

# STARLIGHT

COMMUNITY THEATER



# GODSPELL

APRIL 1ST - 10TH

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,  
and Joseph Beruh

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI)





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# ***GODSPELL!***

## **ADULT CAST**

*Performs April 1 (7pm), April 3 (2pm), April 9 (2pm, 7pm)*

JESUS.....Matthew Eads  
JOHN THE BAPTIST/JUDAS.....JC Kovac  
DISCIPLES.....  
.....Elizabeth Montgomery, Jordan Barker, Joshua Merrill  
.....Lorenzo Escudero, Lynn Golden, Marisa Tualla  
.....Megan Gardner, Rhiannon Cummings, Riley Watkins

## **TEEN CAST**

*Performs April 2 (2pm, 7pm), April 8 (7pm) and April 10 (2pm)*

JESUS.....Kiera Crouch  
JOHN THE BAPTIST/JUDAS.....Jonah Cain  
DISCIPLES.....Bella Conroy, Eli Franklin, Haizy Kovac,  
.....Hannah Grace King, Izzy Herndon, Katerina Anderson  
.....Katie Kirsch, Morgan Massey, Olivia Martinez, Phoebe Cain

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

DIRECTOR.....Dan Ashlock  
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....Elise Kurbat  
CHOREOGRAPHER.....Lindsay Tejera  
STAGE MANAGER ADULT CAST.....Rick Tejera  
STAGE MANAGER TEEN CAST.....MacKenzie Schmidt  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ADULT CAST.....Alec Merrill  
COSTUME DESIGNER.....Alison Rondone  
PROPERTIES DESIGNER.....Susan Tejera  
SET CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN.....Mike Rippenkroeger  
SET PAINTING.....Michelle Johnston  
LIGHTING DESIGN.....Renee Ashlock  
SOUND DESIGN.....Autumn Kuhn

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# STARLIGHT

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## COMMUNITY THEATER

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Members Emeritus.....Raquel L Jarvill, Barbara Surloff

### OPERATIONAL DIRECTORS

Managing Director.....Nena Rippenkroeger  
Artistic Director.....Dan Ashlock

### MISSION STATEMENT

Starlight Community Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit community theatre corporation dedicated to providing live theatre to entertain and enrich our community and to encourage youth and adult participation by providing growth and educational opportunities through a variety of theatrical experiences, both on and off stage.



**A Special Thank You to all who helped with this production, especially:**

Ric Alpers  
Ally Baumin at Desert Stages Theater  
Samantha Hartwell  
Cindy Jarnigan  
Raquel L Jarvill

## MUSICAL NUMBERS – Adult Cast

### ACT ONE

|                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prologue/Tower of Babble.....        | Disciples                    |
| Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord ..... | John the Baptist and Company |
| Save the People .....                | Jesus and Company            |
| Day By Day .....                     | Rhiannon and Company         |
| Learn Your Lessons Well.....         | Elizabeth                    |
| Bless the Lord .....                 | Megan and Company            |
| All for the Best .....               | Jesus and John the Baptist   |
| All Good Gifts .....                 | Joshua and Company           |
| Light of the World.....              | Company                      |

### ACT TWO

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Learn Your Lessons Well ( <i>Reprise</i> )..... | Jordan and Lorenzo         |
| Turn Back, O Man .....                          | Marisa and Company         |
| Alas For You.....                               | Jesus                      |
| By My Side.....                                 | Lynn and Riley             |
| We Beseech Thee.....                            | Jordan and Company         |
| Beautiful City .....                            | Jesus and Company          |
| Day By Day ( <i>Reprise</i> ).....              | Company                    |
| On The Willows .....                            | Marisa, Rhiannon and Megan |
| Finale.....                                     | Company                    |

## MUSICAL NUMBERS – Teen Cast

### ACT ONE

|                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prologue/Tower of Babble.....        | Disciples                    |
| Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord ..... | John the Baptist and Company |
| Save the People .....                | Jesus and Company            |
| Day By Day .....                     | Haizy and Company            |
| Learn Your Lessons Well.....         | Hannah and Phoebe            |
| Bless the Lord .....                 | Katerina and Company         |
| All for the Best .....               | Jesus and John the Baptist   |
| All Good Gifts .....                 | Katie and Company            |
| Light of the World.....              | Company                      |

