

## Coming in our 41<sup>st</sup> Season



Feb. 25 – Mar. 20,  
2011

Apr. 22 – May 15,  
2011

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SCP depends on membership to cover the cost of productions not covered by ticket sales. Please join or renew your membership in SCP and help the theatre to continue bringing quality productions to the Sunnyvale community! Your membership not only helps the players but includes a subscription to our newsletter, membership card, free tickets (for a contribution of \$50 or more), an invitation to our annual meeting, and your name listed in the program for every production of the season. Your contribution is tax deductible. If you are employed by a company that matches charitable contributions, please consider having them match your membership donation. We will list their name under the corporate donors.

### Abbreviations

ATC-Actors Theatre Center	PCLG-Presbyterian Church Los Gatos
ATP-Actor Training Program, Solano	PSP-Pacifica Spindrift Players
CHS-Cupertino High School	SBMT-South Bay Musical Theater
CLTC-City Lights Theater Company	STOC-Studio Theatre of California
FMT-Foothill Music Theater	SVCT-South Valley Civic Theater
HHS-Homestead High School	TA-Theater Artists Institute, SMTSJ
LTSJ-Lyric Theater San Jose	UCD-U.C. Davis
NDHS-Notre Dame High School, SJ	WTC-Willows Theater Company
NDNU-Notre Dame de Namur Univ	WHS-Westmont High School
NTC-Northside Theater Company	WVLO-West Valley Light Opera
PAP-Palo Alto Players	

City of Sunnyvale Evenings of Cultural Arts 2010-2011  
Box Office: 408-733-661  
Love Notes  
November 27, 2010

Patrick Ball December 11, 2010	The Barefoot Nellies January 8, 2011
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Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet-Lickers Band  
February 12, 2011

Naser Musa Ensemble March 26, 2011	Vagabond Opera April 16, 2011
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October 29 – November 21, 2010



## GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed by John Michael Tebelak  
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz  
Arrangements and Orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire  
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by  
Edgar Lansbury/Stuart Duncan/Joseph Beruh



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**Production Staff**

Producer.....Susan Buchs  
 Director.....Walter M. Mayes  
 Assistant Director.....David Mister  
 Conductor.....Joseph Reichert  
 Vocal Director.....Walter M. Mayes  
 Choreographer.....Lee Ann Payne  
 Dance Captain.....Shawn Miller  
 Stage Manager.....Alex Martir  
 Audition Pianists.....Samuel Cisneros, Katie Colemar  
 Rehearsal Pianist.....John Losefa  
 Set Designer.....Matt Welch  
 Master Carpenter.....Joe Hultquist  
 Lighting Designer.....Ed Hunter  
 Light Operators.....Bob Martir  
 Sound Designer.....Colin Lumley  
 Crew.....Mya Ballin, Karina Fathi, Kyle Hultquist, Matt Tipton  
 Costumes.....Company  
 Props.....Susan Buchs  
 Box Office.....Kathie Van Sickle  
 Theatre Coordinator.....Tegan McLane  
 Theatre Technical Director.....Bill Rupe

**Grateful Acknowledgements**

ELLEN BOB

This program is supported by the City of Sunnyvale  
 Department of Community Services, Recreation  
 Division



The City of Sunnyvale encourages persons with disabilities to participate in our Parks and Recreation programs. We will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations, please call (408) 730-7725, at least five days in advance of the program.

## STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

**Walter M. Mayes (Director, Vocal Director)** returns to direct at SCP, fast on the heels of his portrayal of the Demon Barber, *SWEENEY TODD*. In addition to directing *THE FANTASTICKS* and *SEUSSICAL* for SCP, he has also directed *THE PRODUCERS* for SBMT and will be directing *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM* there this winter. As Walter the Giant Storyteller, he has made hundreds of appearances at libraries, schools, and bookstores throughout the country. Walter is the librarian and drama teacher at The Girls' Middle School in Mountain View.

**David Mister (Assistant Director)** is excited to be making his debut on Staff after leading a rebellion onstage as Bobby Strong in last season's smash hit *URINETOWN*. Other past shows include *...SPELLING BEE* (Barfee) with FMT, *THE PRODUCERS* (Jason Green, ensemble) with SBMT, *LITTLE WOMEN* (Laurie) with PAP, and *MAN OF LA MANCHA* (Sancho) with Hillbarn.

