

BOOK BY

John-Michael Tebelak

MUSIC & LYRICS BY

Stephen Schwartz

CONCEIVED & ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY

John-Michael Tebelak

BASED ON

The Gospel According to St. Matthew

DIRECTED BY

Mensah Robinson

MUSICAL DIRECTORS

Tom Morris & Jessica Smith

CHOREOGRAPHER

Sarah Lorenzini

PRODUCED BY

Sara Mariano & Rebecca Pokorski

STARRING

JOEL Baglia

ROB Bassett

JULIA Bogdanoff

MARCELO Calderon

KARL Hinger

BROOKE Morris

JOHN Mudgett

EMILY Seibert

RYAN J Taylor

KATE Valiska

ERIN West Reed

LEXIS Willoughby

BrookfieldTheatre.ORG

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

May 2015

Dear TBTA Family & Friends,

We could not be prouder to welcome Mensah Robinson in his community theater directorial debut with this retelling of the much-loved musical *Godspell*. A veteran actor of area community theater, Mensah has performed here in ...Spelling Bee and Into The Woods. He was also Assistant Director for last year's production of God of Carnage.

Auditions are currently underway for our summer musical, Stephen Sondheim's *Company* directed by Maureen Trotto. It opens on July 17 and runs through August 8. *Steel Magnolias* follows in September, directed by Tom Sheehan. We end the year with a beautiful exploration of life and relationships in *Night Mother* by Marsha Norman, directed by Michael Burnett. Information on all of our shows and auditions are on our web site: www.BrookfieldTheatre.org or follow us on social media.

Our 2015 season would not be possible without the countless hours of our volunteers and the dedication of our Board of Directors. We also thank our sponsors, subscribers and TBTA members for their continued support. In order to continue in our mission to provide high quality live performances and educational workshops to the Brookfield region, we need your help. Please consider making a small donation to show your support. And although monetary support is always needed and appreciated, your advertising is most beneficial in helping our theatre community thrive. If you like what you see here today, tell your friends and family. Better yet, bring them back with you. Your presence at the theatre is the greatest form of support.

For our members and subscribers, we are happy to announce a slightly new format for our annual Paddys—an evening to celebrate and honor our volunteers and supporters. This year, we will host the Paddys on November 29, 2015. This year, we will celebrate both the 2014 and 2015 seasons. As the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, we hope this date change will allow us to focus on our thanks and appreciation for all that goes into producing each of our shows. The evening promises to be a memorable one! If you are not yet a member or subscriber, consider joining us now and help support live community theater in our region.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

Lou Okell TBTA PR Volunteer

For the safety of performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, taking photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off **ALL** phones and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems and disrupt the show. **Patrons who need to text, tweet, or candy crush may do so in the lobby.**

TBTA Membership

Membership is still only \$20 and is a great way to support the theatre!

2015 Members

Aldis Alexander, Robert Bassett, Kerry Bulson,
Michael Burnett, Desirae Carle, Brian Casella,
Dawn Garamone, Carol de Giere, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose,
Margaret Teed Jones, Don Lombardo,
Karlene Lombardo, Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell,
Rebecca Pokorski, Karen E. Steckler, Joy Tagliavento

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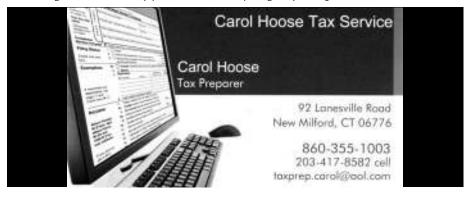
Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2015 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, John & Anne Baron*, Anna & Roy Chan*,
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Steve Hoose, Gregory Kelsey*, Donald & Karlene Lombardo*,
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Tara Peterson, Anne & Clint Rickards*, Sue Slater*,
Jina Williams, Steve Wright*

Thank you for your support!

*Subscription for Two. Listing is current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.



Thank you to our TBTA 2015 Season Supporters

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

Thomas & Emilie Connor

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BRONZE \$25-\$99

Anthony Chiodo • Celia Regan

"TIPS" up to \$25

Tara Hanlon • Corey Leake • Timothy Muir Suzanne Murdock • Karen Robinson

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

The above list is complete as of printer's deadline.

A Brief History of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

The building that houses TBTA was originally a gymnasium for The Curtis School for Boys. First established in 1875 in Bethlehem, CT by Frederick S. Curtis, the school was moved to Long Meadow Hill in 1883 and then to the present site that was the former Goodsell Estate in 1886.

