

SPRING MUSICAL
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AND PRODUCTION NEWS

htc weekly

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

S18 WK. 1 // FEBRUARY 1, 2018
VOLUME 48 // ISSUE 1

rehearsals begin!

*filling up a
bare stage*

in this issue

- schedule #1
- governance
- reminders
- ensemble spirit



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

- MON 5** **FIRST REHEARSAL!**
3:45 TO 7:00 CALLED: ENTIRE CAST
ACTIVITIES: ORIENTATION, ELECTION OF OFFICERS
READ-THROUGH OF ACT ONE
BEGINNING SINGING
CONFLICTS: ARL: BMCMU
- TUES 6** **MUSIC/CHOREO REHEARSAL!**
3:45 TO 7:00 CALLED: ENTIRE CAST
ACTIVITIES: ACT ONE SONGS
SOLOS/DUETS
CONFLICTS: ARL: JKOE
- THURS 8** **REHEARSAL**
3:45 TO 7:00 CALLED: ENTIRE CAST
ACTIVITIES: BLOCKING
3:15 **BUSINESS: THEATRE COUNCIL MEETING**
CONFLICTS: ABS: KMYL, IGIL
- FRI 9** **BLOCKING/CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSAL**
3:45 TO 7:00 CALLED: ENTIRE CAST
ACTIVITIES: DANCE, ACTING, SINGING
BUSINESS: CAST FEE COLLECTION OPPORTUNITY
NO CONFLICTS

LOOKING AHEAD
THU MAR 2

CAST FEE DUE.

KEY

ARL = Arrive Late
ABS = Absent
LVE = Leave Early



from the director's chair

filling up the stage

A couple of days during this past week, our inter-semester break, I found myself in Hannon Theatre organizing props and making plans for our first week of rehearsal. And more than once, I found myself staring at the empty stage and trying to envision how we will manage to fill it all up in the next couple of months. It is one of my favorite pastimes -- sitting in an empty theatre and envisioning the fun to come. However, with this production, there seems to be more at stake for a number of reasons.

Producing and directing **Godspell** is somewhat of a "full circle" moment for me as **Godspell** was the musical my high school drama program produced during my senior year. It will be exciting for me personally to revisit this brilliant show after [gulp] forty years. It's taken me that long to forget how dreadful I know I was performing in it! Nevertheless, I've been wanting to produce a Schwartz musical for many years now and **Godspell** is indeed the one that seems to be the best fit for HTC. But finding creative ways of enlivening the parables from St. Matthew's Gospel seems like a daunting task. How do we stay respectful to both the Bible and to the original vision of the play while still finding our own unique voice?

One way to tackle the problem is to build on the successes of our last production. We are lucky to have had **Argonautika** be the lead-up into this show. The incorporation of student ideas and creativity into the directing process made our fall play a real joy to work on. Fittingly, **Godspell's** libretto is rife with direction from Stephen Schwartz giving theatre companies permission to contribute ideas and dialogue they discover through improvisation and their own innovation. Stephen Schwartz believes the most meaningful experience for the audience is when the actors are invested in finding their unique and collective voice. With that being said, developing our own take on this piece may prove frustrating at times. However, the payoff of showcasing what makes each cast member special individually as well as a member of a cohesive ensemble will be worth the struggle.

Therefore, we anticipate this rehearsal period to be an intense experience, filling up not only the stage, but most of our afternoons and evenings. There will be very few days when only a small group of the cast will be called. Most days will involve everyone in the entire cast. The music from the 2012 revival was written for singers and musicians with many more years experience than anyone in our company could possibly have. That component alone is enough to make for an intense rehearsal process. However, I feel we are up to the challenge.

Let's come to our first rehearsal eager to try new things and share our talents with each other.

