

George Fox University's Department of Performing Arts Presents

# GODSPELL

2012 Revised Version

**Directed by Rhett Luedtke**  
**Musical direction by Danielle Warner**

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 and Joseph Beruh

**Thursday - Saturday**  
**Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 3-5, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday matinees: Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 2 p.m.**

**Wood-Mar Auditorium**



**GEORGE FOX**  
UNIVERSITY

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It has been 20 years since the George Fox University Theatre produced its 2002 award-winning production of *Godspell*. That year, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival invited us to perform *Godspell* at its regional festival in Bellingham, Washington. In order to fundraise for the trip, we also performed the show at the Winningstad Theatre in downtown Portland. If you were part of that production, welcome back! We're glad you're here.

While I arrived one year after that moment in George Fox theatre history, one of the judges for the 2002 production later told me that the energy in Wood-Mar the night he saw the show was electric, filled with hope and reverence, as if he'd entered a worship experience that unabashedly celebrated a community's faith. What a great compliment, and what a great vision for what theatre can do!

*Godspell* opened in New York City in 1976, and was heralded for setting the gospel in a contemporary urban landscape. The show was quirky, clownlike, and yet profound. The show was updated for its 2012 Broadway revival to bring it into the 21st century, but both its quirkiness and power remain. May you experience both the laughter and the hope this musical has to offer tonight.

Much has changed in the world since the our 2002 production of *Godspell*, but the need for this story remains the same. We are simply delighted to invite you back to Wood-Mar Auditorium to experience this beautiful, prophetic musical all over again.

Enjoy the journey,  
Rhett Luedtke, Director

## THEATRE MISSION

To love, inspire and challenge our communities through the power of stories

## THEATRE VISION

To celebrate the unique, God-given gifts and perspectives each person brings to the world while courageously exploring the tensions within faith, art and culture  
[theatre.georgefox.edu](http://theatre.georgefox.edu)

## ARTISTIC STAFF

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Director               | Rhett Luedtke   |
| Music Director         | Danielle Warner |
| Choreographer          | Casey Hostetler |
| Conductor              | Brian Michael   |
| Assistant Director     | Noah Benson*    |
| Scenic Designer        | Jenny Fournier* |
| Costume Designer       | Marley Ross*    |
| Lighting Designer      | Emma Boyd       |
| Sound Designer         | Alyssa Gilmore  |
| Properties Designer    | Lydia Crist*    |
| Hair and Makeup Artist | Emma Johnson*   |

## CAST

|                 |                       |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Jesus.....      | Johnathan Billington* |                    |
| John/Judas..... | Graham Buyagawan      |                    |
| Disciples.....  |                       |                    |
|                 | Ellie Barbuto*        | Molly Cox          |
|                 | Tatiana Bernardo      | Marin Donohue      |
|                 | Graham Buyagawan      | Janae Graves       |
|                 | Sawyer Buyagawan      | Sophia Komarek     |
|                 |                       | Rachel Oppenlander |
|                 |                       | Connor Shelton     |
|                 |                       | Abigail Torres     |
|                 |                       | Ben Wing           |

*\*Member of Alpha Psi Omega, George Fox University's honor society*

## BAND

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Guitar..... | Ben Rice, Ausdin Lemmons |
| Piano.....  | Brian Michael            |
| Bass.....   | Hayden Ledvina           |
| Drums.....  | Owen TenBrook            |

## PRODUCTION STAFF

|                                   |                                      |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Technical Director.....           | Bryan Boyd                           |                    |
| Stage Manager.....                | Hayley Lamsma*                       |                    |
| Scene Shop Manager.....           | Bryan Boyd                           |                    |
| Scenic Construction Crew.....     |                                      |                    |
|                                   | Ben Benson                           | Jenny Fournier*    |
|                                   | Noah Benson*                         | Nile Haynes-Irby   |
|                                   | Emma Boyd                            | Jeff Lafferty      |
|                                   | Alexa Burris                         | El Maciel          |
|                                   | Lydia Crist*                         | Joel Nord          |
| Senic Artists.....                | Marley Ross*, Bailey Sherwood        |                    |
| Costume Shop Manager.....         | Hope Bellingier                      |                    |
| Wardrobe Manager.....             | Gabrielle Brinkman                   |                    |
| Costume Construction Crew.....    |                                      |                    |
|                                   | Alicia Bernhardt                     | Elizabeth Herbert* |
|                                   | Isabella Dixon                       | Sophia Komarek     |
| Properties Assistants.....        | Andra Pascalar, El Maciel            |                    |
| Master Electrician.....           | Johnathan Billington*                |                    |
| Assistant Master Electrician..... | Emma Boyd                            |                    |
| Light Board Operator.....         | Emelia Corazza                       |                    |
| Lighting Electricians.....        |                                      |                    |
|                                   | Jamie Andrews                        | Emma Mendoza       |
|                                   | Emelia Corazza                       | Thomas Millage     |
|                                   | Shanon Keehn                         | Madeleine Teel*    |
| Mix Engineer.....                 | Alyssa Gilmore                       |                    |
| Caption Presenters.....           | Andra Pascalar, Andrea Byerley       |                    |
| Wireless Crew Chief.....          | Gabrielle Brinkman                   |                    |
| Follow Operators.....             | Kassandra Gartman, Madeline Lawrence |                    |

