CENTRAL WYOMING COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed by John-Michael Tebelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Originally Produced for the New York Stage by
Edgar Lansbury/ Stuart Duncan/ Joseph Breuh



Central Wyoming College

www.cwc.edu/tickets/boxoffice

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I grew up with the music of Godspell. My older brothers played it, and I loved it long before I imagined I might someday have the opportunity to direct it. Moving into my position at Central Wyoming Community College made that possibility real. I am grateful that this community, this administration, this cast, and this crew have brought me to this moment.

What makes Godspell different from many other musicals is that its creators invite each new production to make the show unique to its community. John-Michael Tebelak conceived the show using improvisation and play to bring the teachings of Matthew to life for people who might never have encountered them in a traditional church setting. Stephen Schwartz's music helped those teachings reach audiences in a new way. More than fifty years later, the invitation remains the same: discover what these stories mean to us, here and now.

That invitation has been at the center of our work for the past seven weeks. I asked the performers singing each of the principal songs to bring me their complete vision for the number, including its movement and choreography. Many of the songs you will see tonight were choreographed by the very person singing them. The result is a production shaped by the personalities, and creative expression of this remarkable group of people. And because so much of the show depends on the shared energy between performers, some moments will unfold differently from one performance to the next. What you see tonight belongs to this particular gathering of people, at this particular moment. And that gathering includes you.

Godspell is not a show designed to keep its audience at a comfortable distance. The performers invite you into their world, make eye contact, and ask you to join them in the experience. Your presence, your attention, your laughter, your willingness to listen, all of these become part of the performance. The performers bring their inspiration to you; it is their hope that you will be open to receiving it. In that sense, you are the most important people in the room. What happens on this stage matters only because of what you might carry with them when you leave.

The heart of Godspell is the message running through the teachings of Matthew and the other Gospel passages that inspire the show: we are responsible for one another. Can we forgive, care for those in need, love our neighbors, (even when they are difficult to love), and to look honestly at ourselves before passing judgment on someone else? In a world that often seems determined to divide us into opposing sides, these questions feel especially urgent.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

You do not have to share a particular religious belief to recognize the truth in these questions. For some, the words and stories in Godspell are sacred expressions of faith. For others, they are an invitation to consider the kind of world we want to create and the responsibilities we have to one another. I believe there is room here for both. These teachings have traveled through centuries of human history, carried by generations of people who have struggled to understand how to live well together. Their power lies not only in what we believe, but in what we choose to do.

One gentle warning: While Godspell ultimately inspires us to look toward the possibility of hope, the show does take a turn toward the solemn in the second act. Though presented through the stylized language of theatre, these final moments may be difficult for younger audience members.

I have been deeply moved by the commitment of this cast and crew. Working together, they have made room for one another's ideas, taken creative risks, and brought their individual gifts to something larger than any one person could create alone. That, to me, is largely the message of Godspell itself. We are stronger when we listen. We are better when we make room for one another. And the work of building a more compassionate world belongs to all of us.

Perhaps the question Godspell leaves us with is not whether we know these universal lessons, or even whether we believe them, but whether we are willing to live them.

Thank you for being here and for being part of this community. The performers will soon leave the stage, the lights will come up, and this particular performance will be over. But the community we create in this room doesn't have to end there. What we choose to do with what we have shared is up to us. May we leave tonight a little more willing to listen, a little more ready to forgive, and a little more determined to care for one another. Day by day.

-- Annette Benn Thornton,
Director

CAST

Jesus.....Jeremy Swanton

John the Baptist/Judas.....Drew Thornton

Isabelle.....Isabelle Anderson

Molly.....Molly Bergin

Madi.....Madi Mayhew

Jonathan.....Jonathan Rummel

Sam.....Sam Tower

Pat.....Pat Bergin

Qwanell.....Qwanell Davis

Michele.....Michele Thompson

Kadie.....Kadie Crook

Rhiannon.....Rhiannon Neale

Matt.....Matt Hartman

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Annette Benn-Thornton

Music Director.....Kimber Tower

Technical Director.....Alec Henderson

Sound Engineer.....Xander Tower

Playback Operator.....Austyn Chitwood

Backstage Crew.....Sydney Coyle

Lighting Design and Programing.....,.....Jeremy Swanton, and Colton Lawson

Scenic Design, Construction, and Painting.....Alec Henderson,
Annette Thornton, Jeremy Swanton, Matt Hartman, Sydney Coyle

