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**For immediate release, please: Monday, July 6**

**Berkshire Theatre Group  
Announces First Musical in the United States  
Approved by  
Actors' Equity Association**

**Outside Under a Tent  
At The Colonial Theatre  
Stephen Schwartz's  
Godspell**

**Pittsfield, MA** – Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG) and Kate Maguire (Artistic Director, CEO) are excited and proud to announce they will be producing *Godspell* this summer – the first musical in the United States to be approved by Actors' Equity Association (AEA) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The show will be presented outdoors in an open-air tent adjacent to The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, and is scheduled to run August 6 through September 4. Tickets will be available for purchase Tuesday, July 7 at 12pm. Casting for *Godspell* is also announced below.

BTG Board of Trustees Co-President Lee Perlman said, "We could not bear the thought of a Berkshire summer without live theater to support our community, so we jumped through every hoop to create a safe way to make this happen. I hope our production gives hope to the tens of thousands of theatre professionals who are on the sidelines this summer. Theater is unstoppable and will be back!"

Maguire said, "*Godspell* got the green light after establishing a strict protocol to protect the health and safety of the audience, the performers and others involved in the show. We have been working daily and in the true spirit of care and collaboration with Actors' Equity Association for the past several weeks."

Maguire continued, “Guided by Executive Director of Actors’ Equity Association Mary McColl and her extraordinary team, I have learned much about how to lead a theatre in the new world. Our industry, which has been devastated by this global pandemic, will be served by their seriousness, data driven wisdom, and profound understanding of the need for artists to rebuild. I am so proud that Berkshire Theatre Group, in its 92nd season will be authorized and granted the responsibility to produce the musical *Godspell*.”

After careful consideration with the local and state government, Mayor Linda Tyer of Pittsfield and Actors’ Equity Association, BTG relocated *Godspell* from its original site at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage in Stockbridge to outside under a tent at The Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield.

Executive Director of Actors’ Equity Association Mary McColl said “Equity staff around the country have been collaborating daily with producers on health and safety questions and now we can reveal the results of that work. Every production is different and will be evaluated on a case by case basis focusing on the safety of our members. We will continue to collaborate on safety plans where the epidemic is under control and where employers can maintain a safe work environment for their employees.”

BTG has outlined procedures and protocols in a manner that is consistent with current Actors’ Equity Association and state and local mandated health and safety guidelines. Temperature scans will be done for patrons at their point of entry. No-contact scanning stations for tickets will be placed at point of entry, spaced at least 6 feet from the temperature scan. Free-standing hand sanitizer stations will be placed at various locations throughout the space. Patrons will be required to wear masks. One way traffic patterns will be enforced with arrows and 6 foot markers on the floor, as well as lines down the center of hallways, to and from the tent, restrooms and concessions. The restrooms will have entrance and exits that are separate and one way. Every other stall, urinal and sink will be marked not usable. A doctor/nurse will be on duty for all performances. Additional safeguards will also be in place.

*They’re Playing Our Song*, originally slated at The Unicorn Theatre in August, will move into summer 2021. *Letters to the President*, slated for Labor Day weekend, is cancelled. All patrons with tickets will be contacted to make arrangements. An update about the fall season will be announced in the next few weeks.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield, online at [www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org](http://www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org), by calling (413) 997-4444, or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. The ticket office is open Monday–Saturday from 10am–2pm. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

## **REVISED 2020 SEASON**

### **Outside at The Colonial Theatre**

## **Godspell**

conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak

music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

originally produced on the New York Stage by Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan, Joseph Beruh

directed by Alan Filderman

music direction by Andrew Baumer

choreography by Gerry McIntyre

Outside Under the Tent

at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot

BTG's Pittsfield Campus, 111 South Street

Previews: Thursday, August 6 at 7pm

Press Opening/Opening Night: Friday, August 7 at 7pm

Closing: Friday, September 4 at 7pm

Tickets: Preview: \$75 (General Admission)

Tickets: \$100 (General Admission)