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Administrative Assistant. . . . . Kathy Harris  
Production Assistants. . . . .  
    Lydia Crist\*                      Marley Ross\*                      J. Danny Walker\*  
Box Office Manager. . . . . Kathy Harris  
House Manager. . . . . Linnaea Rusaw  
Box Office Assistant. . . . . Andra Pascalar

## FACULTY OF DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

Assistant Professor of Music. . . . . Nathanael Ankeny  
Assistant Professor of Music. . . . . Aaron Barnhart  
Performing Arts Chair, Associate Professor of Music. . . . . Dwayne Corbin  
Professor of Theatre. . . . . Bryan Boyd  
Professor of Theatre. . . . . Rhett Luedtke  
Associate Professor of Music. . . . . Danielle Warner

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

Playwriting/Humanities. . . . . Mark Eaton  
Acting. . . . . Catherine Olson  
University Players . . . . . JeanneAnn Comiskey  
Theatre Management. . . . . Emily Harmon Watilo

## ARTISTIC STAFF BIOS

**Noah Benson\*** (Assistant Director) is a junior double-concentration theatre major and is absolutely ecstatic to be working under Rhett on *Godspell*! He was most recently house manager for *Much Ado About Nothing*, acted in *Parables*, and was properties master for *Silent Sky*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their endless support and encouragement, Bryan for always being patient with him, and Rhett for answering his endless questions, sharing his knowledge and ideas and letting him be involved in this amazing process.

**Emma Boyd** (Lighting Designer) is a sophomore theatre major concentrating on design and technical aspects. Most recently she was the sound designer for *Much Ado About Nothing* and the assistant stage manager for *Parables*. This has been such a wonderful community to learn so much from. I appreciate all of the folks who have helped create such a wonderful team.

**Lydia Crist\*** (Properties Designer) is a senior theatre major. She has previously acted in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Shakers of Mount Lebanon will Hold a Peace Conference this Month*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Parables*. She would like to thank her wonderful family and great friends for all their love and continued support. Enjoy the show!

**Jenny Fournier\*** (Scenic Designer) is a senior double-concentration theatre major and history minor, whose previous designs include co-costume design for *Parables* and props design for *Passage*. You might have also seen them in *Much Ado About Nothing*! They would like to thank professors Bryan and Rhett for helping foster

creativity, and their cohort within the department for creating unconditional space for growth within the past years. "I could not be more thankful for you all, and the experiences you have blessed my life with".

**Alyssa Gilmore** (Sound Designer) is grateful for the opportunity to sound design her first show at George Fox. A cinematic arts sound concentration and theatre minor, she spends her time bouncing between sound projects for student films and theatre productions. She recently was involved in the fall production of *Much Ado About Nothing* as sound board operator and is also currently master sound technician. She would like to thank Bryan Boyd for his guidance and support, and her family and friends for their encouragement. Philippians 2:14-15

**Casey Hostetler** (Choreographer) is a small business owner and entrepreneur, spending a lot of her time growing Alt Coworking and Elena's Wine Bar, two of her businesses in McMinnville. Casey serves on the Ambassador Committee for the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce and as president elect for the Rotary Club of Newberg Early Birds. She has previously choreographed *Little Shop of Horrors* (2013) and *Newsies!* (2019) at Gallery Theater, and this is her first experience choreographing a musical at George Fox. She was a member of the George Fox Dance Team when she attended George Fox, and coached the team for a few years after, while also teaching dance classes at Chehalem Valley Dance Academy. Casey graduated from George Fox University in 2013 with a BA in Management, and in 2014 with an MBA. Casey lives in Newberg with her husband, David, who is incredibly patient and supportive.

