



MUSICAL
THEATRE
ALLIANCE
OF ARIZONA

25 SHOWCASE
26 SEASON

To conquer death, you only have to die.



JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR

March 21, 2026, 7:00 PM
All Saints Lutheran Church

CAST

Jesus of Nazareth.....	NICHOLAS HAMBRUCH
Judas Iscariot.....	JOSH KONTAK
Mary Magdalene	LINDSEY MURPHY
Pontius Pilate.....	CHEYENNE MITCHELL
King Herod.....	MIKE ARSENEAULT
Peter.....	CRIS MORY BARRON
Simon Zealotes.....	BRIAN REECE
Caiaphas	DALE DEWOOD
Annas.....	ROCKY RODRIGUEZ
First Priest	DAVID WECK
Second Priest	JACOB HERNANDEZ
Third Priest.....	AUSTIN ALLISON
Maid by the Fire	JESSICA MUNSON
Peter's Denial soloists	KIMI CUNNINGHAM, KEVIN NEWSOM
Lepers	ERIN NATSEWAY, SHAYLEN SPARROW, BJ SOSINSKI
Reporters.....	VANITY LANG, EMMALYSE LAJOIE, MIGUEL LABREGO, KALINKA TAYLOR, DAVE ADAMS, CHARLES WICKENS, HANA ZAINEA, TODD CORBEIL
Apostles	DAVE ADAMS, SAMANTHA CELAYA, TODD CORBEIL, EMMALYSE LAJOIE, STEFAN MLADENOV, COLIN REYNOLDS
Soul Girls.....	CARA RICHMAN, ROBYN PITMAN, BROOKLYN MARTIN

UNDERSTUDIES

for Jesus, Judas: ROCKY RODRIGUEZ; for Mary: SHAYLEN SPARROW; for Pilate: DARREN FRIEDMAN; for Herod: DAVID WECK; for Peter: JACOB HERNANDEZ; for Caiaphas: STEFAN MLADENOV; for Annas, Simon: BJ SOSINSKI

CHORUS

Dr. Sharon A. Hansen, *Vocal Director* | Andie Chung, *Rehearsal Pianist*

Soprano 1: Teylah Beeson, Kathryn Ellefsen, Faith Forbis, Patti Graetz, Debra Kivisto, Mary LaValley, Robyn Pitman, Cara Richman, Abigail Sherrill, Shaylen Sparrow, Joanna Torla, Judi Tyler, Laura Vines, Destiny Walsh, Peggy Wensman; **Soprano 2:** Hollyn Abraham, Maddie Ahler, Emily Ahler, Katie Carne, Delaney Carne, Samantha Celaya, Kerri Christie, Amber Henderson, Irena Horodynska, Vanity Lang, Donna McCain, Larah Pawlowski, Bonnie Selim, Kalinka Taylor, Hana Zainea, Beth Zollars; **Alto 1:** Caryn Bickel, Natalie Blum, Kimi Cunningham, Tamra Duncan, Clemencia Harmon, Emmalyse Lajoie, Brooklyn Martin, Ashlynn McKelvey, Margaret Miller, Jessica Munson, Lindsey Murphy, Linda Peters, Joanne Rizzi, Harleen Roncaglia, Kathy Travous; **Alto 2:** Selena Costantini, Khalia Fagan, Lisa Glow, Erin Natseway, Thylma Stamaria, Jenna Sweet, Lynne Traverse; **Tenor 1:** Chad Ackerman, Mike Arseneault, Ivan Fimbres, Nicholas Hambruch, Jacob Hernandez, Josh Kontak, Robin Kreuzberg, Cris Mory Barron, Rocky Rodriguez, BJ Sosinski, George Sunny, David Weck, Patricia Zermeno; **Tenor 2:** Tony Calzaretta, Todd Corbeil, Chris "Fletch" Fletcher, Darren Friedman, Rob Hahn-Lowry, John Jadwisiak, Brue Lajoie, Cheyenne Mitchell, Colin Reynolds, Kyle Varble; **Bass 1:** Dave Adams, Austin Allison, Eduardo Bahena, Stephen Edwards, Jacqueline Freeman, Tom Glow, Miguel Labrego, Brian Reece, Brad Routh, Fred Siegrist, Charles Wickens; **Bass 2:** Mike Adams, Brady Anderson, Eric Childs, Dale DeWood, Stefan Mladenov, Kevin Newsom, William Shelly

