



Queanbeyan Players Presents

# GODSPELL



MAY / JUNE 2002



Queanbeyan Players Presents

# GODSPELL

Music and new lyrics by **STEPHEN SCHWARTZ\***

Conceived and originally directed by **JOHN-MICHAEL  
TEBELAK**

\*For "By my side", lyrics by Jay Hamburger, music by Peggy Gordon

*By special arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd*

**Directed by Norma Roach & Peter Smith**  
**Musical Direction by Jennifer Groom**  
**Choreography by Belinda Hassall**

Queanbeyan Bicentennial Function Centre,  
Crawford Street, Queanbeyan

24, 25, 30, 31 May & 1, 6, 7, 8 June 2002 at 8 pm  
1, 8 June at 2 pm

## Director's Notes

"Godspell is a deceptively difficult show to direct", wrote Stephen Schwartz in his 'Godspell Script Notes and Revisions' in 1999. I think he must have meant "deceptively easy" because the script is just about the most unhelpful I have so far encountered in deciding the author's original intentions. However, a lot of reading and studying of it and various editions of The Bible plus the works of the late, great, Dr. William Barclay, listening to the music, and talking to and asking questions of a great many people, brought us to the conclusion that Godspell is about the formation of a number of very different characters into a community and teaching them about the Gospel. They then become followers of Jesus, and after his crucifixion carry these teachings out to the world.

So we were pleased to discover that we were on the right track when a friend downloaded the 'Script Notes etc' quoted above (and referenced below \*) and only wish she had found them a bit sooner - it would have saved a deal of work! Schwartz writes: "...above all, the first act of Godspell must be about the formation of a community. Eight separate individuals, led and guided by Jesus (who is helped by his assistant, John the Baptist/Judas), gradually come to form a communal unit. This happens through the playing of games and the telling and absorbing of lessons, and each of the eight individuals has his or her own moment of committing to Jesus and the community. When Jesus applies clown make-up to their faces after 'Save the People', he is having them take on an external manifestation that they are his disciples, temporarily separating them from the rest of society.

"In the second act, after an opening number that continues the sense of playfulness and includes some good-natured teasing of Jesus by his followers, Jesus announces, 'This is the beginning'. By this he means that the community has now been formed, so that they are ready to move through the challenging series of events leading to the crucifixion. When Jesus removes their make-up, just prior to the Last Supper, he is saying that they have assimilated his teachings and no longer need the outward trappings that brand them as disciples. And when Jesus is taken from them at the end, the rest of the company remain fused as a community, ready and able to carry forth the lessons they have learned."

Godspell had its first production in New York in 1971, and was conceived and directed by John-Michael Tebelak, who set it in a "distinctly urban and gritty environment, resembling an inner city abandoned playground. All props and costume add-ons came out of garbage bags on stage or were hanging on the chain-link fence. Lighting was basic...in other words the emphasis was on simplicity or 'theatre of poverty'. Above all this was the sense of fun and beauty being created out of urban garbage".

The Players have adopted this idea in general. However, we have enlarged the cast (because in this vast space a small production becomes rather 'lost') by using the theme of the medieval 'mystery' or 'miracle' plays that once toured the ancient cities. So here you will see the touring company arriving at an approximation of our scenery and props shed, bringing some items with them and appropriating other bits and pieces that they find there to act out their performance. The idea is that at each venue another eight 'disciples' will answer John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the Way', a new little community will be formed and go forth to fulfil their task, and the Company will move on to repeat the work.

As previously stated, this has been a difficult show to direct, but the experience has been richly rewarding. I think you will agree that this must be one of the finest collection of voices and talents ever to grace a Players show and it has been a privilege to work with them all. My special thanks to Jennifer Groom for bringing out the full beauty of this music, to Belinda Hassall for her ever-patient and good-humoured wizardry in moving people around, to Peter Smith, our 'director under nurture', to Patrick Helean for his special input and advice, and to the entire cast for working so hard and performing so brilliantly.

Thanks to you, our audience, for supporting us. We hope the magic of Godspell will stay with you always.