**Lee Ann Payne (Choreographer)** is delighted to return to SCP to work with the fantastic cast and crew on *Godspell*. She has choreographed many SCP productions of late: *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Urinetown*. She holds a MFA in Musical Theatre from San Diego State University and enjoys working with actors. Oh, bless the Lord!

**Joseph Reichert (Conductor)** is currently working on the completion of his Master's Degree in Percussion Performance at San Jose State University, where he also runs the SJSU Marching Band Drum line. By day Joseph is the Artist in Residence at the San Mateo-Foster City School District and teaches rudimentary percussion along with drum set at Lemmon Percussion. Joseph's professional career has taken him to Broadway as a percussionist for the Broadway musical *Cats*.

**Ed Hunter (Lighting Designer)** has been doing theater in the South Bay since he moved here in 1985. His recent shows with SCP have been *Sweeney Todd*, *The Fantasticks* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Besides working with SCP he has worked with Theatreworks, Teatro Vison, Shady Shakespeare and Lyric Theater.

Sunnyvale Community Players Present

# GODSPELL

**Directed by Walter M. Mayes**  
**Conducted by Joseph Reichert**  
**Choreography by Lee Ann Payne**  
**Produced by Susan Buchs**

Produced in agreement with Music Theater International, New York  
And Alex Lacamoire

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

For many musical theatre actors, being in GODSPELL is a rite of passage--if you have a lengthy resume, chances are good this show is on it. In my day, EVERYONE did it--except me; somehow I missed out on doing the show, though I saw friends do it repeatedly. And it was always the same: a company of singing, dancing, hippie-esque clowns reinterpreted the Gospel of Matthew in a humorous, rollicking, improvisational, and ultimately life-affirming style that varied little from the original late-60s concept (except a 1980 production called "GODSPELL FEVER," set in a disco called "Matt's Place" and with a funkified score) and polarized almost everyone who came to see it. Beloved by Christian groups, GODSPELL is a play that has always preached to the converted.

But I am not a believer. I am an atheist, through and through. Though I was baptized Catholic, had a holy-rollin', Southern Baptist babysitter for a year in Florida who brought Jesus into my heart and dragged me all over the state to testify at different churches, then joined a Pentacostal , speakin'-in-tongues, snake -handling church when I was 13 and got saved all over again, it never took. So what is it that my skeptic's eye cannot see that my heart responds to in this play? Why does it have such a strong pull on me? Why, when Sunnyvale Community Players gave me nearly free reign to select what show I'd like to direct, did I choose this one? Because of the opportunity to cleanly and freshly look at the play and, with a company of singing actors who are willing to delve deeply into the experience of what it means to truly PLAY, focus on what, to me, is the central tenet of the teachings of Christ: the message that God = Love.

Our production includes all the wonderful songs by Stephen Schwartz (including "Beautiful City," written for the film), but takes advantage of a new set of orchestrations done for the LA revival in 2001. Gone, however, are the hippies and many of the trappings of the show that are not central to the script, but we have, through rehearsal, improvisation, and the best kind of collaborative theatrical work/play, come up with a contemporary look at the issues and questions raised by the teachings of Jesus the radical; Jesus the clown, and Jesus the prophet. I am confident we will have given you much to ponder as you tap your toes along with the songs, and I look forward to your response to our work. Thank you so much for attending this production.

Walter M. Mayes

**Aaron Weisberg (Company)** returns after appearing as Adolfo Pirelli in *SWEENEY TODD*. Favorite roles include Gaston in *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* (SBMT) and Orin in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* (ATC). Aaron also has directed at SCP, most recently the Wave Award-winning *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN*.