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture	Orchestra
Heaven on Their Minds	Judas
What's the Buzz?/Strange Thing, Mystifying	Jesus, Mary, Judas, Ensemble
Everything's Alright	Mary, Judas, Jesus, Ensemble
This Jesus Must Die	Caiaphas, Annas, Priests, Ensemble
Hosanna	Caiaphas, Jesus, Ensemble
Simon Zealotes/Poor Jerusalem	Simon, Jesus, Ensemble
Pilate's Dream	Pilate
The Temple	Lepers, Ensemble, Jesus
Everything's Alright (Reprise)	Mary, Jesus
I Don't Know How to Love Him	Mary
Damned for All Time/Blood Money	Judas, Caiaphas, Annas, Ensemble

ACT II

The Last Supper	Jesus, Judas, Ensemble
Gethsemane	Jesus
The Arrest	Jesus, Peter, Caiaphas, Annas, Ensemble
Peter's Denial	Peter, Maid by the Fire, Mary, Ensemble
Pilate and Christ	Pilate, Jesus, Annas, Ensemble
Herod's Song	King Herod
Could We Start Again, Please?	Mary, Peter, Ensemble
Judas's Death	Judas, Caiaphas, Annas, Ensemble
Trial Before Pilate/39 Lashes	Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, Jesus, Ensemble
Superstar	Judas, Soul Girls, Ensemble
Crucifixion	Jesus
John 19:41	Orchestra

ORCHESTRA

Dylan Suehiro, *Conductor*

Flute: Tim Solarz, Katrina King, Lisa Ballard (Piccolo); **Oboe:** Marcie Kneisley, John Shepherd;
Clarinet: David McConaughy (Tenor Saxophone), Mandy Gifford; **Bassoon:** Zach Millwood; **Horn:**
Brian Alan, Gail Rittenhouse, Johnny Armendariz, Blake Allen; **Trumpet:** Bryan Malone, Ethan
Kendzior, Mandi Broderick; **Trombone:** Adam Uliassi, Erik Ketcherside, Sean Holly; **Tuba:** John
Woode; **Percussion:** Samuel Sellers; **Drum Set:** Sonja Branch; **Keyboard:** Helen Kohler, Joni Van
Rossum; **Guitar:** Alejandro Estrella, Adrian Olivas; **Bass:** Alberto Allende; **Violin:** Jamie Ahler,
Madison Holmes, Sujoy Spencer, Hannah Solomon, Carol Routh, Cori Veatch, Eric Wong, Isaac
Wong; **Viola:** Kelli Anderson, Marcella Columbus, Jason Hsung; **Cello:** Krista Black, Therese
Cudmore, Dana Graybeal

CREW & STAFF

Staging Director	Kerri Christie
Vocal Casting Committee	Kerri Christie, Patti Graetz, Dr. Sharon A. Hansen
Audio Technician	Andrea Gudeyon
Additional Percussion Equipment	All Saints Lutheran Church, ProMusica Arizona Orchestra
MTAA Event Volunteers	Michael Bernardino, Jessica Bondy, Lacey Dixon, Sheri Dixon, Chris Elliott, Holly Jackson, Mary Kelly, Margaret Miller, Jan Schmidt
All Saints Lutheran Church	Courtney Krueger, Jerry Gunderson, Duncan Moore, Erik Ekstrom