### ACT TWO

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Learn Your Lessons Well ( <i>Reprise</i> )..... | Jonah and Eli          |
| Turn Back, O Man .....                          | Morgan and Company     |
| Alas For You.....                               | Jesus                  |
| By My Side.....                                 | Hannah and Haizy       |
| We Beseech Thee.....                            | Olivia and Company     |
| Beautiful City .....                            | Jesus and Company      |
| Day By Day ( <i>Reprise</i> ).....              | Izzy                   |
| On The Willows .....                            | Katarina, Bella, Katie |
| Finale.....                                     | Company                |

## Director's Corner – *A Message from Dan Ashlock*

The only show that I have directed twice is *GODSPELL!* Now, with this production, I had the wonderful experience of directing it two more times (as we have an adult cast and a teen cast). I've also been fortunate enough to have been in a production as the John/Judas character.

In 1970, when John-Michael Tebelak initially conceived and wrote *GODSPELL!* (based on the Gospel of Matthew), he hoped it would be used as a tool to bring an invigorating spiritual experience to the masses. He brought on Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked, Pippin, etc.*) in to add what has become an eclectic and infectious score borrowing heavily from the lyrics of the traditional Episcopal hymnal.

But *GODSPELL!* is not a show about religion. Rather, it is a story about the formation of a community. Traditionally, the theatrical experience of *GODSPELL!* uses what is familiar to the audience to connect them with positive ways to live one's life. *GODSPELL!* uses a variety of storytelling techniques to bring the teachings of Jesus to life. It's considered common practice to insert jokes and pop culture references into the script, as this helps update the material. Our Starlight casts have worked tirelessly to find the appropriate references to add to our show. But the fundamental element of *GODSPELL!* remains intact: COMMUNITY.

Why *GODSPELL!*? Each of us has undoubtedly felt the discord of our seemingly unsteady world. The pandemic, toilet paper shortages, gun violence, political disputes and the Ukrainian/Russian war (among lots of other things) have all led us to deep unrest. We can all relate to the need to find a Jesus of our own, whether figuratively or literally, to unite our communities and inspire a sense of peace.

We've used first responders (Adult) and department store models and mannequins (Teens) to show that in every group there is a great need to find humanity and community. Our Jesus represents everyman and everywoman. Our show celebrates humanity and is not an historical representation of religion.

Thank you, the audience, for sharing this experience with us. Thank you to the 23 actors who bring the song and stories to life. I have enjoyed the process immensely. And thank you to the production team who brought my vision to fruition!

I hope you enjoy our production and are willing to go out into our community and be the light of the world!



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## ADULT CAST

**Matthew Eads (*Jesus*)** - Matthew is elated to reprise his role as Jesus in this new chapter of his life journey! This cast is a family that is overflowing with love, talent and hope! This show is about joy and expressing yourself in its purest form and he can't wait to save the people with a great show!

**JC Kovac (*John the Baptist/Judas*)** - JC is excited to be back on the Starlight stage in this incredible production. He was last seen as Perch Perkins in *The SpongeBob Musical*. He would like to thank Maria, Makayla and Haizy for their support and Dan, Elise, Lindsay and the entire cast and crew. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**Elizabeth Montgomery (*Disciple*)** - Elizabeth is excited to be a part of *GODSPELL!* at Starlight Community Theater and get back into performing after years away. She is a recent transplant to the Phoenix area. When she isn't on stage, she enjoys sewing and altering vintage clothes. Elizabeth is grateful for all the support from her friends and family.

**Jordan Barker (*Disciple*)** - Jordan is excited to be making his first appearance at Starlight! Some roles of his include *The Drowsy Chaperone* (ACAA, Man in Chair), *Sondheim on Sondheim* (ACAA, player), *Legally Blonde* (Spotlight, Professor Callahan) and many more!! "Thank you to Dan Ashlock for being so amazing to work with, Elise for being an incredible music director, my two little guinea pigs (Pumpkin and Charlie) and my wonderful girlfriend for supporting me in all I do!!"

