation, stage, set, and house maintenance crews, and has served as chairman of season subscriptions.

Peggi Drum—Publicity

Peggi is a member of the Civic Playhouse and SLOC and has been active both backstage and on stage. Peggi was recently seen as Irene Livingston in *Light Up the Sky*. She has an M.A. degree in theatre and TV and has performed with community and professional theatre groups as well as on network TV. A native of New York City, Peggi is a Schenectady resident and is Publicity Director for the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Dave Ulrich—Set Construction

Though relatively new to SLOC, Dave has been active with the Civic Players for the past five seasons both on and off the stage and has served on their Board of Directors. He holds a master's degree in technical theatre and was on the technical theatre faculty at the University of Maryland for three years before coming to Schenectady in 1970. Dave is currently manager of GE's Audio Visual Programs in the Advertising and Sales Promotion Operation.

Marion Foster—Lighting

Marion has worked on lighting for several shows for Light Opera and at Schenectady Civic Playhouse. She designed the lighting for SLOC's *Forum*. Also active onstage, Marion's favorite roles include SLOC's *La Perichole* and Schenectady Civic's *No Exit*. She has served on countless committees and crews at Light Opera, and enjoys sewing for SLOC and her family.

Lynn Dennis—Properties

Lynn served as rehearsal secretary for SLOC's *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Ten Nights in a Barroom*. She was prompter for *American Primitive* at the Playhouse, and has appeared onstage with other groups. Audiences will appreciate the work of the prop crew when they see the number and variety of props in *Godspell*.

Kathleen Blum—Costume Coordinator

Kathy did the costumes for *Charlie Brown*, and has worked on the costume committees for *Fiddler on the Roof, Mame, Hello Dolly, Amahl and Globolinks*, and *Oliver*. She was SLOC's membership chairman for four years. She is employed as Executive Secretary at the NAPA Distribution Center in Latham.