\* <http://www.geocities.com/Broadway/Lobby/4209/scriptnotes.html>

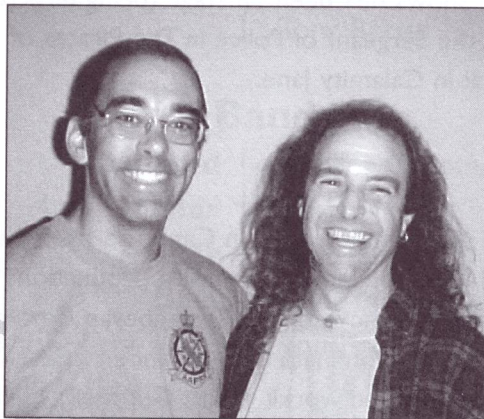


**Patrick Helean** (*Jesus*)

This is Patrick's first appearance with the Queanbeyan Players, and, for that matter, in the Southern Hemisphere. He spent the last thirteen years with Prairie Fire Theatre (a touring youth theatre based in Minnesota USA) as an actor, director and for the last six years as Managing Director. He moved to the Canberra/Queanbeyan area because it is his wife's favourite place to be, and it's quickly becoming his as well.

**Jonathan Garland** (*John the Baptist/Judas*)

Jon is a soldier in the Australian Army. A former professional trombone player, he has been involved in the theatre in various guises for as long as he can remember. He has had roles in shows including *The Crucible*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *From the Fourteenth Floor You Can See the Harbour Bridge* and *Can Can*. *Godspell* is his second outing with the Players, following the acclaimed mediocrity of his performance of *Farmer Carnes* in *Oklahoma*.



*Jonathan Garland Patrick Helean*

**Megan Baran**

Megan has been acting for the past five years, but has been singing and dancing for only two. In 2000 she completed a twelve-month Musical Theatre course at the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts, where she worked with Australian actors Don Bridges, Peter Tulloch and Mike Bishop. In 1998 Megan completed a Double Major in Drama at Erindale College, where she appeared as Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Katherine in *The Child*, and in her first lead role as Anna in *The King and I*.

**Susan Camm**

Most of Susan's singing experience has been with bands, both her own and other people's (for a total of eighteen years!). This is her second production with the Players, and her second production of *Godspell*. For the Players she performed the role of Anne in *Half a Sixpence* in 1990. In Year Twelve she played the part of John the Baptist in Queanbeyan High School's production of *Godspell*.

**Cathy Cleary**

Cathy has been performing with various theatrical and singing groups in minor principal roles in Canberra for nearly twenty years. However, this is her debut with the Queanbeyan Players. Cathy says that she has no excuse for not knowing the words, as she has previously sung songs from the show at weddings, and was also a soloist in the production of *Godspell* during her long time as a member of the Woden Valley Youth Choir. Cathy is enjoying the fact that she lives only five minutes away from rehearsals!

**Ruth Crabb**

Ruth works in the ACT Public Service and gets to say 'No' to people a lot. When not running around with local Christian youth activities, she is kept busy taming the disaster zone currently masquerading as her garden. Ruth is always ready for a debate or verbal joust. *Godspell* is her first theatrical outing.

**Jamey Devine**

Jamey is a relative newcomer to the stage with only minor roles dating back to primary school. However, he really enjoys the singing lessons he has been taking for the past year, and has sung at weddings. He also enjoys acting (if only he could remember his lines...) He is very much looking forward to performing in *Godspell*.



**Louise Dolby**

Louise's interest in theatre began in high school when she performed in the Karabar High productions of Sweet Charity and The Pajama Game, in which she performed the role of Poopsie. Her need for the limelight was filled by her position as Miss Queanbeyan Showgirl back in 1991. Since then she has returned to theatre with the Queanbeyan Players in The Sentimental Bloke, The Pirates of Penzance, Anything Goes, and L'il Abner.

**Donna Duvall**

Locally grown, bred and schooled, and now working in Queanbeyan, Donna is a Graphic Reproducer by trade. She appeared in school musicals years ago, including Dracula Spectacular (chorus), My Fair Lady (chorus), and Dazzle (Greaser and chorus). She continued singing in local bands, and recently in a local choir. This is her first show with the Queanbeyan Players. She was a Queen of Canberra entrant in 1991, and is generally an all-round nice person.

**Stephen Hines**

Stephen's first appearance in a musical was as Strephon in a high school production of Iolanthe. He then left the stage for eighteen years, until his mother persuaded him back as a member of the chorus in Canberra Philharmonic's One Enchanted Evening in 2000. Having enjoyed that, he went on to appear in the choruses of Queanbeyan Players' productions of Iolanthe and Oklahoma and CAMRA's Patience.