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



NICHOLAS HAMBRUCH (*Jesus*) is a Broadway national touring performer whose credits include the 50th Anniversary Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Pilate), the National Tour of *Shrek the Musical* (Shrek), and the National Tour of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (Old Max). @nickofmusic



JOSH KONTAK (*Judas*) is thrilled to be making his debut with MTAA. He is an attorney who took a break from the law several years ago to pursue performance more fully. Josh is the frontman for the Flashpants Band and currently portrays the Prosecutor in *The Jury Experience*. He is also a troupe actor with the Murder Mystery Company and a singer at St Gabe's Catholic and the Praise and Worship Center. His favorite previous role is Curly in *Oklahoma* for which he won a Zoni. Josh has also been featured in dozens of commercials. @joshkontak



LINDSEY MURPHY (*Mary*) has been performing since she was 7 years old and is so excited to be performing in *Jesus Christ Superstar!* Recent roles include: Nancy (*Oliver!*), Bea Bottom (*Something Rotten*), Mrs. Wormwood (*Matilda*), and many

more! @lstegs



CHEYENNE MITCHELL (*Pilate*) is an illustrator, animator, and vocalist born and raised in Phoenix. He loves cartoons, anime, music, singing karaoke, going to conventions, and cosplay. He has lent his voice to several shows with MTAA over the years and is excited to make his principal role debut in this Showcase of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. @djonatns



MIKE ARSENEAULT (*King Herod*) has performed on numerous stages for over 30 years in Toronto and greater Vancouver, Portland, Oregon, and now in Arizona. JCS was one of the first film musicals he saw, and it ignited his passion for musical theatre. A few favorite roles include: Baker (*Into the Woods*), John (*Miss Saigon*), Nathan (*Guys and Dolls*), Rooster (*Annie*), Motel (*Fiddler*), Beadle (*Sweeney Todd*), Etches (*Titanic*), Peter (*Company*), Hysterium (*Funny Thing...Forum*). King Herod is a dream role! MTAA's and this orchestra-led experience is truly a gift. Mike thanks this wonderful creative team, cast, crew, musicians, volunteers and theatre patrons. Mike is the Founder and

Artistic Director of Scottsdale Old Town Theatre Company. Follow @scottsdaleoldtowntheatreco



CRIS MORY BARRON (*Peter*) is so excited to be joining MTAA for this amazing production of JCS! Past show credits include: Fakir/Lt. Ian Shaw (*The Secret Garden*, FHT), Tommy Keeler (*Annie Get Your Gun*, MTAA), Uncle Fester Addams (*The Addams Family*, PUSD Alumni Showcase), and more. He would like to thank Dylan, Kyle, Kerri, and everyone involved in the cast and crew for being so kind and genuinely inspiring and you are all so talented! Enjoy the show! @onesvlvtr



BRIAN REECE (*Simon*) is Associate Dean of Students at ASU and a lifelong musician. After earning a vocal performance minor at the University of Delaware, he's performed with choirs nationwide, including the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus and in MTAA productions. With nearly 20 years in higher education, he blends student affairs leadership with a passion for building inclusive communities. @reececup



DALE DeWOOD (*Caiaphas*) has been praised for his 'ample, sensuously edged bass-baritone' as well as his 'fantastically sharp' comedic timing. Passionate for the musical stage in all its forms, Dale's previous operatic and theatrical roles include Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), Gianni Schicchi (*Gianni Schicchi*), Bartolo (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Javert (*Les Misérables*), and Judge Turpin (*Sweeney Todd*). He has performed extensively with Opera Memphis, as well as two seasons with Opera NEO, the San Diego residency program. Dale holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Memphis' Scheidt School of Music. @daledeewood



ROCKY RODRIGUEZ (*Annas*). Originally from Arizona, Rocky first started performing on local stages, holds a BFA in Theater, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. *Jesus Christ Superstar* holds a special place for Rocky. It marked his professional debut when he was cast in his first Broadway National tour, starring Carl Anderson (Broadway/Film Judas), Barry Dennen (Broadway/Film Pontius Pilate) and Sebastian Bach (Frontman for '80's rock band Skid Row as Jesus). The opportunity would begin a 10-year career in New York, working in theater, including regional productions in Los Angeles, three National Tours, and

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

three Broadway productions. He moved back to Arizona in 2022 after living and working in Los Angeles, New York, and New Orleans. Rocky is grateful for the opportunity to join this company for his first MTAA Showcase.