### **Casting:**

**Nicholas Edwards**, Jesus

**Alex Getlin**, "By My Side"

**Najah Hetsberger**, "All Good Gifts"

**Kimberly Immanuel**, "Learn Your Lessons Well"

**Emily Koch**, "Bless the Lord"

**Hanna Koczela**, Host/Understudy

**Brandon Lee**, Understudy

**Tim Jones**, Judas

**Isabel Jordan**, "Day by Day"

**Dan Rosales**, "We Beseech Thee"

**Zach Williams**, "Turn Back O Man"

**Michael Wartella**, "Light of the World"

### **ABOUT:**

In this timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love, a group of eccentric disciples help Jesus teach a variety of parables through interactive games and a heaping dose of humor. Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs by Tony, Academy and Grammy Award-Winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*), including: "By My Side" "Save The People" and "All for the Best." Brought to life by the dynamic team of director Alan Filderman (*Runaways* for New Studio at NYU; BTG: *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*) and choreographer Gerry McIntyre (Broadway: *Spamilton*, *Once On This Island*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; BTG: *A Chorus Line*, *Oklahoma!*), this theatrical

sensation is a powerful reminder that through the power of community, love and kindness will live on.

### **ACTOR BIOS:**

**Nicholas Edwards** (Jesus) is thrilled to be making his Berkshire debut! He recently appeared in the world premiere of *Unmasked: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* at Paper Mill Playhouse. Broadway: *Frozen* (Ensemble, u/s Kristoff). National Tour: *Les Misérables* (Ensemble, u/s Enjolras), *Sister Act* (Pablo). Off Broadway: *Spamilton*. Select regional credits include: Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (DC's Signature Theatre) and Valentin in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Triangle Productions). BFA Musical Theatre, Montclair State Univ. @NickEdwardsNYC

**Alex Getlin** ("By My Side") is thrilled to be returning to Berkshire Theatre Group where she was seen last summer as Fiona in *Shrek, The Musical*. She recently made her Off Broadway debut at the York Theatre in *Anything Can Happen in the Theater – The Musical World of Maury Yeston*. Alex has also been a featured soloist in concerts across the country, including Carnegie Hall with Michael Feinstein in "Hooray for Hollywood," the Pasadena Pops with Joel Grey and Liza Minnelli, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and the Artis Center in Naples, Florida. She performs regularly in New York at Feinstein's/54 Below and can be heard on the original cast recording of *Anything Can Happen in the Theater* (PS Classics 2020 Release). TV: *Shades of Blue* (NBC); *The Break with Michelle Wolf* (Netflix); Graduate of Northwestern University. Alexgetlin.com, Instagram: @itsmegetlin

**Najah Hetsberger** ("All Good Gifts") is an upcoming senior at Montclair State University. She has had the opportunity to be in many shows while studying there. Najah would especially like to thank the LINK program and DGRW for their endless support and many opportunities they have given her.

**Tim Jones** (Judas) is honored and elated to be returning to BTG for *Godspell*. A native of Pittsfield, Tim earned his Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering before pursuing acting full-time. Having most recently appeared in *Working: A Musical* with BTG, his other credits with the company include *Tarzan* (Tarzan), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder) and *The Music Man* (Ewart). Other recent credits include: The Hanover Theatre: *A Christmas Carol* (Young Ebenezer).

**Isabel Jordan** ("Day by Day") is thrilled to be returning to the Berkshire Theatre Group stage as a company member of *Godspell!* Past BTG credits include: *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Lucy) and *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Ensemble/ U/S Sabina). Isabel is a rising senior at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, on track to obtain a BFA in Musical Theatre in 2021. www.isabeljordan.com

**Emily Koch** ("Bless The Lord") just finished a year and half long run with the Broadway Company and the First National Tour of *Waitress*. She was also seen on Broadway and on tour as Elphaba in *Wicked* from 2015–2017. Regional: *Little Women* (Palo Alto TheatreWorks), *ValueVille* (NYMF), *In The Bones* (APAC, World Premiere, and New York Innovative Theatre

Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play). Workshops: *iLLA! A Hip Hop Musical* (O'Neil Center), *The Tale of Despereaux* (Universal Pictures/The Old Globe). Readings: *Housewarming* (NYMF), *Luna* (World Premiere), *All The Walls* (World Premiere), *Luna and the Gold River Docks*. Carnegie Mellon Musical Theatre Class of 2013, youngARTS Finalist, and Interlochen Arts Camp and Academy Alumnus. Black Lives Matter.