Walter D. Wolfe, Managing Artistic Director



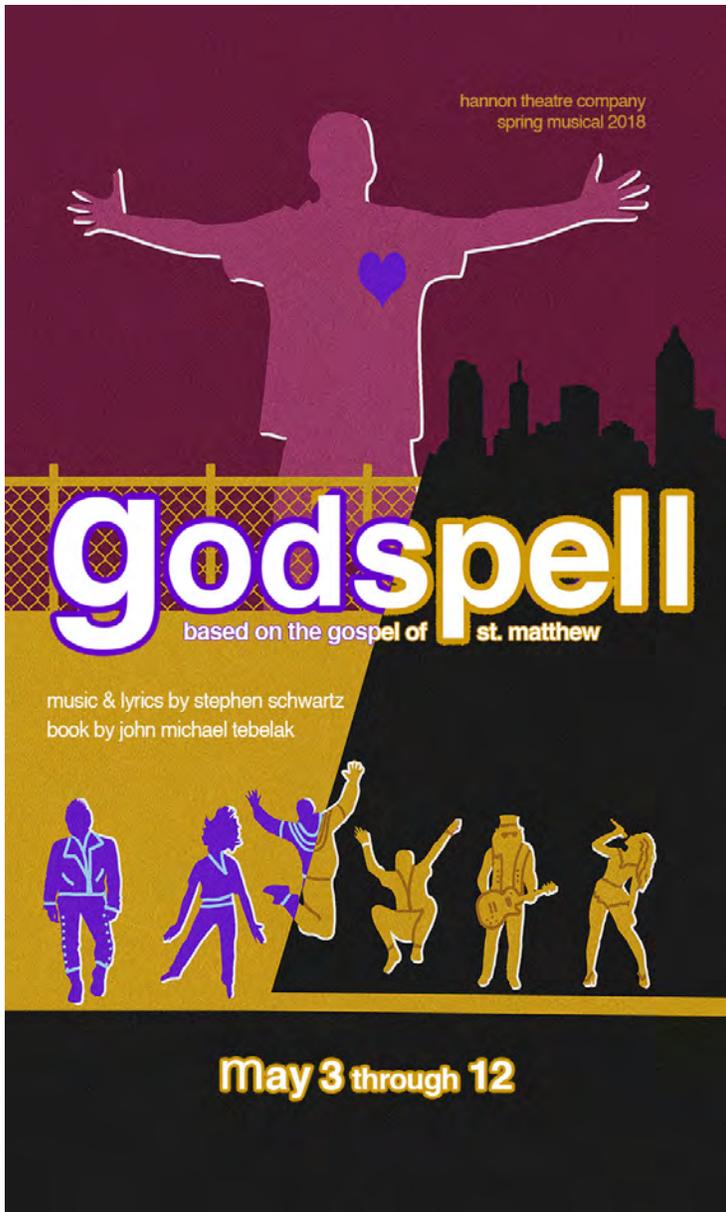
“The *stage* is not merely the meeting place of all the arts but is also the return of art to *life*” ~ Oscar Wilde



About this production

spring musical 2018:

godspell



book by john-michael tebelak

music & lyrics by stephen schwartz

I am often asked what is the most challenging part of my job, and folks are often surprised to hear the answer I give without hesitation: choosing what shows to do each year. There are myriad reasons for picking a play or musical to produce. And the biggest criterion in the process also surprises people to learn. First and foremost, the show just needs to feel right. It's a gut feeling. I felt it was just the right time to produce **Godspell** and I am hard-pressed to articulate why. But along with Mr. Speciale, Mr. Robles, and the rest of the theatre staff, we are all excited about producing this iconic musical of the 1970's.

A 21 year old graduate student in Pittsburgh, John-Michael Tebelak originally wrote **Godspell** as part of his Master's thesis. However, instead of having it produced at Carnegie Mellon, he decided to shop it around New York where a couple of Off-Broadway producers were willing to mount it if he could make it into a musical. Tebelak was introduced to novice composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz. And the rest is history. Despite being snubbed by the Tony Awards in 1971, the musical became a sensation around the country for its unusual and controversial interpretation of Christ's teachings and passion as written in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Tebelak was named America's most influential new playwright director of 1971 -- at the age of 22. Unfortunately, Tebelak died of a sudden heart attack only thirteen years later.

Stephen Schwartz went on to become the legendary Broadway composer of such Tony-award winning musicals as **Pippin** and **Wicked**, along with popular Disney animated features, **Hunchback of Notre Dame**, and **Pocahontas**. While not as celebrated as his contemporaries Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber, there isn't another composer alive today that can match his ability to write music and lyrics that sound as fresh today as they did when first written.

Chances are that you are familiar with **Godspell** as it remains one of the most popular musicals to produce around the country. But after much discussion over the past six months, the production team and I have decided audiences won't be seeing the "traditional" **Godspell**. We have a few innovative tricks up our sleeves that we feel will make the show more resonant with our current world. We are excited to share it with you.

htc elections this week!

company governance

With the goal of students taking ownership of the production and the company, we've instituted a team who helps the directors keep things in line. They act as the company's ombudsmen to the producing staff. Elections for this production's Theatre Council will take place on Thursday, February 9 after our daily mid-rehearsal break.

The Theatre Council is an elected body with a one-production term. The four seats on the council come from varying constituencies so that every company member feels represented and has a councilperson to whom he/she can go for help: There is a seat for one veteran, one newbie, a female, and one senior representative. The female seat is the only one that is gender-specific.

If a cast member has a grievance of any kind, they may approach a theatre council member to do one of several helpful tasks: 1. Accompany him/her to a meeting with the offending company member as a source of support. 2. Accompany him/her to a meeting with the director(s) to discuss the issue. 3. Address the issue with the director(s) on his/her behalf if anonymity is a priority. 4. Call an all-company meeting at any time which the directors do not attend -- in order to deal with the issue amongst the group as a whole.

