

The Godspell Experience: Inside a Transformative Musical

By Carol de Giere

Contents

Foreword by Stephen Schwartz

PART I THE MAKING OF GODSPELL

1. The Lights Go Up
2. Tebelak and Schwartz: Theatrical Childhoods
3. An Eclectic Talent Gathering at CMU in the 1960s
4. The Turning Point: 1968
5. The College *Godspell*
6. Experiments in New York City
7. Enter Lansbury, Beruh, and Schwartz
8. An Off-Broadway Collaboration
9. Mishaps, Miracles, and a Completed New Musical
10. Long Live *Godspell*

PART II UNDERSTANDING GODSPELL: CONCEPTS AND COLORFUL DETAILS

11. Why Send in the Clown Characters?
12. What Holds Godspell Together?
13. The John/Judas Relationship Arc with Jesus
14. Symbol Wars, or Is Makeup a Message?
15. Q & A: Is Godspell's Comic Tone Spiritually Appropriate? And Other Concerns

PART III GODSPELL'S SCORE SONG BY SONG

16. Notes on the Score, Recordings, and Lyrics
17. *Godspell's* "Prologue" and the War of Words
18. Prepare Ye: Solving the Problem of the One-Line Lyric
19. "Save the People" – Is This What Jesus Wants?
20. The "Day by Day" Sing-Along
21. "Learn Your Lessons Well" – a Flexible Song
22. Bless the Lord My Burst of Energy
23. "All for the Best" – the Friendship Duet
24. "All Good Gifts" – *Godspell's* Thanksgiving
25. "Light of the World" – Rhymes for Matthew 5:13-16
26. "Turn Back O Man" – an Invitation to Act II

27. "Alas for You" – Song of Frustration
28. "By My Side" – Songwriters and the Pebble "Dare"
29. "We Beseech Thee" – Come Sing about Love
30. "On The Willows" – The Ballad of Psalm 137
31. "Finale" – Long Live God Counterpoint
32. "Beautiful City" – The Lasting Tribute

PART IV: A GODSPELL GRAB BAG

- 33: *Godspell* Worldwide: The Stories Continue
 - 34: The *Godspell* Commune Company
 - 35: The *Godspell* Movie
 - 36: The 2011 Broadway Revival
- EPILOGUE: Reflections on *Godspell* as a Transformative Musical

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Dramatics Magazine 1975 interview with Schwartz and Tebelak
- Appendix B: Credits for Productions
- Appendix C: Where Are They Now?*
- Appendix D: The Godspell Costume Story*

Chapter Notes

Bibliography and Resources for Further Information

Acknowledgments

Lyrics Credits

Photo Credits

Index of Photographs and Illustrations

Index