**Emma Johnson\*** (Hair and Makeup Designer) is a senior double-major in history and theatre. She was last seen in *Much Ado About Nothing* in the fall and *Parables* last spring. You might have seen her in the second-stage show *The Amish Project* ("Anna"). She also designed the hair and makeup for *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Silent Sky*, and *Parables*. She would like to say thank you to Lydia, Johnathan, Marley, Danny, KK, Mum and Dad for loving and supporting her. Enjoy!!! And remember Love is Love <3

**Hayley Lamsma\*** (Stage Manager) is a senior interdisciplinary studies major studying theatre and writing. This is her second time in a row being stage manager for a main-stage production, and everyone thinks she has lost her mind just a little bit, but she loves it anyway. She has been a stage manager for *Much Ado About Nothing*, assistant stage manager for *Silent Sky*, and designed and acted for many other projects throughout her four years at George Fox. She would like to thank Rhett for putting up with her for so long and teaching her so much, as well as everyone involved in this production for all their hard work.

**Rhett Luedtke** (Director) is a professor of theatre at George Fox University with a special emphasis in directing, dramatic literature and theatre history. Rhett was the recipient of the 2019 George Fox University Undergraduate Scholar of the Year award, the 2016 Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for Excellence in Educational Theatre, the 2010 George Fox Undergraduate Teacher of the Year award, and the 2010 National Directing Fellowship from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. He has directed more than 50 productions during his career, and serves as the artistic director of the Big Bridge Theatre Consortium – an organization committed to developing new American plays dedicated to interfaith conflict and peace. Rhett received a bachelor's degree in theatre and English from Valparaiso University in Indiana and an MFA in directing from Illinois State University.

**Marley Ross\*** (Costume Designer) is a junior double-majoring in illustration and theatre: technical. She previously worked as a scenic artist/design assistant for *Much Ado About Nothing* as well as a scenic artist for *Parables*, *Shakers*, and *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. She is so thankful for Bryan and Rhett for their guidance and for the support of her family.

**Danielle Warner** (Music Director) is an associate professor of music at George Fox University and the director of choral activities. Danielle was the recipient of the 2018 George Fox Undergraduate Teacher of the Year award, and earned her doctoral degree from the Conservatory of Music and Dance-Kansas City.

## CAST BIOS

**Ellie Barbuto\*** (*Day by Day*) is a junior double-concentration theatre major and honors student. She is excited to make her George Fox main-stage debut with this cast and crew. Her recent theatre credits include stage managing *Parables* and hair/makeup design for *Much Ado About Nothing*. She would like to thank Cristi, Rhett, Bryan, Danielle, Jill, Casey, and Brian for investing and encouraging her as an artist. Also, she is grateful for the continual love and support from family, friends, and Sam throughout the years. Finally, thanks to God for letting her see thee more clearly in this beautiful city.

**Tatiana Bernardo** (*Bless the Lord*) is a freshman nursing major. She is excited to be making her first George Fox main-stage appearance with all her wonderful castmates! Her most recent shows include *Jane Eyre* ("Jane Eyre") and *Mamma Mia* ("Ensemble" and "Dance Captain") with the JRT Shoestring Players. She would like to thank Rhett, Danielle, Casey and Brian for their guidance and being supportive, as well as her family, friends and boyfriend for being there every step of the way. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Johnathan Billington\*** ("Jesus") is a senior theatre major with a double-concentration in acting/directing and design/technology. Today you are watching his last production as an actor at Fox, and he would like to thank you for being a part of this story. You can see his work next as the light designer for Fox's spring show *The Hijabis*. Thank you to the cast, thank you to the crew, thank you to the production team. Thank you to Rhett, Bryan and Cristi. Thank you to every person who has helped me get to where I am today.

**Graham Buyagawan** ("John/Judas") is delighted to be making his George Fox acting debut! He is a sophomore double-majoring in music performance and education. He would like to thank God for the wonderful opportunity to perform, his instructors past and present for helping him grow and get to where he is today, his friends for their care and encouragement, and his parents and his brother Sawyer for their constant love and support!

**Sawyer Buyagawan** (*We Beseech Thee*) is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to act alongside his friends (and brother) in *Godspell*! As a sophomore theatre major, he has gotten the opportunity to be involved in previous theatre projects at Fox such as *Parables* and *Life, Together*. Sawyer would like to thank Tyler Kimmel, Rhett Luedke and Cristi Miles for their guidance and wisdom, his fellow cast members for their friendship and energy, and his parents and twin brother Graham for their love and support.



**Molly Cox** (*Turn Back, O Man*) is a senior communication arts major with a public relations concentration, and this is her third main-stage show with George Fox. She was last seen in *Much Ado About Nothing* and is thankful to be exploring the world of theatre one last time before she graduates in April. She would like to thank the theatre community at Fox for welcoming her as an honorary “major,” and she would also like to thank her fiancé Sam, her family, and the Sinicki family for surrounding her with love and support as she finishes her time at Fox.