In 1906 the price for one school year was six hundred dollars. This included "tuition, board, a seat in church, lighting and worming, the care and mending of clothing, and the use of school books." In the 1920s, girls were allowed to enroll as day students. This is the second gymnasium for the Curtis School. The first was destroyed by fire in 1906. The present stone building was built in 1907. The Curtis School closed its doors in 1943.

The gymnasium was purchased by the Brookfield Country Players in 1957 and has been used as a theatre for year-round plays and musicals ever since. This year, 2015, is our 58th season of shows.

Visit our web site for more information: www.BrookfieldTheatre.org.

GODSPELL

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 / JOSEPH BERUH

directed by Mensah Robinson
musical directors Tom Morris & Jessica Smith
choreographer Sarah Lorenzini
produced by Sara Mariano & Rebecca Pokorski

CAST

(listed alphabetically)

Joel Baglia · Rob Bassett · Julia Bogdanoff Marcelo Calderon · Karl Hinger · Brooke Morris John Mudgett · Emily Seibert · Ryan J Taylor Kate Valiska · Erin West Reed · Alexis Willoughby

BAND

Tom Morris	Keyboard
Connor Taylor	Guitar 1
Jack Morris	Guitar 2
Allegra Pin	Drums
Al Montecalvo	Drums (May 8, 9 & 22)
Lauren Chakraborty	, Bass

Godspell 2012

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

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PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Mensah Robinson
Musical Directors	Tom Morris & Jessica Smith
Choreographer	Sarah Lorenzini
Producers	Sara Mariano & Rebecca Pokorski
SET DESIGN	Robert Lane & Andrew Okell
Costume Design	Rebecca Pokorski
Lighting & Sound Design	Stephen Cihanek
Stage Manager	Eli Patton
Properties	Sara Mariano
Sound Execution	Bennett Cognato
LIGHTING EXECUTION	Hattie Sorrells
SET CONSTRUCTION	Bob Lane, Andy Okell
SET DECORATION	Lou Okell, Kerry Bulson
House Manager	TBTA Volunteers
House Photographer	Stephen Cihanek
Box Office	Carol Hoose
SRO/Concessions	Joy Tagliavento
OPENING NIGHT PARTY	Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

Pastor Ryan Masse, Jill Hancock, Brian Casella, Pathways Academy. A Common Ground

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prepare Ye	Joel
Save the People	Marcelo
Day by Day	Brooke
Learn Your Lessons Well	Erin
Bless the Lord	Julia
All for the Best	Joel & Marcelo
All Good Gifts	Ryan
Light of the World	John
Intermission	n
Turn Back, O Man	Emily
Alas for You	Marcelo
By My Side	
We Beseech Thee	Rob
Beautiful City	Marcelo
On the Willows	Joel, Kate, John
Finale	Cast

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Community theater is both a tremendously rewarding and challenging environment to navigate. Establishing a vision and having that vision come to life on stage is rewarding. Meeting new people and drawing out their talent is rewarding. To do all this in a culture of volunteerism is a daunting challenge. Very seldom can a director accomplish all of their goals for a show without sacrificing some aspect of production or settling for a reduced standard of quality. In the case of *Godspell* there were no sacrifices and there was no settling.

As a Christian, this is a story that I truly believe. It's not another fictional toe tapper that will leave you with a clever tune. This show has an undeniable message of love at it's heart. It was imperative to me that we tell this story as best we could, with no sacrifices and no settling. What you will experience in this show is the culmination of a supremely talented cast, a razor sharp band and a dedicated production staff all achieving a shared goal, bringing the bedlam in my imagination to life on stage. I couldn't be any prouder of this production and I hope it will both entertain and move every audience that sees it.

God Bless and Enjoy the show!

Mensah Robinson

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. Should an emergency arise, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

Support Community Theatre in our Region!

Brookfield Theatre for the Arts brookfieldtheatre.org

neatre Sherman Playhouse

Landmark Community Theatre landmarkcommunitytheatre.org

Town Players of Newtown newtownplayers.org

Ridgefield Theater Barn

ridgefieldtheaterbarn.org

shermanplayers.org

Musicals at Richter musicalsatrichter.org

TriArts Sharon Playhouse triarts.net

New Milford TheatreWorks theatreworks.us

Wilton Playshop wiltonplayshop.org

Phoenix Stage Company phoenixstagecompany.org

Sara M, and Eli, thank you for making us look great and for putting up with us crazy kids! Alexis...twins for life! Kate...I heart you! Rob...Bethel forever! To all of my cast mates, I can never thank you enough for all of the laughter and joy you guys have brought to me, and for blowing me away with all of your crazy talent!" Finally, Erin dedicates this performance to her mom up in heaven. This was her mom's favorite show and now she can have the best seat in the house!