**Joshua Merrill (*Disciple*)** - Joshua is super excited to be in his sixth show at Starlight! You may have seen him recently in *The Spongebob Musical* as Squidward. To be a part of this amazing cast is such an honor and he would like to thank Dan Ashlock for this opportunity! He'd also like to thank Elise, Lindsay, Rick, Alec, his parents Randy and Cathy, and the entire cast and crew of *Godspell!*

**Lorenzo Escudero (*Disciple*)** - Lorenzo is excited to be back on stage at Starlight in *GODSPELL!* His previous performance was in *The Spongebob Musical* as Buster Bluetang/Ensemble. When not onstage, he teaches kpop based dance classes for all ages at MCC. He would like to thank Dan and Elise for giving him the opportunity to perform in this show, as well as his friends and family for always supporting him.

**Lynn Golden (*Disciple*)** - Previous Valley shows include *The Spongebob Musical*, *Dracula*, *Annie*, *The Pajama Game* (Starlight), *Hello Dolly*, *The Sound of Music* (Zao), *Spider's Web*, *A Christmas Story*, *Damn Yankees*, *Nun-crackers*, *Moon Over Buffalo* (DST). Lynn is a Grant Officer at ASU. "Thanks to my squad - Bear, Abby, Brad, Momma, the Ashlocks, the DMs, Ted, Amie, & Eric. This show is a lifelong dream to perform, and I dedicate my performance to my Aunt Nancee, a Woman of Faith."

**Marisa Tualla (*Disciple*)** - Marisa is excited to be back in theater after a long break since high school drama. This is her second show with Starlight Community Theater, previously in *The Spongebob Musical*. During her time living in China, Portugal, and Phoenix she continued to be an avid theater goer, church singer, and joined any dance class she could find. She wants to thank her friends and family for their constant support.

**Megan Gardner (*Disciple*)** - Megan is excited to be returning to the Starlight stage with this incredible cast and crew! As a high school theater teacher, it's always fun to get back onstage rather than behind the scenes. Some of Megan's recent credits include Annie in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Leanne in Desert Stages' *Puffs*, and Lisa in Starlight's *Mamma Mia*. Thank you to the entire cast and production team for putting this life changing story together!

**Rhiannon Cummings (*Disciple*)** - Rhiannon is thrilled to be part of such an iconic show as *GODSPELL!* She was last seen as an Electric Skate and other ensemble roles in *The SpongeBob Musical* at Starlight. She has been singing all her life, and briefly studied vocal performance at the University of Arizona. Rhiannon would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support. She would also like to thank Dan, Elise, and Lindsay for this wonderful opportunity.

**Riley Watkins (*Disciple*)** - Riley is excited to return to Starlight after 8 years! Previous theatre credits include Mrs. Strong (*Urinetown*) and Eurydice (*Antigone*). She'd like to thank her directors for this opportunity and friends/family for the encouragement to return to the stage.

## TEEN CAST

**Kiera Crouch (*Jesus*)** - Kiera is a 17-year-old junior at Sandra Day O'Connor High School and has been a performer in the valley since the age of 8. Some of her favorite roles include: The Fagan Gang member in *Oliver* (ABT), Lauren in *School of Rock* (SYT), Logan in *The 25th Annual Putnam*

*County Spelling Bee* (Starlight) and most recently as Stromboli in *My Son Pinocchio Jr* (Starlight). Thanks to Dan for this amazing opportunity! Hope you enjoy the show!

**Jonah Cain (*John the Baptist/Judas*)** - Jonah is absolutely thrilled to be returning to the stage in *Godspell*. Jonah has been an avid member of Starlight's community for a while and is very excited to be a part of this show. Other theater credits include E. Markley (*Radium Girls*), Willy Wonka (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), and Chip (*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*). He's had a wonderful experience with all of the incredibly talented cast and would like to thank the direction team for giving him this wonderful opportunity.

**Bella Conroy (*Disciple*)** - Bella is very excited to be in Starlight's production of *GODSPELL!* She has previously been in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Elf* at North Pointe Prep and *Broadway Beat* and *Pirates! The Musical* at St. Jerome School. Bella wants to thank her family for supporting her. She also wants to thank Dan, Lindsay, and Elise.