**Hanna Koczela** (Host/Understudy) is so excited to be returning to Berkshire Theatre Group for this special production of *Godspell!* Hanna is a rising junior studying Theater and English at UMass Amherst. Favorite credits include: Berkshire Theatre Group: *Tarzan* (Jane Porter), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Sally), *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette), *A Christmas Carol* (Christmas Past, Belle); Educational: *Lucky Stiff* (Annabel Glick), *The Addams Family* (Morticia), *Grease* (Sandy). [hannakoczela.com](http://hannakoczela.com)

**Brandon Lee** (Understudy) is delighted to be back with BTG. Previously with BTG: William Shakespeare in *Showtime with Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure*, Clayton in *Tarzan*, Fred/Undertaker in *A Christmas Carol*. Other recent credits: Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet* (Bay Colony Shakespeare Company), Solicitor/Ensemble in *Lucky Stiff* (Theater Barn), Dr. Dravis in *DREAM/AWAKE* (The Whit), Monsieur D'Arque in *Beauty and the Beast* (West Virginia Public Theatre). [www.brandonleeactor.com](http://www.brandonleeactor.com)

**Dan Rosales** ("We Beseech Thee") is happy to be bringing theatre back to the Berkshires! He was in the midst of rehearsing *Trevor: The Musical*, before the pandemic shut down Broadway; it is now scheduled to open in 2021 at Stage 42 directed by Marc Bruni. He is most known for originating the titular role of Lin-Manuel Miranda in the critically-acclaimed Off Broadway production of *Spamilton*. Other credits include: Young Scrooge in *Scrooge's...Christmas Show* (The Old Globe), Harold in *Dogman* (Lucille Lortel), Daniel in *You Are Here* (Goodspeed Musicals), the titular role in *Peter Pan 360* (National Tour) and can also be heard as Harlin on the animated series *Yu-gi-oh! Vrains*. He is a proud graduate of the Boston Conservatory and proud AEA member. [danrosales.net](http://danrosales.net) @danrosales

**Michael Wartella** ("Light of the World") Broadway/National Tours: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Wicked*. Off Broadway: *RENT* (New World Stages), *The Kid* (The New Group), *Seussical* (Theaterworks/USA), *Oliver Twist!* (TFANA). Regional: *Chasing Rainbows* (Paper Mill Playhouse, Flat Rock Playhouse, Goodspeed Opera House), *Midsummer*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* (Denver Center Theatre Company). Upcoming: *The Wanderer* (Paper Mill Playhouse). Film/TV: "Mysteries of Laura," *Blood Night: The Legend of Mary Hatched*, *Loving Leah*. Twitter/Instagram @mikewartella

**Zach Williams** ("Turn Back O Man") is thrilled to be making his Berkshire Theatre Festival debut! National Tours: *Aladdin*; New York: *Austen's Pride*; Regional: Asolo Rep (*Josephine*), Sacramento Music Circus, Riverside, Maltz Jupiter, Fulton, and North Shore Music Theatre. Proud FSU Grad. @zfwilliams23 [www.zachforesterwilliams.com](http://www.zachforesterwilliams.com)

## **CALENDAR BREAKDOWN**

Thursday, August 6 at 7pm (Preview)  
Friday, August 7 at 7pm (Press Opening/Opening Night)  
Saturday, August 8 at 1pm  
Saturday, August 8 at 7pm  
Sunday, August 9 at 1pm  
Tuesday, August 11 at 7pm  
Wednesday, August 12 at 7pm  
Thursday, August 13 at 7pm  
Friday, August 14 at 7pm  
Saturday, August 15 at 1pm  
Saturday, August 15 at 7pm  
Sunday, August 16 at 1pm  
Tuesday, August 18 at 7pm  
Wednesday, August 19 at 7pm  
Thursday, August 20 at 7pm  
Friday, August 21 at 7pm  
Saturday, August 22 at 1pm  
Saturday, August 22 at 7pm  
Sunday, August 23 at 1pm  
Tuesday, August 25 at 7pm  
Wednesday, August 26 at 7pm  
Thursday, August 27 at 7pm  
Friday, August 28 at 7pm  
Saturday, August 29 at 1pm  
Saturday, August 29 at 7pm  
Sunday, August 30 at 1pm  
Tuesday, September 1 at 7pm  
Wednesday, September 2 at 7pm  
Thursday, September 3 at 7pm  
Friday, September 4 at 7pm (Closing Night)

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## **About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County school children annually.