Likewise, directors can call upon the theatre council to help them with one of several tasks: 1. Hold a meeting with the entire company without the directors' presence in order to address issues of behavior and/or to disseminate information required by the directors. 2. Confer with them in a small meeting regarding issues of importance and seek their advice from the company members' perspective.

There are an additional four seats on the Theatre Council as well. The Stage Manager, the Assistant Stage Manager, the Warm-up Coordinator(s) and the Spiritual Coordinator. The Stage Managers are not elected positions but can offer a perspective the others cannot. The Spiritual Coordinator is elected for a seasonal, full-year term. He deals with setting the spiritual tone for any production through various means: daily prayer, possible retreats, and company Masses. This year's Spiritual Coordinator is senior Nicolas Duran, who was elected at the beginning of the season. An assistant Spiritual Coordinator will be elected during this production to serve as an apprentice to the outgoing senior, in training for being elected to the position next fall. Finally, the Warm-up Coordinator(s) is invited to attend Theatre Council meetings. His/her position is elected for each production.

The following theatre council positions will be elected: 1. Veteran Member (this production must be at least his/her third), 2. Newbie Member (this production must be his/her first or second), 3. Senior Member (must be a 12th grader), 4. Female Member (must be a non-Loyola student), 5. Warm-up Coordinator (must be able to run exercises every rehearsal from 3:45 to 4:15), 6. Asst. Spiritual Coordinator (must be willing to run for Spiritual Coordinator next season.)

If anyone would like to run for these positions, he/she should prepare a 30 second speech as to why he/she would make a supportive, diligent, conscientious, and thoughtful council member.

quick news bits



rehearsal shoes

We will begin dancing and blocking the show on Tuesday, February 6. Everyone should have the proper shoes to wear. If you would like, you may choose a cubby in the Black Box where you can keep your shoes from rehearsal to rehearsal.



transportation

Our goal is to ensure that everyone who wants a convenient way to get home after rehearsal finds one. If you or your student feels like a car pool or hub home arrangement would be a benefit to one's family, please do not hesitate to speak up on our first day of rehearsal or email Mr. Wolfe with any concerns.



brotherhood

Also on Monday, February 5 as part of our election day activities, each cast member will be paired up randomly with a big sibling or little sibling depending on their level of experience with HTC. This time-honored tradition has proven over the years to be an excellent way to make sure every cast member feels valued and welcomed.



checklist

first week



sign up for remind app

bring rehearsal shoes to the black box by friday



second week

ensure plans for easter break don't interfere with mandatory rehearsals.



devise memorization schedule and begin!

beginning of march



bring cast fee check to rehearsal. \$150 made out to loyola high.

order ben nye theatrical makeup kit from internet.



mid-march



sign up for and attend costume fittings.

start gathering costume and makeup needs: socks, undies, bathrobe, toiletries, supplies

easter vacation

stay healthy. attend mandatory rehearsals march 25 and 26.



get psyched up for last couple of weeks



tech week

tech rehearsals begin wed. april 25

Sign up for Remind!

Remind is an easy way for the HTC Staff to communicate with Company Members and Parents via text messaging and push notifications. Being a member of the text group means that we can get in touch with you for brief reminders and in case of emergencies. Please sign up for the best platform for you.

cast members

The instructions to the right are for those cast in the show. If you were a member of the last Spring Musical, you needn't sign up again as we were able to carry your account over to this new one. However, if you are new to the company or this is your first musical with us, please sign up to get text messages or push notifications right on your smartphone.

You can also download the Remind App from your Apple or Android App stores, and use it to communicate with others in the cast, as well as to ask Mr. Wolfe a quick question.

Pick a way to receive messages for S18 Cast:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/s18cast

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @s18cast to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @s18cast to (323) 284-6376.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/s18cast on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

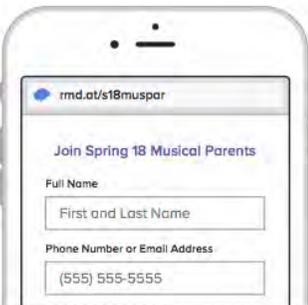
Pick a way to receive messages for Spring 18 Musical Parents:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/s18muspar

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @s18muspar to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @s18muspar to (323) 284-6376.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/s18muspar on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

parents

The instructions to the left are for all you parents out there. Even if you were signed up for any show previously, you **will** need to sign up again for this list. If you were at the in-person meeting on January 13, you may be one of the six parents who have signed up thus far.

If you continue to have trouble signing up for this app, contact me and I can add you to the list from my end or give you another workaround via URL.

You can also download the Remind App from your Apple or Android App stores, and have yet another way to get a hold of Mr. Wolfe if needed.

**hannon
theatre
company**

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builds it.**
WITH POWER TOOLS



lights

**CREW
it.** WITH POWER TOOLS

**CREW
amps it up.**
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Forms and information is available online
The first crew session is February 21.

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