



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Village Theatre

PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE

IN ISSAQUAH:

Francis J. Gaudette Theatre,
303 Front Street North, Issaquah

MAY 11-JULY 3, 2011

Wednesday through Saturday: 8:00 PM
Sundays and Saturdays: 2:00 PM
Selected Tuesdays: 7:30 PM
Selected Sundays: 7:00 PM

IN EVERETT:

Everett Performing Arts Center,
2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

JULY 8-31, 2011

Wednesdays through Saturdays: 8:00 PM
Saturdays and Sundays: 2:00 PM
Selected Sundays: 7:00 PM

PATRONS HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS OF WHAT MATERIAL OR THEMES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THEM OR THEIR FAMILIES. FOR THIS REASON, WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

THE PRODUCTION:

Exploding onto the Mainstage is the groundbreaking theatrical masterpiece *Jesus Christ Superstar* by legendary writing team Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. This extraordinary rock opera highlights the struggles of Jesus of Nazareth and Judas Iscariot during the last week of Jesus's life. With a vibrant score of chart-topping hits like "Superstar" and "I Don't Know How to Love Him," *Superstar* is timeless and tremendously powerful.

VERSIONS AVAILABLE TO PREVIEW:

There is a 1973 film adaptation of the rock opera. This version is quite a bit darker than how Village Theatre will be producing this story and should not be used as an exact comparison.

PRODUCTION LENGTH:

Exact length to be determined.

SCRIPT CONTENT DETAILS *Please note: the following information may contain plot spoilers.*

The religious theme of the musical may be sensitive to some viewers, so Village Theatre recommends that audience members be aware that the musical is a dramatized account of the last seven days in the life of Jesus Christ, and that Jesus is portrayed as a modern superstar. Considering that the musical deals with religious events and figures, the violence in the musical may be considered strong for some viewers. The musical contains very little as far as sexual situations, drug use, and adult language that would be considered unsuitable for all audiences.

WHY DID VILLAGE THEATRE CHOOSE TO PRODUCE *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR*?

Jesus Christ Superstar has been one of the most popular musical selections in our Subscriber survey since the 2005-2006 Season. Written by Broadway giants Andrew Lloyd Webber (*CATS*, *Phantom of the Opera*) and Tim Rice (*Lion King*, *AIDA*), this classic rock opera has been performed around the world for over 40 years, receiving both critical and audience acclaim. The score boasts several 1971 Billboard topping musical hits, including "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and "Everything's Alright." It's been a couple seasons since Village Theatre has produced a pop/rock opera—last production was *AIDA* in 2007-2008—and we're thrilled to bring *Jesus Christ Superstar* to life for a second time in our history, in May-July 2011.



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Village Theatre

PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE SYNOPSIS

ACT I

The musical opens with Judas, who has always been a close friend and follower of Jesus. He now thinks that Jesus has been led astray by the superstar image his followers have projected on him. He fears what Jesus' followers might do once they lose faith in Jesus, and he fears that Jesus may be hurt if they decide to turn on him.

On Friday night in Bethany, Jesus sits with his apostles, Mary Magdalene, and other followers. His followers listen to the advice he gives, and Mary tries to make him comfortable. Judas seeks Jesus to warn him that people might get the wrong idea about him if he is seen so much with Mary, who is a prostitute. Jesus rejects Judas' advice because he doesn't think Judas has the right to condemn Mary. Mary tries to provide comfort for Jesus, who is troubled by the problems he hears about from his followers. Judas disparages Mary for concerning herself so much with comforting Jesus instead of concerning herself with real problems, like issues of poverty. Jesus says there is no solution to poverty, and Judas shouldn't be so critical of him and Mary.

In the Council Chamber of Jerusalem, Caiaphas, Annas, and some priests listen to the crowd outside exalting Jesus, the superstar. They fear the power that Jesus holds over so many people, and they feel that he is too dangerous to remain as a leader of the people. It is decided that Jesus must be killed.

Caiaphas tries to subdue the crowd but they continue to praise Jesus. They are grateful to Jesus for saving them from torment from the Romans, and they regard him as a superstar messiah. Jesus doesn't think that his followers quite understand his message, because he tries to communicate the glory of God, but most people are caught up in his celebrity image.

Pontius Pilate has a dream in which he meets a strange man, and he questions the man about what has happened to him. The man is silent, and he is being pursued and taunted by others. This image confuses Pilate, especially because he is being blamed for this man's fate.

At Jesus' temple, merchants, money lenders, and peddlers mill about, trying to sell their wares. Jesus turns them out, because he intended for his temple to be a house of prayer, not a market. He is then swamped by lepers, looking to be blessed by him. He is overwhelmed and unable to offer relief to the crowd, who look to Jesus for solutions to their problems. He becomes flustered and has to turn them all away.

Mary tries to comfort Jesus, and lays him down to sleep. She finds herself being affected by Jesus more than she expected, because she feels differently about him than she has about any other man.