DYLAN SUEHIRO (*Conductor*) was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. He serves as the Conductor and Communications Director of MTAA and is a founding board member. As a performer, he is an active freelance musician and multi-instrumentalist, performing with Tempe Winds and the MTAA Orchestra, in addition to regular engagements with local church ensembles and the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus. *Jesus Christ Superstar* marks Dylan's 11th Showcase; he previously conducted *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Spamalot*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*; and he played in the pit for *Titanic*, *A Little Night Music*, *Big Fish*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Dylan holds degrees from Indiana University and ASU in music education and conducting. Since moving to Arizona in 2013, he has taught at multiple schools in the Paradise Valley Unified School District, in addition to serving as a guest clinician and adjudicator for bands and orchestras around the Valley.

Outside of his professional work, Dylan enthusiastically participates in the local baking community, and he also volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden. He lives in Phoenix with his husband, Kyle.



DR. SHARON A. HANSEN (*Vocal Director*), Professor Emerita of Conducting at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, is an internationally acclaimed conductor and teacher. She has led ensembles including the Romanian National Radio Choir, Gächinger Kantorei, Stockholm Conservatory Chamber Choir, and University of Regensburg Symphony Orchestra. Her choirs have performed at ACDA and NAfME conferences, and she has guest-conducted in over forty states.

Hansen founded the Milwaukee Choral Artists, known for expressive performances and premiering innovative works for treble voices. She is also an accomplished author, with publications including [Helmuth Rilling: Conductor-Teacher](#) and essays on gender dynamics in conducting.

She served 25 years on ACDA's Choral Journal editorial board, founding the "On the Voice" series. Her research on choral vocal pedagogy was published in ACDA's monograph series and featured in Choral Journal and the *Choralosophy* Podcast.

Now in Tempe, Hansen serves on the Arizona ACDA board as Community Choirs liaison and is a founding MTAA board member and chair of the Artistic Committee. She previously conducted Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* and *The Pirates of Penzance*.



KERRI CHRISTIE (*Staging Director*) has been in love with MTAA and its people since its beginning. *Jesus Christ Superstar* marks her 17th Showcase singing in the chorus, while also appearing onstage in *Spamalot*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Pajama Game*, and stage directing *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. She is a member of the Education and Community Engagement Committee, and anyone who has met her has heard all about MTAA!

Kerri studied acting in Seattle at Northwest Actors Studio, Studio East, and with the brilliant Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, before training at California Institute of the Arts School of Theater. She moved to the Valley in 2011 and is the Artistic Director of Arizona Homeschool Theatre Group (AZHT). She has directed *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* ('16, '23), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* ('17, '24), *Picture Book Theatre* ('17, '18, '20, '22), *Charlotte's Web*, *Through the Looking Glass*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ('19 and '24), *Shakespeare Zoom!*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Annie JR*, *As You Like It – '80s Teen Edition*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical JR*, and *This Murder Was Staged* for AZHT. She also loves supporting her two young actors and helping families as a board-certified lactation consultant at Arizona Breastfeeding Medicine and Wellness.



ANDREA GUDEYON (*Audio Technician*) has been an integral part of every production since MTAA's inception in 2022, overseeing the critical technical elements of balancing the ensemble and managing precise sound cues. Her MTAA credits include *Titanic*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Parade*, *Brigadoon*, *Ragtime*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Spamalot*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Andrea also brings her skills to Detour Theatre as a sound designer and engineer and works as an AV technician for Encore Event Services. She holds a degree in Audio Production from Phoenix College.



STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER is the visionary and Founder of MTAA. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in 2010, Stephen became the resident music director for Detour Company Theatre and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (now Silver Star), along with several independent local community productions.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

As a pianist, he has collaborated with artists who have performed Broadway and national touring runs of *1776*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Waitress*, *Hamilton*, *Camelot*, *New York, New York*, and *42nd Street*. As a singer, he has been featured with Arizona Musicfest, Phoenix Chorale, Arizona Bach Festival, Symphony of the Southwest, North Valley Chorale, and the West Valley Symphony. He is intensely devoted to the nurture of authentic artistic development of all actors and musicians. Love always to Ray and the Pod.



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER (*Music & Orchestrations*) has composed the scores of some of the world's most famous musicals. Lloyd Webber had shows running continually in the West End for 50 years and on Broadway for 43. When *Sunset Boulevard* joined *School of Rock*, *CATS*, and *The Phantom of the Opera* he equaled Rodgers & Hammerstein's record of four shows running simultaneously on Broadway. He is one of the select group of artists with EGOT status, having received Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards.

Lloyd Webber owns six London theatres including the iconic London Palladium and Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Reopened in July 2021, the latter was completely restored and renovated at a cost of over £60 million. It was one of the biggest projects ever undertaken by a private theatre owner in recent times. His mantra is that every penny of profit made from his theatres is ploughed back into the buildings. Lloyd Webber is passionate about the importance of musical education and diversity in the arts. The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation provides 30 performing arts scholarships every year for talented students with financial need and supports a range of projects such as the Music In Secondary School Trust and commissioning research into diversity in theatre.

Andrew Lloyd Webber has composed music for globally significant moments, including Olympic ceremonies and World Cup celebrations. He has been asked to compose for many Royal occasions, the most recent being "Make a Joyful Noise", an Anthem for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Andrew Lloyd Webber was knighted in 1992, created an honorary life peer in 1997, and made a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by King Charles III in 2024.



TIM RICE (*Lyrics*) has worked in music, theatre, and films since 1965 when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs they turned their attention to Andrew's

obsession—musical theatre. Their first collaboration was based on the life of Dr. Thomas Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist, *The Likes of Us*. Their next three works together were much more successful: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita*.

Tim has since worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King*, *Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin*, *King David*, *Beauty and the Beast*), Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*), and Stuart Brayson (*From Here to Eternity*). He has also written with Freddie Mercury, Burt Bacharach and Rick Wakeman among others.

Tim founded his own cricket team in 1973, which has now played over 750 matches, and was president of MCC, founded in 1789, in 2002. He crops up here and there in all branches of the media, drawing on his extensive knowledge of the history of popular music.

As an EGOT, he is one of only 22 people in the world to have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award, was knighted by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1994, and is the proud owner of a boxer dog and two dozen chickens.

MTAA Board of Directors

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- Natalie BoothEducation & Engagement
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- Zack Wells..... Governance
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- Dylan Suehiro..... Member at Large
- Susan Woods Member at Large



Special Thanks

All Saints Lutheran Church Staff for facilitating venue arrangements, providing equipment storage, and being an integral part of MTAA's story.

Deric Miller Photography for his keen eye in documenting this production. dericmillerphoto.com

Faith Forbis, CPA for her attention to detail in ensuring our financial compliance.

Wes Crenshaw for his graphic design and video editing contributions throughout the season.

Jessica Bondy for her diligent support with communications and social media.

Sujoy Spencer for graciously hosting a sectional for the orchestral strings.

Dylan Suehiro for designing the programs.

Kyle Varble for leading operations behind the scenes and helping manage communications.

Gillian Lunn for her assistance in preparing the scores for participants.

Brian Reece and Joshua Lynch for additional support proofreading materials.

Susan Woods, Edie Chudnow, and Thylma Stamarina for coordinating volunteers and hospitality.