**Amy L. Wright (Company)** Most recently seen in the Ensemble of SCPs *SWEENEY TODD*, Amy has performed for SCP since 2003; as Mrs. Merkle in *BYE BYE BIRDIE*, Shaindel in *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*, Ursula/Nun in *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*, Alma Hix in *THE MUSIC MAN*, and in the ensemble of *SEUSSICAL, THE MUSICAL*. Favorite roles: Widow Corney in *OLIVER!*, Grace in *HONK* (both with WVLO) & Queen Maisie in *CINDERELLA* at PCLG's Shoestring Theater. Amy did theater throughout her youth and feels fortunate to be able to continue being a performer. "Thanks to my family who allow me this privilege, Bill, Marissa, Rebecca and Elayna – Hugs. And of course, special thanks to Walter for casting me :o)"

**Breigh Zack (Company)** was most recently seen as Lois Warner in *NEIL SEDAKA'S BREAKIN' UP IS HARD TO DO* (WVLO), where she was awarded the ERMA award for Best Supporting Actress. She has been seen in many SCP productions: as Little Becky Two-Shoes in *URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL*, Princess Winnifred in *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS*, Lois Lane/Bianca in *KISS ME, KATE*, Lucy in *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN*, Gertrude McFuzz in *SEUSSICAL, THE MUSICAL*, and The Witch in *INTO THE WOODS*. Other performances include Julie in the world premiere of *THE POPTIMISTS!*, the bride Rachel in *PERFECT WEDDING* (PAP), and Sandy Markowitz in *A THOUSAND CLOWNS* (Hillbarn). During the day, Breigh can be found at St. Cyprian School in Sunnyvale, where she adores teaching her junior high students.

**Dana Morgan (Company)** is a Bay Area native and cat lady in training. She can often be found at the Sunnyvale Theater, usually up in the light booth, and first performed with SCP at age 9, as Sally in *YOU'RE A GOOL*

MAN, CHARLIE BROWN. Since then, favorite roles have included Kate in BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS, Helen in A TASTE OF HONEY, and Constance in FM. Dana thanks her Panda for all his support and for always making her smile.

**Melissa Palmieri (Company)** is happy to be the honorary Alto (alto/tenor) of this show, her 10<sup>th</sup> in a row with SCP! Favorite roles include Curly Cue in URINETOWN (SCP), Leading Player in PIPPIN (WHS), BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (SDG), Catherine in PIPPIN (SCP), Mazie LaBird in SEUSSICAL (SCP), Mama Eurale in ONCE ON THIS ISLAND (SCP) , and getting to travel to Ireland.

**Charles Woodson Parker (Judas, John the Baptist)** is newly returned to the Bay Area. After a stint touring the East coast and Germany, his local performances include A CHRISTMAS PUDDING (The MC), HOLD ON TO LOVE (Matey), and THE HAIRY APE (Long). Charles holds a BFA from Boston Conservatory. “Thank you mom and dad!”

**Kaeli Quick (Company)**, an SCP virgin, is ecstatic to be touched for the very first time by this wily troupe. This former-Catholic-turned-questioning-agnostic most recently appeared as Rose Alvarez in the PSP’s production of BYE, BYE, BIRDIE. Endless gratitude to my fiancé, Spencer, and loving family and friends for their encouragement of my theatrical pursuits. I am truly blessed!

**Matt Tipton (Company) was recently seen in SCP’s URINETOWN and SWEENEY TODD.** Earlier SCP credits include Charlie Brown in YOU’RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN , Cinderella's Prince in INTO THE WOODS and Diesel in WEST SIDE STORY. His favorite role was Judd Fry in OKLAHOMA (HHS).

**Maggie Velasquez (Company)** is ecstatic to return to the SCP stage for her third show in a row. Maggie was last seen as Dr. Foggs’ Assistant in SWEENEY TODD and Ma Strong in URINETOWN. Elsewhere, Maggie has appeared in RAGTIME, MY FAIR LADY, HAIR and NUNSENSE. She thanks her two wonderful sons for their constant support and understanding.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

Prologue.....	Company
Tower of Babble.....	Company
Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord).....	John the Baptist, Company
Save the People.....	Jesus, Company
Day by Day.....	Dana, Company
Learn Your Lessons Well.....	Maggie
O, Bless the Lord My Soul.....	Helen, Company
All for the Best.....	Jesus, Judas, Company
All Good Gifts.....	Melissa, Company
Light of the World.....	Company

