

 **MARIPOSA**
ARTS THEATRE
MAT
PRODUCTION OF



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyrics by
Tim Rice

Music by Andrew
Lloyd Webber



November 6 - 16, 2025
ORILLIA OPERA HOUSE

Tickets \$35

THURS-SAT 7:30PM, SUN 2:00PM
NOVEMBER 13TH: UNDERSTUDY PERFORMANCE



Get Tickets / Box Office:

MariposaArtsTheatre.com

or call 705-326-8011

*Directed by Ryan LaPlante | Musical Director Christina Bosco
Choreography by Sheri Nicholls & Ashley Legedza | Produced by Alyse Squirrel*

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS
ON BEHALF OF THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM



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Mariposa Arts Theatre is a community-based theatre foundation which inspires audiences of all ages with our high-quality theatrical productions and renowned MAT Film Nights series playing throughout the year!

To learn more about upcoming MAT events, productions and Film Nights, sign up for our newsletter at:

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, specifically the Ojibwa, Odawa and Potawatomi nations collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. This territory is part of the Williams Treaty of 1923, and the J. Collins land purchase of 1785.

We also recognize our neighbours the Chippewas of Rama First Nation. We invite you to learn more about their history from the Mnjikaning Fish Weirs, to their deliberate displacement from Orillia, along with the other nations of the Chippewa Tri-Council, to their enduring presence as the stewards of this land.

MAT is committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation while celebrating the traditions, cultures, and undeniable impact of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis People.



Mariposa Arts Theatre presents

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber | Lyrics by Tim Rice

Directed by Ryan LaPlante

SYNOPSIS

What's the buzz? The first musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber to be produced for the professional stage, Jesus Christ Superstar has wowed audiences for over 50 years. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Loosely based on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Superstar follows the last week of Jesus Christ's life.

The story, told entirely through song, explores the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, his disciples, his followers and the Roman Empire.

The iconic 1970s rock score contains such well-known numbers as "Superstar," "I Don't Know How to Love Him" and "Gethsemane." A true global phenomenon, *Superstar* continues to touch new generations of audiences and performers.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture
Heaven on Their Minds
What's the Buzz?
Strange Thing Mystifying
Everything's Alright
This Jesus Must Die
Hosanna
Simon Zealotes/Poor Jerusalem
Pilate's Dream
The Temple
Everything's Alright (Reprise)
I Don't Know How to Love Him
Damned For All Time/Blood Money

ACT II

The Last Supper
Gethsemane
The Arrest
Peter's Denial
Pilate and Christ/King Herod's Song
Could We Start Again, Please?
Judas's Death
Trial Before Pilate/39 Lashes
Superstar
Crucifixion
John 19:41

There will be a 20 min intermission. Run is approximately 80 mins, excluding intermission.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group.



CONTENT WARNING: This production contains loud noises, strobe lights, and mature themes including depictions of death and suicide. Parental discretion advised (recommended ages 8+). If you, or someone you know, are struggling, please reach out to the [Canadian Mental Health Association \(CMHA\), Simcoe County Branch](#) at 705-728-5044 or toll free at 1-888-893-8333 (available 24/7).



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THE MUSICAL

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Based on the Original Screenplay by DEAN PITCHFORD

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Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jesus Christ Superstar is a foundational show for me - I played Caiaphas (the High Priest) when I was 17 and my entire family appeared alongside me. Now, 22 years later, I'm directing the show and my father is a member of the cast.

The time to put on a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* is now. This show explores the life of one of the loudest voices for compassion in human history - and we desperately need more compassion in the world.

There are many parallels that can be drawn between Jesus' treatment at the hands of the Romans and how he would be treated online and in the media if he returned today. Speaking up for those without voices, preaching kindness over isolationism, rejecting the concept of individual wealth in favor of community, stating emphatically that borders are imaginary because kingdoms and nations are concepts not realities - these ideas are as politically explosive now as they were two thousand years ago.

This timelessness inspired our production's visual language. Without changing a word of the lyrics, or any of the intention or the characters, I'm attempting to draw visual parallels between then and now. As the show progresses, the visuals shift from modern to historical, because there are limits to be drawn in this comparison. We are not literally crucifying people for their opinions here in Canada, but the metaphor is still apt.

Exploring themes that are as important now as they were two thousand years ago, via one of the best musicals of the last fifty years is a dream. I cannot thank the MAT, or our incredible cast, enough for this opportunity.

Whether this is your first time seeing JCS, or your hundredth, I hope you leave having found something new.

Ryan LaPlante, Director

When Ryan told me of his vision for this JCS, I couldn't wait to begin. Thank you to the Understudies who worked diligently to establish their distinct roles, and be ensemble members as well. To all the cast and crew, my heartfelt thanks for making a dream a reality.

Judi Erickson, Assistant Director

A STUDY IN COSTUMES AND COLOUR

Erin Hawke, Costume Designer for MAT's *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Designing costumes for this production has been a big bucket list item, and also an interesting challenge. When Ryan approached me several years ago about his vision I knew I had to carefully create a visual story to solidify his narrative. Colour had to become a key player, singling out our characters and lending a deeper meaning to their roles. Yellow for confidence and hope, red for justice and sacrifice, orange for energy and action, black for death and power.