Alexis Willoughby (Alexis) is excited to make her third appearance at TBTA. Previous show include *Spelling Bee* (Marcy Park) and *Carnival* (Princess Olga). Alexis recently graduated from WCSU with a BA in Theatre Performance. Some of her favorite shows include *Into the Woods* (Witch), *Spring Awakening* (Martha), *Three Sisters* (Masha), *I Love a Piano* (Sadie), *The Green Bird* (Smeraldina), *Ly-*

sistrata (Lampito), Damn Yankees (Gloria Thorpe), Leviathan (Nicole) and Sweeney Todd (Prostitute/ Tenor). She also had the opportunity to reprise the role of Masha at the 2011 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this show a fun and memorable experience. Find out more at www.alexiswilloughby.com

IN OUR LOBBY

Gloria Laposka was an accomplished photographer—her portrait of Edward Steichen is part of the MoMA collection. She was a longtime supporter of TBTA and many of her show photographs are hanging on our walls. She was also a painter whose work has been shown throughout the region and who earned critical acclaim for her unique painting style. We are honored to show her work in our lobby in celebration of her life, her art, and her commitment to our theatre and the Brookfield community she loved.

Wesley Abram Vega is currently a Junior at Danbury High School. His artistic discovery began as a childhood fascination with sticky tape. His interest turned to creativity as he began to realize the possibilties of connecting paper with tape. Experimenting with a variety of papers and adhesives has allowed him to create these intricate sculptures. Wesley loves the Lord, is very active at Faith Church in New Milford Ct, reads his Bible and prays every day. He is an honor student at Danbury High School who plans to study the arts when he goes to college.

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Michael Burnett, President & Artistic Director Meg Jones, Vice-President • Carol Hoose, Treasurer Kristin Hoose, Secretary

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rob Bassett, Kerry Bulson, Desirae Carle, Brian Casella (Technical Director), Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Rebecca Pokorski, Karen E. Steckler

Jessica Smith (Vocal Director) is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory with a degree in Vocal Performance, and has spent more than 15 years working as a professional singer, vocal coach, musical and dramatic director and artist. She has served as director, music director or vocal director for theater groups in NY and CT, and is thankful to be back among the TBTA family in a directorial capacity. Other recent directing and music directing credits include shows such as Merrily We Roll Along, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, The Odd Couple, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, Oliver, A New Brain, The Snow Queen, and more. Jessica has performed for many years as a regional actor, with appearances throughout the Western Connecticut region, and as a professional singer performing jazz and musical theater at various venues, as well as serving as cantor for area churches. Other favorite credits have included performing for crowds up to 11,000 as a member of the Star Wars In Concert Chorus and recording projects with area artists. Ms. Smith was formerly the owner and artistic director of The Studio For Musical Theater in Westchester County. This training studio provided instruction, workshops and performance coaching to teens looking to develop and refine the skills needed to pursue a career in musical theater, and for adults wanting to enjoy artistic development throughout their life. Special thanks to an incredible creative team, and a talented and joyful cast!



Ryan J Taylor (Ryan) is thrilled to be a part of TBTA and to be back working with Mensah Robinson. Ryan's stage credits include Once Upon A Mattress, Hello, Dolly! (Barnaby), Young Frankenstein (Igor), Anything Goes, Wizard of Oz (Emerald City Guard), The Westchester Broadway Halloween Show and The Westchester Broadway Christmas Show. Film credits include The Way We Were, The Prince of Tides,

Funny Girl and Yentl. Ryan would like to thanks the cast and production team, Sarah, his family, his work colleagues, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Elaine Stritch, Liza Minnelli, and Bernadette Peters. He would like to dedicate his performance to Carol Channing.



Kate Valiska (KATE) This marks Kate's debut performance at TBTA with the phenomenal production of *Godspell*. Kate is currently in her second term as President of the Board of Directors for Musicals at Richter in Danbury, where she has been performing for the past 10 years. Some of Kate's favorite roles include: Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Warner Theatre Co.), Rita La Porta in *Lucky Stiff* (Wilton Play-

shop), Connie in *A Chorus Line* (MAR), Cassius in *Julius Caesar* and Rosalia in *West Side Story* (IHS). She would like to send a big thank you to the entire *Godspell* cast and production team who have become a second family. Kate would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of Elizabeth Bauerlein whose enduring faith and love knew no bounds and created a "Beautiful City."