## Act Two

Learn Your Lessons Well (Reprise).....	Dave
Turn Back, O Man.....	Kaeli, Jesus, Company
Alas for You.....	Jesus
By My Side.....	Breigh, Amy, Company (Music written by Peggy Gordon and the lyrics thereof by Jay Hamburger)
We Beseech Thee.....	Aaron, Company
Day by Day (Reprise).....	Company
On the Willows.....	Becky, Brian, Shawr
Finale.....	Jesus, Company
Beautiful City.....	Justin, Charles, Company

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jesus.....	Justin Buchs
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**Judas, John the Baptist**.....Charles Woodson Parker

### The Company

Rebecca Brownson, Helen Gruner, Dave Leon, Brian Miller, Shawn Miller, Dana Morgan, Melissa Palmieri, Kaeli Quick, Matt Tipton, Maggie Velasquez, Aaron Weisberg, Amy Wright, and Breigh Zack

### ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

KEYBOARD .....John Losefa, Judy Steinle  
PERCUSSION .....Joseph Reichert  
BASS ..... Tom Dossa  
GUITAR .....Derek Brooker

### Cast Biographies

**Justin Buchs (Jesus)** is excited to return to the SCP stage after many years away. Most recently he appeared as Hanna in Broadway By The Bay's *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*, Cosmo in Marquee Productions' *SINGIN IN THE RAIN*, and Billy in FMT's *ANYTHING GOES*. He has trained at AMTSJ's Artist Institute, and holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Pennsylvania State University. Regional credits include *SINGIN' IN THE RAIN*, *GREASE*, and *VICTOR/VICTORIA* (AMTSJ); *LAS MENINAS* (SJ Rep); *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* (Mill Mountain and Red Mountain Theater companies); *CRAZY FOR YOU*, and *IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY* (Mountain Playhouse); and *TAMING OF THE SHREW* (NYRF). "Thanks to all who make this wonderful business possible."

**Becky White Brownson (Company)** was most recently seen on the SCP stage as Mrs. Mayor in *SEUSSICAL: THE MUSICAL*. She appeared in or directed several SCP shows in the 1980's, including *MAN OF LA MANCHA*, *BRIGADOON*, *MAME*, and *NUNSENSE*. Becky has also appeared in several productions with SBMT and WVLOA. Becky met her husband Don on our stage in a production of an original musical titled "Time and Again". They have two wonderful children, Ellie and Tommy.

**Helen Gruner (Company)** is excited to make her debut with SCP as a part of the *GODSPELL* ensemble. Previous performances in the Bay Area include *RENT* (PAP), *LITTLE WOMEN: THE MUSICAL* (PAP), and the

Schumann song cycle "Frauenliebe und -Leben." Her band, *The Rail Gunners*, rock out at open-mic nights throughout the peninsula.

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

**Dave Leon (Company)** has been fortunate enough to play everything from a Klansman to an opera singer to Winston Churchill and many things in-between. *GODSPELL* is Dave's third appearance on the SCP stage. Previously, he was seen as Officer Barrel in *URINETOWN* and Beadle Bamford in *SWEENEY TODD*. Next up, Dave will be understudying six (count 'em...six!) parts in SBMT's *...FORUM* in January. When he's not onstage, Dave works for the County of Santa Clara, where he daydreams of being onstage (no offense to any coworkers who might be in the audience tonight). As always, he thanks Dana for her love and support.

**Brian Miller (Company)** is nineteen. This is his second consecutive show with SCP, having just finished the run of *SWEENEY TODD*. You may have recently seen him in FMT's production of *THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE*, or as a performer at California's Great America. He's incredibly grateful for the support of his father and his friends.

**Shawn Miller (Company, Dance Captain)** loves being back on the Sunnyvale stage with this wonderful cast and crew. Previously at SCP he has appeared in *URINETOWN* (Tiny Tom/Dr. Billeaux), *THE FANTASTICKS* (Matt), *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN* (Schroeder), and *SEUSSICAL: THE MUSICAL* (The Cat in the Hat). Other productions include *THE POPTIMISTS* (Tabard), *THE PRODUCERS* (SBMT), *THE WIZARD OF OZ* (Cabrillo Stage), *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* (Cabrillo Stage), and *ELTON JOHN AND TIM RICE'S AIDA* (Hillbarn). Be sure to catch him in SBMT's production of *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM* in January/February. "Thanks for coming and enjoy *GODSPELL!*"



