

Godspell, at the Knightsbridge, Los Angeles

June 11, 2009 by bonnie prier



With Hair's revival now making a huge hit on Broadway, and Wicked closing its doors at the Pantages, Los Angeles musical theater fans now have a chance to enjoy the beautiful music and lyrics of Stephen Schwartz, in the production of Godspell, at the Knightsbridge Theatre, in Silverlake.

There's a majestic, almost spiritual aura intrinsic to Schwartz' musical style, and Godspell, in its humorous, yet inspiring way, once again captures the audience, as it shares a timeless story of spreading love and humanity, by way of comedic sketches, "schtick" on parables, according to the Gospel of St Matthew. It's a Godspell meets Saturday night live, of sorts, as the lively ensemble of clowns, and multi-talented vocalists, win the audience over, with their creative interpretations of the bible's moral lessons, and beautiful renditions of hit pop-rock musical theater numbers, such as Day by Day, and Beautiful City.

John-Michael Tebelak directed the original Godspell in 1971, and for over 30 years, this production has been going strong, with the show evolving into creative productions, set in all periods of time and locations, in various theater spaces, varying from large Broadway theaters, to intimate cabaret settings, and school/camp productions, as well. The show has found a perfect fit, at the intimate, inviting venue of the Knightsbridge, which has produced some of the best theatre literature since 1991. Profound biblical stories and teachings, such as "You shall love God with all your heart," and "Love thy neighbor as thyself" come to life on stage, as the eight impressionable "disciples" interact with each other, and engage the audience, with song, dance, and movement. One can feel the intensity and passion from each cast member, as fresh new versions of "Save the People," "Bless the Lord," and "We Beseech Thee" are belted, and playful, spirited dance/movements are performed. Allison Bibicoff (Xanadu, The Buddy Holly Story) brings her expertise and talent to this production, keeping the energy on stage ever dynamic and vital throughout the show.