**Marin Donohue** (*Learn Your Lessons Well*) feels blessed to be in a George Fox main-stage production with a cast of people she absolutely adores! She is a sophomore theatre and music double major and was last seen in *Parables* (Actor/Devisor). She would like to thank Rhett and Danielle for their patience, faith, and for pushing her out of her comfort zone, Cristi Miles for being an inspiration, and her friends and family for their love and encouragement. Enjoy the show!

**Sophia Komarek** (*Learn Your Lessons Well Reprise*) is a sophomore theatre and English major who was recently involved in the ensemble of *Parables* last spring. She is so thankful and excited to be a part of her first George Fox musical and to perform with such wonderful people. She would like to thank Rhett, Bryan and Danielle for everything they continue to teach her and the love and work they’ve poured into this show, as well as her family and church family for all their prayers and love. Finally, she would like to thank God above all else. All the glory and honor to Him.

**Rachel Oppenlander** (*Learn Your Lessons Well Reprise*) is a sophomore nursing major. This is her first show with Fox, and she is grateful for the opportunity to do theatre again and hopefully still pass anatomy. Of her past credits, her favorite has been “Mrs. Sullen” in Westview High School’s production of *The Beaux Stratagem*. Rachel would like to thank her friends and family for their support, and especially her dad for sharing his love of theatre with her since before she can remember.

**Janae Graves** (*Learn Your Lessons Well*) is a junior double-majoring in international studies and theatre. *Godspell* will be her first full-length performance in Wood-Mar Auditorium, although she was involved in *Parables* as well as playing “Tiny Tim” in the radio production of *A Christmas Carol* recorded at George Fox last winter. She also had the privilege of playing “Judith” in *The Merchant of Stratford* with Theatre 33 during their summer 2021 season. She is very excited to get to share this energetic and zany musical with you all and hopes that you will find it as fun and thought-provoking as she does.

**Connor Shelton** (*All Good Gifts*) is a junior history major. This is his first show at George Fox, and he is excited to bring the joy of this story to life with such an amazing team. He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant and unwavering support. Always remember to do everything in love.

**Abigail Torres\*** (*By My Side*) is a junior theatre major. She is so excited and grateful to be making her third George Fox main-stage appearance with such a wonderful cast and crew. Her most recent credits include *Parables* (“Ensemble”) and *Passage* (“M/ Mosquito”). She would like to thank Rhett, Bryan and Leo for their guidance and understanding, as well as her family, friends and RA community for their support of her love for theatre.

**Ben Wing** (*Light of the World*) is a sophomore business management major. Enjoy the show!

\*Member of Alpha Psi Omega, George Fox University’s honor society

## CREATORS BIOS

**Stephen Schwartz** wrote the music and lyrics for the current Broadway hit *Wicked*, and has also contributed music and/or lyrics to *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *The Magic Show*, *The Baker's Wife*, *Working* (which he also adapted and directed), *Rags*, and *Children Of Eden*. He collaborated with Leonard Bernstein on the English texts for Bernstein's *Mass* and wrote the title song for the play and movie *Butterflies Are Free*. For children, he has written songs for two musicals, *Captain Louie* and *My Son Pinocchio*. He has also worked in film, collaborating with Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's *Enchanted* as well as the animated features *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*, and writing the songs for the DreamWorks animated feature *The Prince Of Egypt*. His first opera, *Seance On A Wet Afternoon*, was produced at Opera Santa Barbara and New York City Opera. A book about his career, *Defying Gravity*, has been released by Applause Books. Schwartz has been inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and has been given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Awards include three Academy Awards, four Grammy Awards, and a tiny handful of tennis trophies.

**John Michael Tebelak** 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, 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 dramaturg 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. Tebelak died April 2, 1985, of a heart attack in New York City.



## **UPCOMING SHOWS**

*The Hijabis*

Spring Drama (Mature themes)

By Rohina Malik

Directed by Genevieve Fowler

March 31-April 2 & April 7-9 at 7:30 p.m.

April 10 at 2 p.m.

Wood-Mar Auditorium

## **FRIENDS OF THEATRE GIVING GROUP**

The Friends of Theatre Giving Group has provided outstanding opportunities for our students above and beyond what the program can support. Some of these opportunities include bringing guest artists and theatre professionals to campus, traveling to conferences and workshops, participating and competing in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and auditioning for graduate programs. Go to [giving.george-fox.edu](http://giving.george-fox.edu) to donate online, or call 503-554-2115 for more options.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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*Godspell-2012 Revised Version*

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)



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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.