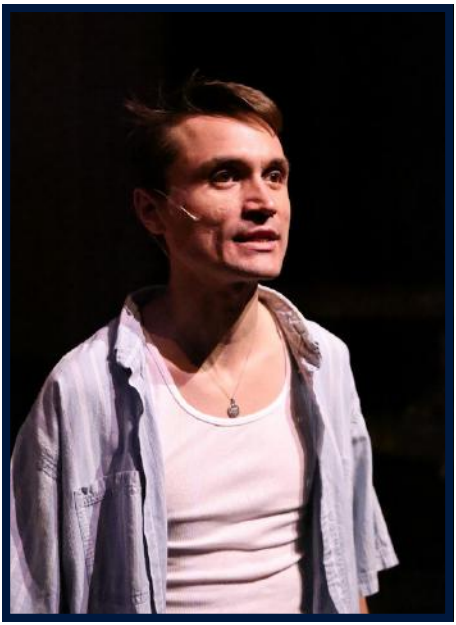
Props.....Kadie Crook, Qwanell Davis, Matt Hartman

Social Media and Marketing.....Kadie Crook, Jeremy Swanton,
Matt Hartman, CWC Marketing & PR Department

Box Office.....Matt Hartman

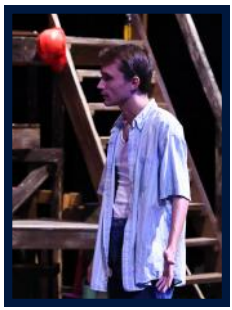


MEET THE CAST









Jeremy Swanton

Jeremy Swanton is grateful, humbled, and beyond excited to be performing as Jesus in *Godspell*.

A multidisciplinary artist and producer, Jeremy co-founded Equality Stage Theatre Company (@equalitystage) with Andrew Thornton this year. He was most recently seen on the CWC Stage as Dickon in *The Secret Garden* and as Malvolio in *12th Night* through his company.

He would like to thank the cast, creative team, and CWC community for their continued support. Special thanks to Annette, for her trust and her vision; to Molly, his rock this show; to Jen, for being family; to Jewel, for her guidance; and to Drew, his steadfast travel companion, for his love, patience, and daily joy.

Jeremy would like to dedicate his performance to Juliet Bergin, our honorary fourteenth cast member. May the light of the world that is within her burn brightly as she continues to grow with her heart full of song.

Amor Fati.

MEET THE CAST









Drew Thornton

Andrew Thornton is an alumnus of the CWC Theatre Department, where he starred in lead roles including Frederick in The Pirates of Penzance and the title role in Hamlet. After graduating, he attended the University of Wyoming and won the prestigious national Irene Ryan Acting Award, which led to opportunities with the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., and training at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Having worked on various theatre projects in Chicago, Andrew now loves serving as the Director of Theatre at Riverton High School and the President of Equality Stage Theatre Company.

MEET THE CAST









Isabelle Anderson

Isabelle Anderson has been involved in the arts from a young age, growing up surrounded by music and theatre. She has participated in countless productions, performed and competed vocally more times than she can remember, and spent years competing in ballroom and cabaret dance. She is thrilled to be part of Godspell and to bring her character's story to life, including the beloved song "Day by Day." Isabelle is incredibly grateful to share this experience with such a wonderful cast and crew (especially her parents) and hopes audiences leave feeling a little more connected, joyful, and inspired. She would like to give a huge thank-you to her mother, husband, and friends for encouraging her to step outside her comfort zone and give the stage another chance. Their love and support mean the world to her!

MEET THE CAST









Molly Bergin

Molly Bergin is beyond excited to be a part of GodSpell. She is a longtime veteran of the CWC stage. She earned her associate degree in theatre at Central Wyoming College before completing her bachelor's degree at Chadron State College. After an eight-year hiatus to start her family, she is thrilled to be back onstage. She would like to thank Jeremy Swanton for encouraging her to audition; her family, Tony Thornton and the Bergins, for their support in making this show possible; Kimber Tower for all of her help with baby Juliet; and her mom, Annette Thornton, for being an inspiration to us all.