Stephen Schermitzler for his passionate leadership in the inception and development of MTAA.

MTAA Founders Circle

It is our privilege to honor the following donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more since the inception of MTAA. Every donor is a valued partner in each achievement, both onstage and throughout our community outreach and future programming.

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Anonymous

Support the Music. Support the Magic.

MTAA is proud to be Arizona's home for live, orchestra-led musical theatre. Your support makes it possible to produce these performances, provide opportunities for local artists, and keep live musical theatre accessible to the community.

To learn more about supporting MTAA, email communications@theatricallyaz.org.

MUSICAL THEATRE ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA

FOUNDER'S HARMONY FUND

MTAA's Founder's Harmony Fund honors MTAA Founder **Stephen Schermitzler**, whose passion for bringing communities together through music continues to inspire us.

The fund will:

- Provide scholarships for Showcase performers
- Provide free access for community members to experience musical theatre.

 Learn more at TheatricallyAZ.org

 **MUSICAL THEATRE ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA**

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 Now through April 28, every donation will be matched up to \$12,000. Your gift will go twice as far in helping prepare MTAA's Season 5! With your support, we're building a community that makes our Showcases possible.

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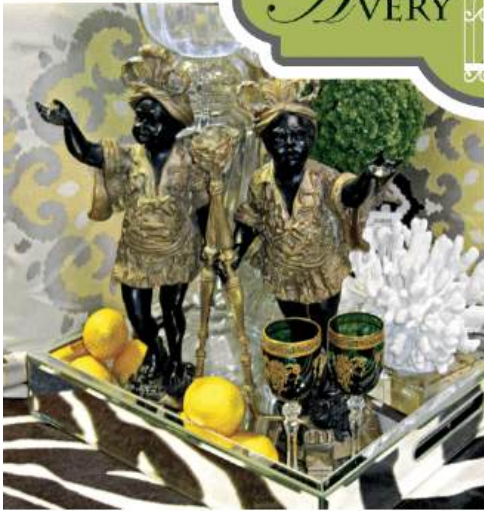
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ABOUT THE SHOW

MUSIC BY

Andrew Lloyd Webber

LYRICS BY

Tim Rice

Jesus Christ Superstar is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group. The unauthorized recording of this production, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited.

POWER, PERCEPTION, AND CHANGE

Jesus Christ Superstar is a story about power, perception, and the fragile line between leadership and mythology. Centered on the final days of Jesus' life, the musical examines how a movement accelerates beyond the control of its participants—particularly through the perspective of Judas, whose growing unease anchors the narrative. Set within a volatile political landscape, the story raises questions about influence, responsibility, and what happens when ideals collide with human limitation.

Before it ever reached the stage, *Jesus Christ Superstar* began life as a 1970 concept album by composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice. Its rock-driven score and contemporary language reframed an ancient story for a modern audience, emphasizing character psychology and political tension over religious doctrine. When the show premiered on Broadway in 1971, it stood apart—loud, urgent, and strikingly modern—challenging expectations of both musical theatre and the source material it drew from.

What gives *Superstar* its enduring impact is its refusal to assign clear moral binaries. Judas is thoughtful rather than treacherous; Jesus is charismatic yet overwhelmed; the surrounding crowd is restless, reactive, and easily swayed. Songs like “Heaven on Their Minds” and “Gethsemane” explore the weight of expectation and the destabilizing force of public attention, as private doubt collides with collective momentum.

More than fifty years later, *Jesus Christ Superstar* continues to resonate as a sharply human work. Its focus on image, authority, and the volatility of mass movements feels unmistakably contemporary. Stripped to its essentials, the musical invites audiences to reflect not on belief systems, but on people—how they lead, follow, and reckon with the consequences of change once it is set in motion.

26–27 SHOWCASE SEASON

August 22, 2026	November 7, 2026
January 16, 2027	March 13, 2027

Show titles to be announced in April...stay tuned!



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