Erin West Reed (Erin) is thrilled to be making her TBTA debut! Previous shows include *Peter Pan* (Peter Pan), *Shrek* (Dragon), *Grease* (Rizzo), *A Chorus Line* (Val), and *SJC* (Patti) at the Warner Theater. She thanks her husband Brenty "for all of his love and support and for being so handsome! Thank you, Mensah for being a phenomenal director, and to Sarah L for giving us some rocking moves! Rebecca,



Joel Baglia (Joel) is an aspiring chef, lead singer of a rock and roll band and professional dad. He saw *Godspell* 15 years ago in this very theatre and fell in love with the play. He is honored to be part of this amazing production. He would like to dedicate his performance to his one and only Sydney Finn, and to his friends and loved ones he lost along the way: Dad, Shawn, Todd, Matt, Dee and Vin.



Rob Bassett (Rob) made his TBTA debut as Woof in the 2012 production of *HAIR* and later appeared as Jack in *Into the Woods*, and in the staged reading of 8. He was last seen on the TBTA stage as Mark in *RENT*. He later made his claim to fame when he voiced the role of Elsa in the Disney animated musical *Frozen*. Humor aside, Rob is thrilled to join this truly talented and unique group of people who've come

together to bring this production to life. A super special thank you to Mensah, Tom, Jess, Sara, & Rebecca. And much love to his family and friends for always showing up and being supportive.



Julia Bogdanoff (Julia) is a sophomore at Newtown High School and is absolutely ecstatic to be making her debut at the TBTA! *Godspell* marks Julia's 23rd show. Some of her past favorites includes *Company* (Kathy), *Godspell* at Sabrina's Encore Productions, *Godspell* at Frenchwoods Festival of the Performing Arts, *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow/Lion), *Bye Bye*, *Birdie* (Rosie), and *Annie* (Miss Hannigan). Julia would

like to thank her mom for always driving her to and from rehearsal (because she is just slightly too young to drive herself), Alexis for letting her sit in her car when rehearsal ends early, Mensah for being an awesome director, Jess and Tom for being fantastic musical directors, Sarah L. for giving great choreography, and Sara M. and Rebecca for working so hard to produce this show. She would also like to thank Sabrina Post and Lisa Mennilli for making her the singer and dancer she is today and her family for being so supportive. Break legs everyone!!



Marcelo Calderon (Marcelo) is a student currently studying classical guitar at WCSU and is happy to be making his TBTA debut in this wonderful production. His favorite roles include Usnavi (In the Heights), Henry (Next to Normal), Sammy (The Wedding Singer), Georg (Spring Awakening), and Prince Charming (Cinderella). He thanks his fantastic castmates and the production team for making

this such an enjoyable experience. "Much love to my family and Meghan."

Stephen Cihanek (Lighting & Sound Design) After studying theater and engineering in college, his interest in theater returned while attending the First Baptist Church in Brewster where he took on the role of technical director and lighting/sound designer (and sometimes actor) for many pro-ductions. Since then he has designed lights for TBTA and other local theaters. Shows include Little Red & the Hoods, Master Class, Outward Bound, Putting It Together, As Bees in Honey Drown, Dinner with Friends, Diviners, Harvey, Spelling Bee, The Book of Liz, Into The Woods, Be A Good Little Widow, The Divine Sister, God of Carnage and Blithe Spirit as well as sound design for Thou Shalt Not Dance and Tuesdays With Morrie. Steve is also TBTA's photographer and the 2012 Volunteer of the Year.



Karl Hinger (Karl.) is very excited to be back at TBTA and to be part of such a wonderful cast. This is his second time here, his debut being *Into the Woods*. Other area performances include: *Wizard of Oz* (Tinman), *9 to 5, Anything Goes*. He will also be playing the role of Tommy this summer in Musicals at Richter's *Annie Get Your Gun*. He hopes that you enjoy the show and enjoy the journey.

Robert Lane (Set Design/Construction) is in his sixth season at TBTA as Set Fabricator and is the 2010 TBTA Volunteer of the Year. He thanks his wife, Rita, for supporting his time spent building (many long into the evening). He also thanks all of the TBTA-ers he has collaborated with over the years.