**Felicity Hourigan**

Felicity's first show with the Queanbeyan Players was Annie Get Your Gun. She then appeared in The Sorcerer and The Zoo, Fiddler on the Roof, The Pirates of Penzance, The King and I, and Iolanthe. She has been dancing since she was three years old. She sang in the Sing 2001 choir and also sang at the Opera House with the Queanbeyan East school choir. She is currently a Year Ten student at Queanbeyan High.

**Alex Jordan**

Alex was a member of the Ainslie Primary School choir from 1992 to 1998. He also appeared in Brigadoon in 1996. He is currently a student at Narrabundah College. He describes himself as the 'resident fool' of the Godspell cast, and might well be the only cast member to be told off in EVERY rehearsal. That's quite an achievement!

**Shannon McNamara**

Shannon has been involved in the performing arts in some way or another since she was eight years old. During this time she has participated in several musicals including The Pirates of Penzance (as Mabel), Robin the Hood (Maid Marion), The Sound of Music (Brigitte) and Bugsy Malone (Bangles). She was also the lead singer in a country band called the Tequila Slammers between 1993 and 1996. Her most memorable acting experience was winning the 1995 'Young Shakespearean of the Year' with her portrayal of Ophelia from Hamlet.

**Lauren Nihill**

Lauren has been singing since she was a young girl and is now teaching and singing professionally. Godspell marks a return to the Queanbeyan Players, and the theatre, after a seventeen-year absence. She is very excited to be a part of the show.

**Stacy Nitschke**

Godspell is Stacy's first show with the Queanbeyan Players, but she is no stranger to performing. She has been learning various forms of dancing for the past four years, including ballet, jazz and tap. She has also performed in two school productions, The Wiz and Guys and Dolls.

**Warwick Pitt**

Fame, Fiddler on the Roof, West Side Story and Cats are just a few of the musicals Warwick has neither seen nor performed in. After a successful role as a Roundhead in a 1984 production of All the King's Men, Warwick progressed to the Queanbeyan Players production of the King and I, where his multifaceted talents included playing the southern slope of a mountain.



### Tony Retter

Tony, as the oldest foggy in the show, is still wondering why he's in Godspell - it's possibly due to his name and the misguided impression that parents of talented children are likely to be similarly talented. He has now been in six Queanbeyan Players musicals after having first been inveigled by Vivian Arnold ('it's only a walk-on part') for Fiddler on the Roof and then by Janetta McRae ('oh - we know you can sing') for The Pirates of Penzance. He remains optimistic that one day soon he really will be able to do two or more things at once.

### Dim Ristevski

Dim was stunned to have landed a role in Godspell. His theatrical experience started with his first taste of amateur theatre in West Side Story with Supa, and he later played Pearce in Half a Sixpence with Phoenix Players. When asked how he felt, he replied, "I can't believe how much my life has changed since I got the ABTRONIC".

### Richard Wade

Richard first appeared with the Queanbeyan Players in the lead male role of Strepthon in Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe. Since then he has sung as the tenor soloist in Mozart's Requiem at Llewellyn Hall and performed in a lunchtime concert in Canberra City. This is Richard's second appearance with Queanbeyan Players.



Back: Jamey Devine, Lauren Nihill, Cathy Cleary, Richard Wade  
Front: Megan Baran, Susan Camm, Dim Ristevski



Back: Felicity Hourigan, Donna Duvall, Stephen Hines, Warwick Pitt  
Middle: Louise Dolby, Ruth Crabb, Tony Retter  
Front: Stacey Nitschke, Alex Jordan



## Band

### **Kylie Groom** - *Guitar*

Kylie, as a flute player, is no stranger to musical theatre, having played for several musicals including Brigadoon, Annie Get Your Gun and The Pirates of Penzance. However, since picking up an acoustic guitar Kylie has been reluctant to put it down, and she jumped at the chance to play for Godspell. Kylie also performs with all-girl covers duo Black Velvet and a new four-piece band.

### **Ewan Harwood** - *Keyboard*

Already this year, Ewan has worked in some capacity with most of Canberra's musical theatre companies: Harlequin Theatre, Alpha, Phoenix Players, Canberra Philharmonic and Supa Productions. Last year, he was awarded Best Musical Director at the Canberra Area Theatre Awards for G-String Productions A Slice of Saturday Night. He is mildly surprised (and more than mildly blinded) to find the Godspell band - instead of hiding safely in the darkness of the pit - is in full view, with real, bright lights on them.