Along with colour, there was also the matter of the desire to shift from a modern approach to this story to a more historic visual by the end. I eventually landed on each costume shift being a deeply personal character epiphany, rather than a moment dictated only by the script. A character would only change once they believe, truly, deep down, that Jesus is 'the real deal'.

For some characters this change is sudden and deliberate, like Mary. For some it happens accidentally as the propaganda and fear settles in them, like our priests and guards. For some it happens too late, like with our Apostles. The only change we never see is Judas, who maintains throughout that Jesus is just his friend, just a man, whose philosophies have been blown out of control by his followers. It's not until the end when Judas is faced with the consequences of his actions that we see him with a glimmer of true belief, but by then it's too late.

"Who are you? What have you sacrificed?"

Advertisement for Stonge Recreation, featuring various recreational vehicles and activities. The ad includes logos for Kawasaki, Can-Am, Manitou, Ski-Doo, Yamaha, Suzuki, SeaDoo, Sylvan, and Scarab. The Stonge Recreation logo is prominently displayed, along with contact information: 65 Hart Drive, Barrie, ON, 705-733-2280, and stongerecreation.com. The ad features five images: a snowmobile, a boat with people, a motorcycle with a passenger, a jet ski, and a utility vehicle. The tagline reads: "NOTHING YOU NEED, BUT EVERYTHING YOU WANT!"



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Mark Your Calendar:
Our Concerts Await!

- Dec 14, 2025 – A Whimsical Christmas
 Feb 1, 2026 – Out of this World!
 Mar 29, 2026 – Sounds of Nature
 May 10, 2026 – Tales of Timeless Wonder

Tickets sell out fast, order today!

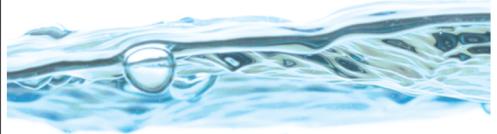


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CAST

**New to MAT*

PRINCIPAL ROLES

JESUS
Mike Moreau*

JUDAS
Josh Halbot

MARY
Maggi Robertson*

CAIAPHAS
David Jefferies

ANNAS
Darren Summersby*

SIMON
Brad Kean

PETER
Paul Donnett*

PILATE
Stephen Bainborough

HEROD
Pam Sparrow

UNDERSTUDIES

U/S performing Thurs, Nov 13 (Denotes role in all other shows)

Nick Nahwegahbow — Jesus U/S (Ensemble)*

Braedon Sziklasi — Judas (Ensemble)*

Alyse Squirrell — Mary U/S (Ensemble)

Martin Buote — Pilate U/S (Ensemble)*

SOUL GIRLS - ENSEMBLE

Christine Ryner*
Nicole St Louis
Lori Scholten*

ENSEMBLE

Erin McBride Hare, Noel LaPlante*,
Peter Merkle, James Brawn, Stuart Todd, Colton
Farro, Debbie Hill McFarland*, Shannon Howes

THE BAND

Conducted by Christina Bosco

Amanda Stanton (Keyboard 1), Jay Rothenburg (Keyboard 2), Neil Mavor (Drums), Mike Smitt (Auxiliary Percussion), Ian Thurston (Guitar 1), Tim Morris (Guitar 2), Rory Slater (Bass), Robin Watson (Trumpet), Hugh Coleman (Clarinet & Tenor Saxophone) Karen Richards (Flute, Piccolo & French Horn)

**SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS FULL
DIGITAL PROGRAMME, CAST,
CREW & AUTHOR BIOS, AND MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHOW!**

or visit

mariposaartstheatre.com/superstar



PRODUCTION CREW

**New to MAT*

DIRECTOR

Ryan LaPlante

ASST. DIRECTOR

Judi Erickson*

PRODUCER

Alyse Squirrel

ASST. PRODUCER

Laura Bainborough

STAGE MANAGER

Leigh Rawlins

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Savana Collier

ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Veronica van Muyen

CHOREOGRAPHY

Sheri Nicholls

CHOREOGRAPHY

Ashley Legedza

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Christina Bosco

LEAD PUBLICITY

Shannon Hawke

PUBLICITY ASST.

Mikaila Bolzonello

POSTER/GRAPHIC DESIGN

Del Borovic*

SET DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION

Brian Halbot

COSTUME DESIGNER

Erin Hawke

COSTUME LEAD HAND

Carol Sinclair

PROPS SUPERVISOR

Susan Mitchell

SET PAINTER

Paul Baxter

LIGHTING DESIGN

Stevie Baker

SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR

Quinn Thomson

SOUND DESIGN

Leigh Rawlins

BACKSTAGE HANDS

Brian Halbot, Rachael Parkins*, Jeff Halbot, Sami Jo Whalen

ADDITIONAL THANK YOUS

Set Construction: Rachael Parkins, Jeff Halbot, Noel LaPlante

Set Load In/Out: Brian Halbot, Jeff Halbot, Wayne Lennox, Pierre Chamberlain, John Challis, Noel LaPlante