Sarah Lorenzini (Choreographer) graduated from the Hartford Conservatory for Dance with a diploma in Dance Pedagogy and Performance in 2001 and graduated from UCONN with a Bachelors of General Studies. She has been dancing for 30 years and teaching for 15, with a focus on Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Modern, Tap and Ballet. She owns Hot Shoes Dance, in Ridgefield, CT. She had performed in numerous recitals and plays over her 30 year dance career, including *Once on this Island* and a Murder Mystery dinner theater. She has choreographed six full length musicals at Faith Church, as well as *Annie*, *Jr*. She is extremely honored, and excited, to work with the amazing cast and crew of *Godspell* at TBTA.

Sara Mariano (PRODUCER) is fairly indifferent about this production of *Godspell* (just seeing if you're paying attention—she is thrilled!). Sara has been a board member at TBTA since 2011 and the 2013 TBTA Volunteer of the Year, and has had the pleasure of producing several productions (*Hair*; *I Love You*, *You're Perfect*, *Now Change*; *Divine Sister*) as well as performing onstage (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; *Dog Sees God*; *8*; *RENT*). Sara lives in Danbury with her husband Joe and 3-year-old son Martin. Congratulations to the incredibly talented cast, crew and band—come sing about love!



Brooke Morris (Brooke) is thrilled to be a part of *Godspell* at TBTA and to be returning to the stage after a short hiatus at Ithaca College. Most recent credits include *I Don't Want to Talk About It* at Ithaca College and *Spring Awakening* at the Ridgefield Theatre Barn. This upcoming fall she will be transferring to Hunter College as a music major. (If anyone is looking for a fun, clean, and cute roommate in

Manhattan, hit this girl up!) Brooke would like to thank Mensah, Jess, Tom, and everyone else behind the scenes for making this show rock!

Tom Morris (Musical Director) is a music director, pianist and conductor. He is a classically-trained pianist and has been playing for musicals since a young age. He has worked on many area musical productions, including *Sweeney Todd, City of Angels, Dogfight, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Cabaret, Legally Blonde* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.*



John Mudgett (Jонn) is beyond excited to return to the stage for his second show at TBTA. Previous credits include *RENT* (Benny), *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Milton Gatch), *Harvey* (Dr. William Chumley), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble) and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Bisset). John would like to thank his friends and family for their support, and the cast, band and entire production team for bringing this

show to life. Special thanks to Rebecca, Sara M, Sarah L, Tom, Jess and Mensah, who all played an integral role in this show's success.

Andy Okell (Set Design/Construction) is on the Board of Directors and thanks his wonderful daughter, Emma, for introducing him to theater. He is the 2011 TBTA Volunteer of the Year. By day he runs his own graphics & printing business (arkett.com). He hopes you will tell your family and friends about TBTA so that he can return to build many more sets with "Bob da Builder" Lane.

Eli Patton (STAGE MANAGER) Originally born and raised in Texas, Eli now resides in Danbury and is a jeweler for Betteridge in Greenwich. Previous stage credits include: *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd) and *God's Favorite* which he directed. Eli would like to thank the entire cast and crew of *Godspell*, especially Mensah for giving him this opportunity and Alexis for being his fuzzy little man peach. Lastly, Eli would like to thank Kate for being "the light of his world"....oh and for writing his bio!

Rebecca Pokorski (Producer/Costume Designer) is very excited to have the privilege of working with the incredibly talented cast, crew and directorial team of Godspell. Previously you have seen her costumes in Rent (Angel's costumes). Rebecca holds a BFA in costume design from SUNY Fredonia and has worked at the Tennessee Repertory Theatre in Nashville before going on to Broadway to work in costumes for such productions as Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Dream, Jekyll and Hyde and Miss Saigon as well as the Royal Ballet at the Met. You have seen Rebecca on stage at TBTA as the Stepmother in Into the Woods, and in I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Rebecca is grateful to be a part of this production and would like to give the glory to God.

Mensah Robinson (Director) is a veteran of Connecticut's musical theatre community. Mensah has performed in such shows as ... Spelling Bee, Into The Woods, The Full Monty, Aida, Songs For A New World and most recently 12 Angry Men at the Bijou in Bridgeport. Mensah is tremendously excited to be directing at TBTA for the first time. He lives in Danbury with his lovely wife Karen. He leads worship at Faith Church in New Milford.



Emily Seibert (EMILY) is excited to return to TBTA! She last appeared on this stage as Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*. Favorite stage credits include *Ernest in Love* (Gwendolen), *Grease* (Rizzo), *The Mercy Seat* (Abby), *The Trojan Women* (Helen), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (The Singer), and *Der Signal & Tragic Mirth* with Puppetsweat Theater. I'm so grateful to work with such an

amazing cast, pit and crew! We could not have done it without all of the time, love, karaoke and caffeine!!