

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Godspell Kicks Off Starlight’s 2021 AdventHealth Broadway Series June 22-27



Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Godspell is the perfect musical for today, as it continues to inspire audiences with its messages of hope and love.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Starlight welcomes *Godspell* to its stage for the very first time Tuesday, June 22 – Sunday, June 27. This refreshing retelling of the Gospel of Matthew is a sensational musical production that is uplifting, celebratory and fun. *Godspell* includes chart-topping songs by Grammy and Academy Award® winner Stephen Schwartz, such as the popular hit “Day by Day.” Audiences will be treated to impactful scenes ranging from lighthearted and comedic to serious and reflective.

Originally conceived by John-Michael Tebelak at Carnegie Mellon University, *Godspell* premiered in New York City in 1971, when it debuted off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre. *Godspell* was adapted into a film in 1973 and moved to Broadway by 1976. Now, this Tony Award® nominee for Best Original Score makes its Starlight debut with the 2012 Broadway revival version that was updated with new orchestrations.

“We couldn’t be more excited to welcome back our guests to attend *Godspell* – our very first live Broadway show since 2019,” Rich Baker, Starlight’s President & CEO, said. “What makes *Godspell* even more special is that it will be performed by a Kansas City-based cast, including many who have Broadway credits.”

The show is about a small group of people helping Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and hefty doses of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus’s life dances

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across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus's messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

This modern, fresh adaption of *Godspell* is produced by Starlight and brought to you by an entirely local creative team and a Kansas City-based cast. Starlight is excited to reunite Director and Choreographer Jerry Jay Cranford and Music Director Anthony T. Edwards for this production. Both led the fan-favorite Starlight production of *Hairspray* in 2018.

All six performances of *Godspell* will begin at 8 p.m., and gates will open at 7 p.m. Starlight is elated to welcome visitors in person to watch live performances such as *Godspell* as part of the 2021 AdventHealth Broadway Series.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Starlight Theatre Ticket Office at (816) 363-7827, or online at kcstarlight.com. Groups of 10 or more may save up to 25% on their purchase of group tickets. For more information about Starlight group ticket purchases, contact our Group Sales Coordinator, Toni Talley, at (816) 997-1137 or groups@kcstarlight.com.

Follow Starlight on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok @kcstarlight.

Food Drive for Theatre Community Fund of Kansas City

The Theatre Community Fund of Kansas City (TCF) is holding a food drive during all six performances of *Godspell* to benefit local artists experiencing financial hardship. Patrons are encouraged to bring nonperishables and basic hygiene items.

Starlight is proud to partner with another nonprofit that serves the Kansas City community, and hopes that patrons will consider donating to the food drive. For more information about TCF, visit theatrefundkc.org.

COVID PROTOCOLS

Starlight Theatre continues to implement health and safety procedures in accordance with city and state COVID-19 re-opening guidelines and recommendations from the CDC to help protect visitors, volunteers and staff. Stay up-to-date on all of the precautions Starlight is taking on Starlight's Staying Safe webpage, kcstarlight.com/visit-starlight/staying-safe.

About Starlight

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts institution in Kansas City and provides inspiring, one-of-a-kind experiences to its patrons. Starlight presents and produces Broadway musicals and concerts in addition to offering extensive community engagement programming, including classes, scholarships and Starlight's Blue Star Awards, one of the largest high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, Starlight's historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country and includes rehearsal halls, a museum, club area for dining,

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concessions, gardens, fountains and a 10-story, climate-controlled stage. For more information, visit kcstarlight.com.

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