MEET THE CAST









Madi Mayhew

Madi has been doing theatre for years, and at this point, it's probably too late to turn back now. As a theatre major, she spends her time doing what she loves most: telling stories, creating characters, and occasionally questioning her life choices during tech week. When she isn't onstage, she enjoys writing her own music and scripts, because apparently being involved in one theatrical production at a time just isn't enough. Her cat, Princess, is her pride and joy and arguably the most important person in her life. Madi is so excited to be a part of this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

MEET THE CAST









Jonathan Rummel

Jonathan holds a BFA in Dance Performance from Oklahoma City University, an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from West Texas A&M University, and a degree in Film from Central Wyoming College. He owned and operated Rummel Dance Studio for eight years and has choreographed Central Wyoming College productions including Beauty and the Beast, Oklahoma!, and Man of La Mancha. His professional experience includes work as a dance instructor, choreographer, show manager, and judge with I Love Dance, where he was named Teacher Feature of the Year at the 2003 national competition in Las Vegas. His performance credits include LeFou in Beauty and the Beast and featured dancer with Celebrity Cruises. Jonathan is delighted to return to the stage in Godspell.

MEET THE CAST





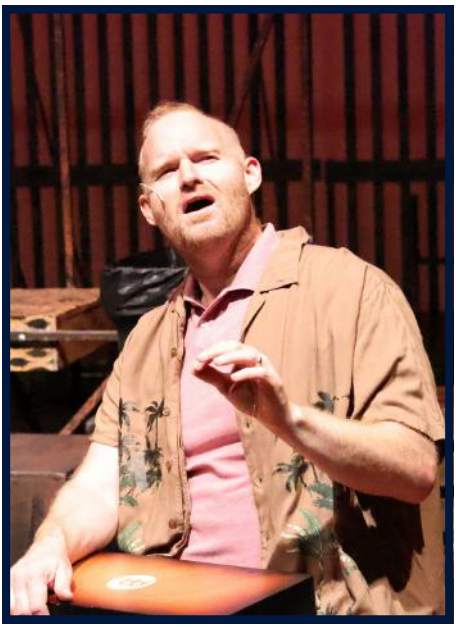




Sam Tower

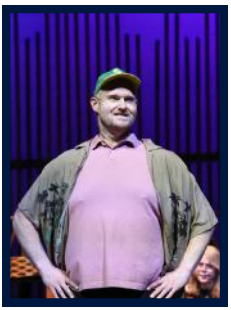
Sam's work spans Shakespeare, musical theatre, comedy, and interactive performance. Favorite roles include Petruchio (The Taming of the Shrew), Oberon (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Billy Crocker (Anything Goes), Daddy Cane (Bright Star), Snoopy (You're Good Man Charlie Brown) and Pharaoh (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat). A multi-instrumentalist who often performs banjo and guitar on stage, Sam also brings a background in improv and variety performance to his work with Central Wyoming College Theatre, and other local venues.

MEET THE CAST









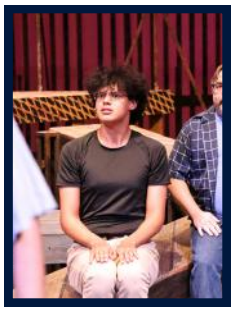
Pat Bergin

Pat Bergin is a familiar face on the CWC stage, with past roles in productions such as The Merry Wives of Windsor, Hamlet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Most recently, Pat played the feisty Ben Weatherstaff in The Secret Garden and performed with Equality Stage Theatre in Twelfth Night. Pat holds a deep love for both musical theatre and the works of Shakespeare.

MEET THE CAST









Qwanell Davis

Qwanell is very excited For the opportunity to be in Godspell at CWC. Previously, Qwanell was a part of CWC's The Secret Garden, and Equality Stage Theater's production of 12th Night. Qwanell also recently attended the Arts Bridge summer program where he was taught by Broadway talent and many professors from different arts conservatories and college institutions like Julliard and NYU. In his free time he likes to do community service for Key Club and NHS.