Judas goes to the City Council to talk to Caiaphas and Annas. He has come to inform them of Jesus' plans and whereabouts because he feels as though Jesus has too much power over his people. Judas is under the impression that Caiaphas and Annas intend to arrest Jesus, but their intentions are more sinister. They offer Judas reward for the information he gives, but Judas refuses, saying he does not want their "blood money". Although he feels uneasy about giving them information on his close friend, he tells them that Jesus will be in the Garden of Gethsemane on Thursday night.

ACT II

The second act opens at the Last Supper of Jesus. The apostles sing of their desire to write the gospel, because it will immortalize them in history. They sit with Jesus as he anticipates his own death. He fears that his devoted followers will forget him as soon as he is dead, and to them, the wine they drink might as well be his blood, and the bread they eat might as well be his body. He doubts whether the apostles are truly faithful, since he knows that he will be betrayed by them.

Judas expresses that he has lost faith in Jesus, and his apostles have lost sight of their religious ideals, instead becoming more interested in the status they have earned as apostles. Jesus says that Peter will deny him, and one of his twelve chosen men will

The top of the page features a decorative header with a dark brown background. On the left, the title "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" is written in a stylized, golden-yellow font. On the right, "Village Theatre" is written in a white, serif font, with "PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE" and "SYNOPSIS" in a white, sans-serif font below it. The background is decorated with several golden-yellow light beams radiating from the top right, and a spotlight is visible at the top left.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Village Theatre PRODUCTION PREVIEW GUIDE SYNOPSIS

betray him. He antagonizes Judas to give him up already, because he knows Judas will betray him. Judas shows no remorse to Jesus because he himself feels betrayed by Jesus.

In the garden, Jesus is disillusioned by his life's work, as he knows he is so close to death. He wonders whether it was all done in vain, and whether his work will mean more after he is dead. Judas, Annas, priests, and soldiers find Jesus in the garden, and before Judas turns Jesus over to them, he says goodbye with a kiss.

The soldiers seize the apostles, then turn to Jesus to arrest him. As Jesus is being apprehended, the crowd watches, asking him whether he will fight in his last moments, whether he thinks he had a successful career, and they taunt him about being taken to Caiaphas' house to face his charges. Caiaphas tells Jesus of the charges against him, and the crowd proceeds to taunt him. Outside of the garden, some strangers recognize Peter as Jesus' denier, but Peter swears it wasn't him who betrayed Jesus. Mary confronts him, asking how he could have betrayed Jesus, and she wonders how Jesus knew Peter would betray him.

At Pilate's house, Pilate remarks how cool and calm Jesus seems, knowing the fate he faces. He is amazed that such a silent man could have such an effect on people. Jesus is then taken to King Herod's Palace, because the king desires an audience with the superstar.

The king asks him to prove his divine abilities, by turning water to wine, or by walking across water, because he wants to know if Jesus' reputation is true. The king tries to taunt him into doing something extraordinary, but he becomes frustrated with the silent Jesus, who won't respond to the king's requests. He kicks Jesus out of his house, and he is led away by soldiers again.

Judas, after seeing Jesus, is greatly disturbed by the torment and abuse that has been inflicted upon Jesus. He says that this is far from what he expected for Jesus, and maintains that he was acting out of good intentions. Annas and Caiaphas try to convince him that he shouldn't feel bad for what he's done because it was for the best. However, Judas regrets his betrayal and can't shake the feeling of blame for Jesus' terrible fate. Judas cannot handle the burden of knowledge of Jesus' death, and is driven to a point of insanity. Judas is killed by his own guilt and sorrow.

Jesus is brought back to Pilate's house because Caiaphas cannot find a proper sentence for Jesus, and they intend for Pilate to sentence Jesus to crucifixion. Pilate asks if Jesus is still king of his people, and Jesus says it doesn't matter whether he tells Pilate the truth, because he will be damned either way. Pilate is surprised when the mob cries out for Jesus' crucifixion, but they say that Caesar is their only king. Pilate asserts that there are no real charges against Jesus, and that his worst offense is being crazy, but the crowd continues to cry out for his crucifixion. The mob is all hypocrites in Pilate's eyes, and he fails to see why Jesus should deserve such a terrible fate, but he sentences Jesus to lashings. The crowd continues to scream for a crucifixion as Jesus receives thirty-nine lashes.

Pilate stops, amazed that Jesus remains quiet when Pilate holds Jesus' life in his hands. Jesus says he holds nothing in his hands, and his fate had already been set. Pilate wants to help Jesus, but he doesn't know what he could do for a man who has already resigned himself to death. The mob continues to insist on his crucifixion, and Pilate washes his hands of the matter, knowing he can do nothing to help Jesus.

As Jesus proceeds to Golgotha to face his final fate, the voice of Judas laments the fate of his good friend, who could have done better with more planning, and perhaps in a different time and place. He asks Jesus whether he still thinks he is the messiah, and whether he expected such a death. The musical ends with Jesus' crucifixion.