

Beautiful City Theatre presents



The Revival of
GODSPELL, THE MUSICAL
JANUARY 24-26 & JAN. 31 – FEB. 2, 2013 AT THE CENTAUR THEATRE

For immediate release

(Montreal – November 28, 2012) - **GODSPELL**, the new production of the 1977 Tony Award®-nominated Broadway musical, opens January 24, 2013 at the Centaur Theatre (453 St. François-Xavier). The show will run for two weeks, from **January 24-26, and January 31 – February 2, 2013**. Showtime is 7:30 pm.

GODSPELL, originally conceived and directed by **John-Michael Telebak**, with music and lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz** (*Wicked, Pippin*), was produced on the New York stage by **Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan & Joseph Beruh**. It is one of the most successful Broadway and Off-Broadway shows of all time. This is the first production by brand new Montreal theatre company Beautiful City Theatre and is directed by **Calli Armstrong**, choreographed by **Ghislaine Doté**, with musical direction by **David Terriault**. **GODSPELL** features select orchestrations and arrangements by **Alex Lacamoire** and **Michael Holland**.

GODSPELL embodies the essence of Beautiful City Theatre as it explores and celebrates life, play, and the building of community. BCT's interpretation of **GODSPELL** highlights themes of childhood and development, playing with the universal experiences and difficulties of growing up and learning to connect with others. For this process-oriented production, the cast completed a series of clowning and ensemble building workshops to help build their own community and increase their performance repertoire. BCT is a brand new theatre company with humanitarian values. Its aim is to not only create and produce quality theatre but to choose projects that highlight both the challenging and inspiring aspects of humanity and the communities around us.

A rock musical based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew, **GODSPELL** is ultimately about a group of 13 people who come together and build a community. The show addresses messages of caring and tolerance, approaching these themes in a way that is relatable regardless of religion or spiritual identity. **GODSPELL** follows the life of Jesus, and includes playful performances of the parables and a poignant rendering of the crucifixion. The parables are told using a variety of theatrical traditions, including clown, mime, and vaudeville.

GODSPELL stars Alyson Wener, Dane Stewart, Elizabeth Conway, Elyse Lewis, Emily Skahan, Eva Petris, Laurent Bergeron, Melissa Stavrakis, Olivier Auger, Samantha Chaulk, Shannon Tasic McNally, Vladimir Alexis & Zachary Creatchman.

Technical direction for **GODSPELL** is overseen by **Eric Chad**. The creative team includes costume design by Toronto's **Katrina Carrier**, lighting design by **Chloé Fortier** and sound design by **Mathieu Turmel**. The creative team also includes **Professor Myrna Wyatt Selkirk** of McGill University, who is leading a series of clowning workshops for the cast and partaking in creative collaboration throughout the rehearsal process. BCT's Producer is **Natalie Gershtein**, Production Manager is **Todd Hirtle**, with **Calli Armstrong** as Artistic Director. Please see attached document for bios.

ABOUT BEAUTIFUL CITY THEATRE

BCT is an independent federally registered not-for-profit group presently residing in Montreal. BCT's goal is to create and celebrate community through the sharing and exploration of theatre processes and the performance of theatre productions. BCT engages with projects, pieces, and events which challenge and enrich its participants' understanding of relationships and humanity, and which build an appreciation for theatre and theatre processes. BCT aims to create a rich and challenging learning environment for artists through the intentional use of relationship and ensemble focused experiential work.

HISTORY OF GODSPELL

The original production of **GODSPELL** was created as part of **John-Michael Tebelak**'s master's thesis at Carnegie Mellon University in 1970. From there it bounced from off-Broadway New York houses such as La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club (February 1971) and the Cherry Lane Theatre (May 1971), where **Stephen Schwartz**'s brilliant new score was incorporated. The pop, folk, rock, gospel, and vaudeville musical became an immediate hit, and transferred to a larger New York house in August 1971 (the Promenade Theatre). **GODSPELL** played a total of 2124 performances at that time, making it one of the longest-running off-Broadway musicals. After moving to London in November 1971, **GODSPELL** was finally brought to Canada, playing in Toronto in the 1972-1973 season at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, extending to the Bayview Playhouse upon its massive Canadian success. The show ran until August 1973 and set a new Torontonians record at the time for a total of 488 performances.

The score for **GODSPELL** features a number of recognizable songs including the international hit "Day by Day." BCT's production will feature contemporary arrangements and orchestrations by **Alex Lacamoire**, who wrote new arrangements for the 2001 US national tour. This production will also feature select arrangements by **Michael Holland** from the 2011-2012 Broadway production. BCT is the first company in Canada to acquire the rights to use this new music.

www.beautifulcitytheatre.com

Tickets at www.centaurtheatre.com or 514-288-3161
\$35 / \$30 QDF & Equity Members / \$25 Seniors / \$20 Students

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