MEET THE CAST





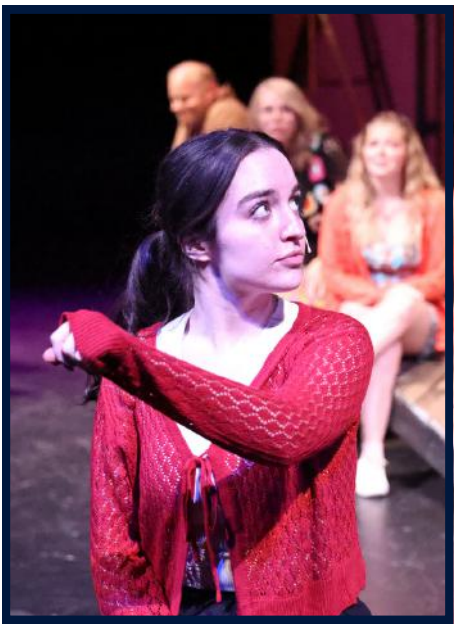




Michele Thompson

Michele is excited to take the stage with a cool new set of friends! She holds a BS in Occupational Therapy from CSU and two master's degrees in Special Education and Instructional Technology from GCU. With over 30 years as an occupational therapist and nearly 20 as a special education teacher, she is passionate about helping students discover their potential. Godspell brings together her love of music, faith, and community. Outside of school and theater, she enjoys family, her dogs Poppy and Nova (a therapy dog), and the great Wyoming outdoors. She thanks her husband, family, and friends for encouraging her to try new things, even singing AND dancing on two new knees!

MEET THE CAST









Kadie Crook

After spending the last year behind the scenes, including student directing CWC's A Very Groovy Christmas Carol, Kadie is thrilled to be back on stage! She is curently pursuing degrees here at CWC in both Theatre and Secondary Education so she can share her love of theatre with future high school students. When she isn't in class or on the stage, Kadie is most likely binge watching a good rom-com. She wants to thank the one and only Jeremy Swanton for bringing so much joy into theatre and serving as an incredible mentor. Kadie absolutely loves this show and can't wait to share the magic of Godspell with you!

MEET THE CAST





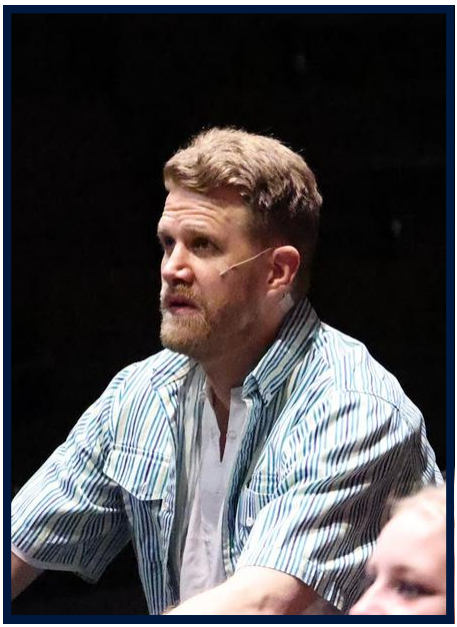




Rhiannon Neale

Rhiannon Neale currently attends Shoshoni High School and brings a deep passion for musical theatre to the stage. Local audiences may recognize her as Mary Lennox from last spring's production of The Secret Garden. Known for a rich, mature vocal range beyond her years, Rhiannon excels at bringing beautifully layered characters to life. Rhiannon has enjoyed the unique Godspell experience of collaborative creativity throughout the rehearsal process, but she is very excited to present all her work to the Fremont County community.

MEET THE CAST









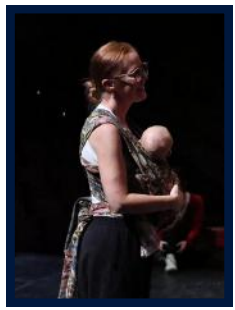
Matt Hartman

Matt fell in love with theatre immediately, but not that long ago. He started rehearsing for his first show in the Columbia River Gorge playing Diesel in West Side Story and hasn't stopped since. He's been a regular on the CWC stage and has performed with several local acting troops: Pancakes, Peculiars and in Equality Theatre Companies debut performance of 12th Night as Duke Orsino in Shakespeare's 12th Night this last summer. Matt also enjoys playing Trombone for CWC Concert band, Time's a Wastin' Jazz band, Fremont Symphony and Central Wyoming Brass Quintet. To relax and enjoy life, Matt loves to go dancing, read, and especially go for walks with his good buddy Radar O'Reilly.

MEET THE CAST









Juliet Bergin

Honorary Cast Member

Juliet may only be three months old, but she has already mastered the art of backstage theatre! The show just wouldn't be the same without her! Outside of her demanding rehearsal schedule, Juliet enjoys eating, sleeping, and repeating. She would like to thank her parents, Molly and Pat Bergin, for all their love and care, her three big brothers, Henry, Michael, and Arthur, for being the absolute best older brothers, and Annette Thornton for being the best Grandma ever. She also wants to extend a huge special thanks to Kimber Tower for the countless hours spent holding her through every rehearsal while the rest of the cast was working hard on stage! Little Juliet just can't wait for you all to see the show!

