

For immediate release

June 1, 2001

New Harmony Theatre season opens this month

An Off-Broadway hit that became a Broadway phenomenon, *Godspell* has been reborn, and the updated version of the Gospel of Matthew set to music will open The New Harmony Theatre's 2001 season Friday, June 8.

Following the last days of Christ, the show features a variety of contemporized parables with the show-stopping music of Academy Award-winner Stephen Schwartz, including "Day by Day," "We Beseech Thee," and "Light of the World."

The cast of 10, lead by Equity actor John Summerford as Jesus, is performing under the direction of Scott LaFeber.

LaFeber, in his fifth season with NHT, has acted on Broadway, Off-Broadway, regionally, in London, for television, in commercials, and in feature and industrial films. His directing work has been seen across the country, and he has a long association with the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts.

A native New Yorker, LaFeber received acting training at Circle-In-The-Square in New York and the Oval in London. He holds degrees from University of Texas-Austin and Colgate University, and is associate professor of theatre at USI.

Summerford, in his first NHT season, performed in the national tour of *Company*, and in *The Room and Portofino* in New York. His regional credits include *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *Colette Collage*, *Brigadoon*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Sweeney Todd*.

A native Texan, he received a bachelor's degree in economics from Trinity College of Hartford and attended Columbia University in New York as well as La Università Cattolica in Milan, Italy.

Opening night curtain will be at 8 p.m., Friday, June 8. Additional performances of *Godspell* will be presented June 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Shows are presented Thursdays through Sundays at Murphy Auditorium in New Harmony, Indiana. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Sundays. One Saturday matinee of each show is offered as well.

Season tickets are \$45, adult; \$40, senior (60+)/student; and \$36, group. The single seat price is \$18, adult; \$16, senior/student; and \$15, group.

The season's second show, Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, opens Friday, July 6, and will be staged through Sunday, July 22. Rounding out the season, mystery-thriller *Sleuth* opens Friday, July 27, and continues through Sunday, August 12.

For tickets or information, call extension 5264. Information also is available on the Web at www.newharmonytheatre.com.

New Harmony Theatre is produced by the University of Southern Indiana, and provided with support from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, the Indiana Art Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts

Sent to: Bloomington Herald-Times, Carmi Times, Corydon Democrat, Daily Republican, Ferdinand News, Henderson Gleaner, Huntingburg Press, Jasper Herald, Jeffersonville Evening News, Louisville Courier-Journal (IN), Madisonville Messenger, Marion Illinois Daily Republican, Message, Mt. Carmel Daily Republican-Register, Mt. Vernon Democrat, News 4-U, Oakland City Journal, Our Times, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Paducah Sun Times, Perry County News, Petersburg Press-Dispatch, Posey County News, Princeton Clarion, South Gibson Star-Times, Southern IN.com, Spencer county Journal-Democrat, Union County Advocate, Vincennes Sun-Commercial, Warick Newspapers