### **Peter McDonald** - *Bass*

Peter is happy to be lining up for his eleventh Queanbeyan Players production. As one of the region's most adequate theatrical bass players, he also appears regularly with Supa, G-String, Alpha, Phoenix, The Southern Cross Players and the Southern Gungahlin Light Sousaphone Society.

### **Chris Neal** - *Lead Guitar*

Chris has been involved in musical theatre behind the scenes for many years. This is Chris's second appearance playing guitar in a show, last playing in the pit for Buggy Malone while still at school. Chris is currently fighting for the guitar solo in Fame.

### **Ron Tito** - *Percussion*

Ron has been a part of every Queanbeyan Players musical since 1995 and has been hoping to play in Godspell since he saw it in Sydney when it opened. As well as the Queanbeyan Players Ron also plays with most of the other musical societies in the Canberra area. He has just finished a run of Me and My Girl and looks forward to Fame later this month.

## Address Details

The Queanbeyan Players  
PO Box 390  
Queanbeyan  
NSW 2620  
Phone (02) 6297 0888

We are always looking for new members - and you don't have to be able to sing! There are many other roles that need to be filled for every production - stage crew, front of house, set design and construction, costumes, props ..... to mention just a few! It's a great way to make new friends. If you are interested in joining the Players, or would like more information about the organisation, ask our friendly front of house crew for a membership form, or ring our answering machine on 6297 0888 and we'll post you one.

## Production Team

Director	<i>Norma Roach</i>
Assistant Director	<i>Peter Smith</i>
Musical Director	<i>Jennifer Groom</i>
Choreographer	<i>Belinda Hassall</i>
Production Manager	<i>Janetta McRae</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Joyanne Gough</i>
Assistant Stage Manager	<i>Andrew Thomson</i>
Production Design	<i>Norma Roach</i>
Set Construction	<i>Bruce George, Trevor Roach</i>
Props	<i>Moya Ewin</i>
Puppet construction and direction	<i>Patrick Helean</i>
Lighting	<i>Peter McIntyre, Di Thomson</i>
Sound	<i>Berin Denham, Roger Tindale, Leigh Wilmington</i>
Tickets	<i>Carmel Bourke, Janetta McRae</i>
Ticket Agencies	<i>Canberra Ticketing, Country Heir Interiors</i>
Publicity	<i>Gary Gledhill, Janetta McRae</i>
Poster Design	<i>Gary Gledhill</i>
Program Production	<i>Gary Gledhill, Anna Wise</i>
Photography	<i>Anthony McGlynn, Janetta McRae, Malcolm Smith</i>
Front of House Coordinator	<i>Debbie Hourigan</i>
Rehearsal Refreshments	<i>Carmel Bourke, Gail Giuliano, Debbie Hourigan</i>

### Queanbyan Players Committee

President - Joyanne Gough, Vice - President - Bill Lord, Treasurer - Peter Smith  
 Secretary - Gail Giuliano, Public Officer - Norma Roach  
 Carmel Bourke, Gary Gledhill, Debbie Hourigan, Janetta McRae, Joyce Newbould,  
 Anna Wise  
 Membership Secretary - Anthony McGlynn.

#### Life Members

Roddy Beamish  
 Moya Ewin  
 Rodney Johnston  
 Anthony McGlynn  
 Janetta McRae  
 Ian "Floyd" Patterson  
 Norma Roach  
 Trevor Roach  
 Marcia Stevenson

#### Patrons

Frank Pangallo (Mayor of  
 Queanbeyan)  
 Robyn Robertson  
 (Legacy)  
 Councillor Ann Rocca

#### Acknowledgements

Majura the Magician  
 Danny Cohen  
 Jonathan Garland  
 Queanbeyan City  
 Council  
 Supreme Gildon Dry  
 Cleaners





# COMING ATTRACTIONS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2002

*GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S*

## *THE GONDOLIERS*

*OR*

*THE KING OF BARATARIA*

**DIRECTOR: JANETTA MCRAE**  
**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: JENNIFER GROOM**  
**CHOREOGRAPHER: BRONWYN TURNER**

MAY/JUNE 2003

*MEREDITH WILLSON'S*

## **THE MUSIC MAN**

*BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WARNERCHAPPELL*

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE INVITED FOR THE ROLE OF DIRECTOR,  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER  
LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: THE PRESIDENT, QUEANBEYAN  
PLAYERS,  
PO BOX 390, QUEANBEYAN, NSW 2620



# COUNTRY HEIR i n t e r i o r s

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