MEET THE CREW



Annette Benn Thornon
Director

Annette Benn Thornton serves as the Director of Theatre at Central Wyoming College, following a celebrated 20-year tenure as the Theatre Director at Riverton High School. An accomplished director and playwright, she specializes in devised theatre collaboration and productions. Supporting the tremendous spirit and talent of the cast and crew for Godspell has been her greatest joy this fall season, inspiring her in more ways than she ever dreamed—both in her work in theatre and in her hope for humanity.

Special Thanks: Annette extends her deepest gratitude to her husband, Tony, for keeping our grandkids during rehearsals so Molly and Pat could both participate in the show. Extra special thanks to Kimber for her incredible work as music director—and for 'wearing' grandbaby Juliet through all of rehearsals. A true baby whisperer!

MEET THE CREW



Kimber Tower
Music Director

Kimber Tower's history with Godspell began nearly 30 years ago as a cast member in Western Wyoming Community College's acclaimed 1997 production. Returning to Godspell as Music Director at CWC brings her theatrical journey full circle. An Idaho native who loves a good potato, Kimber has been a lifelong musician—singing harmonies at four, playing piano at six, and accompanying by sixteen. Her CWC music directing credits include Paint Your Wagon, Peter Pan, Bright Star, and The Secret Garden, alongside teaching middle and high school choir in Riverton. Beyond the stage, Kimber can usually be found running with her loyal treadmill, Thor, watching Marvel shows, or spending time with her husband, children, and beloved dogs and cats. She remains committed to the students, creative partnerships, and storytelling that make collegiate theatre so meaningful.

MEET THE CREW



Alec Henderson

Technical Director

Alec Henderson is proud to be part of Godspell as Technical Director, working to support the vision and energy of this extraordinary cast. Co-designing the set with Annette and Jeremy was a highlight of the production process, blending creative ideas into a space built for storytelling. Alec is deeply grateful to the entire team—from the performers on stage to the hands backstage—for their selfless time and effort. Enjoy the performance and thank you for being here!

MEET THE CREW



Xander Tower

Sound Engineer

Xander Tower is a first-year technical theatre student at Central Wyoming College. Building on his sound design experience with the Riverton High School theatre program last year, Xander has set his sights on transitioning from foundational sound skills to tackling the complex nuances of excellent sound design and operations for Godspell. It's amazing to watch this genius at work!

MEET THE CREW



Austyn Chitwood

Playback Operator

Austyn is excited to be a part of bringing the magic of Godspell to life! She has over eight years of experience in theatre. This year, Austyn decided to move from belting on stage to sitting behind the computer running sound and light cues. She's glad to be helping this year's starts to shine!

SPECIAL THANKS

The CWC Theatre Department would like to thank:

- The Riverton Rotary Club
- Central Wyoming College Marketing & PR Department, KCWC Rustler Radio, Jennifer Marshall, Shawn Ennis, John Gabrielson, Claire Manning
- Charene Herrera and Jared Anderson at County 10
- Sarah Elmquist-Squires, and the entire team at WyoToday
- CWC President Dr. Brad Tyndall
- The CWC Board of Directors
- Brittany Yeates, Jody Goodrich, Jennifer Appleby
- Kyle Reid Hass, for his musical consultancy and guidance.

HUGE thank you to our sponsors

Friend ($10-$299): Rae Bennett, Alexander Henderson , Karla Hughes, Rebecca Kaufman, Joel and Nancy Kindle, Elizabeth Kirk, Curtis Muth, Charles W. and Cheryl D. Rodgers, Carole and Mark Short, Bob and Barbara Yates

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Producer ($1,500-$2,999): Bill's Quality Auto Glass

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

WARNING: This production utilizes flashing effects which may affect photosensitive or sensory-sensitive patrons.

There will be a 10 minute intermission.

DONATE TODAY

You can help support the CWC Theatre Department by making a donation in one of the following categories. Your name and category will be listed in all theatre programs.

Friend.....$10 -$100	Member $300
Patron..... $500	Benefactor $1000
Producer.....$1500	Show Sponsor $3000 or more

- Send a check payable to the **CWC Foundation** with the donation form
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