Costume Assistants/Attendants: Jill LaPlante*, Rachael Parkins, Alyssa LaPlume

Additional Props Assistance: Dianne Richardson, Madeline Stoneman

Fight Captain: Nick Nahwegahbow **Dance Captain:** Nicole St Louis

Photography: Laura Joy Photography, Deb Halbot, Natalie Baker

Show Program: Stephanie Lamb, Alyse Squirrel

Graphic Designs provided by *Dumb-Dumbs & Dice Inc.*

Special Thanks: Claude, Max, Emma, Nicole, Emily & the OOH Staff, ACT-CO



 **LAURA JOY**
PHOTOGRAPHY

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***Plays are one of the
last forms of media that
resist digitization***

Not by accident, but by design. To experience it, you have to show up. Sit in the same room. Breathe the same air.

The presence, the silence, the unrepeatable tension in the room stays stubbornly offline. You can't download that.

That makes theatre **deeply local**.

A play is reborn every night, in every actor, for every audience.

It's not content - it's community.

While everything is being optimized for infinite distribution and zero friction, the stubborn presence of theatre feels not outdated, but meaningful.

In a world filled with distractions, we choose depth.

Like theatre, we're also creating something that can only be fully experienced by taking the time and turning a page. Hand-curated stories that unfold at a human pace. No pop ups or algorithms, just you and your community.

Sit back, take a breath, and discover

THE Villager Magazine

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A NOTE FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Christina Bosco

When I was a teenager, the first time I heard *Jesus Christ Superstar*, I was hooked. As someone raised in the Catholic faith, I already knew the story—but hearing it told through the driving force of rock music made it come alive inside me in a whole new way. I played “Caiaphas” in that production, and I remember being struck by the complexity of his character, the emotional depth of the music—and the insane vocal range I needed (but definitely didn’t have at the time).

Now, many years later, I’m still hooked—and so honored to serve as the musical director for this production on our beloved Gordon Lightfoot Stage. Bringing this powerful rock opera to life with such a passionate and dedicated band and cast is pure joy—and a full-circle moment I hold close to my heart. Music has always been more than notes on a page to me—it’s connection, transformation, and storytelling at its most human. My deepest hope is that this production leaves a lasting imprint on everyone who experiences it, reminding us of the beauty, the struggle, and the spirit that unites us all.

Finally, I want to thank my husband and children for giving me the time and support to pursue this dream—and for keeping our own “finely tuned band” playing strong in my absence.

A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Sheri Nicholls and Ashley Legedza

Sheri — Bringing movement to music is truly a magical thing. And the music of this show, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, is no exception. The pulsating rhythms, the rock and roll beat, and the soaring vocals--what a ride to interpret and present all of this in motion. There are so many levels of narrative -- acting, singing, and dancing -- all of which merge to present to you an amazing spectacle of story and song. I am so appreciative of the Director’s vision--and the Musical Director’s support to help me count 7 beats per bar. It was amazing to work with a partner, a co-choreographer, to share ideas and inspiration, but kudos really go out to the cast and crew as they jumped all in to manifest the magic of it all. Wow. Superstars indeed!

Ashley — JCS has always been a dream show to work on- the story, the music, the emotion of it all has captivated audiences and creators alike for years. With Ryan’s vision, Sheri’s background, and a fabulous team, this show all of a sudden was within reach. Joining this group of talented minds was such an honor. Often we would ask the cast to trust us down a path of odd movements and weird sounds until the choreography formed around us. Conquering this show wasn't easy, but this dedicated cast pushed themselves until there was nothing left for them to give.



clairayne1990@gmail.com

*Congratulations to the
Cast and Crew of
Jesus Christ Superstar!*



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FRI DEC 19TH 7PM
SAT DEC 20TH 3PM
SAT DEC 20TH 7PM

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Disney's Frozen Jr. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All intellectual performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtina.com



CAST MEMBER SEASON SPONSOR



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UPCOMING AT MAT

WROL: WITHOUT RULE OF LAW By Michaela Jeffery
February 5-15, 2026 at the Orillia Opera House

Convinced the world at large can't be trusted to prioritize the well-being of adolescent girls in the event of a cataclysmic event (or just in general), a determined troupe of preteen "doomers" commit to preparing for survival in the post-collapse society they anticipate inheriting.

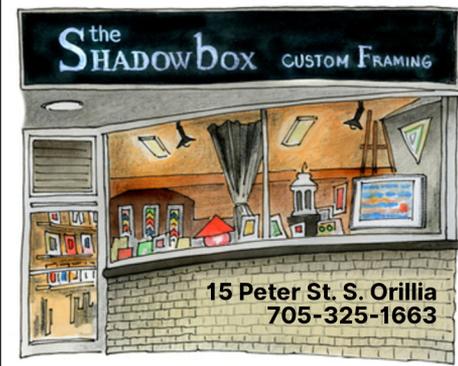
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NOV 12: Meet the Barbarians (Les Barbares)
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Each film has two screenings on the same day - a 4pm matinee and a 7pm evening show.

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