**Eli Franklin (*Disciple*)** - Eli is so excited to be returning to Starlight Community Theater! His most recent credit here on stage was *Footloose* and he also appeared in *Many Maids Made Me Murder* virtually. He has most recently acted in and teched shows for Desert Stages Theater, performed in *Storybook Reunion Murders* at Stage Left Productions, and he always loves to partake in shows at other theaters. Eli will appear next in *Les Miserables* at Desert Foothills Theater. He would love to thank the cast and crew of *GODSPELL!* for making this such an "AMAZING" show!

**Haizy Kovac (*Disciple*)** - Haizy is excited to be back on the Starlight stage in this wonderful production. She was last seen as Professor Buongrazzo in *My Son Pinocchio Jr.* Some of her favorite roles include JoJo in *Seussical Jr* (DFT), Ugly in *Honk Jr* (DFT) and Owl in *Winnie the Pooh* (TheaterWorks). She would like to thank Renee Koher, her voice coach, and the entire cast and crew.

**Hannah Kring (*Disciple*)** - Hannah is delighted to be making her debut performance at Starlight with the talented teen cast of *GODSPELL!* She has performed in over 30 musical theatre productions over the past 8 years at MTA; some of her favorite roles include Kendra in *13*, Thumbelina in *Thumbelina*, Strawberry in *Freckleface Strawberry* (NYA nominee), and Sarah Ruth in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Hannah is a freshman honor student at Boulder Creek High School; she loves singing, dancing, playing her ukulele, hanging out with friends, and being on the stage. Special thanks to the wonderful *GODSPELL!* production staff for this opportunity and to the amazing cast and crew for welcoming her to the Starlight community.

**Izzy Herndon (*Disciple*)** - Izzy is 14 years old and is excited to be back at Starlight Community Theater after 3 years! Izzy loves being on stage and some of her favorite roles include Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Izzy participates with the performance troupe, HyRev, at Arizona Broadway Theatre and is also an Arizona All-State clarinet player. She would like to give a big thank you to Dan, Lindsey, Elise, and the cast and crew of this production for all their efforts to make *GODSPELL!* amazing. "Enjoy the show!"

**Katerina Anderson (*Disciple*)** - Katerina is thrilled to be in her second production at Starlight and part of this talented cast! Katerina made her Starlight debut as Vice Principal Doris Panch in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Some of her other favorite roles have been Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* (SYT), Lucy in *13 the Musical* (DFT), a big kid in *Matilda* (VYT), and Hendrika in *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* (ABT). Katerina also enjoys being a dance captain and member of HyRev, Arizona Broadway Theatre's teen performance troupe. She thanks her family, Kelli, Renee and everyone at Starlight for believing in her!

**Katie Kirsch (*Disciple*)** - Katie is 14 years old and has been doing theater for 6 years. Some of her favorite roles include: Oaken in *Frozen Jr*, Geppetto in *My Son Pinocchio Jr*, Duffy in *Annie*, and Oliver Twist in *Oliver!*, all at Starlight Community Theater. Katie is so incredibly excited to be back on stage after two years of no live theater. "Enjoy the show!"

**Morgan Massey (*Disciple*)** - Morgan is 15 years old and a Sophomore at Arizona School For the Arts. She was in the Phoenix Children's Chorus for six years before she switched to theatre in eighth grade. This is her first show at Starlight Community Theater and she is so excited to be here! Some of her favorite previous roles have been The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Annabeth Chase in *The Lightning Thief*, and Veronica Sawyer in *Heathers: The Musical (High School Edition)*.

**Olivia Martinez (*Disciple*)** - Olivia is thrilled to be in her first Starlight production! She is 14 and can usually be seen on either Spotlight Youth Theater's stage or in their tech booth. Some favorite past roles include Ensemble in *The Addams Family* and Fairy GodParent in *Cinderella: A Rock and Roll Fairytale*, for which she got an AriZoni nomination, at SYT. She'd love to thank



Dan, Lindsay, Mrs. Kurbat, Kenzie, and the whole team and cast for this opportunity, as well as her whole family but especially her dog T.J. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Phoebe Cain (*Disciple*)** - Phoebe is so excited to be joining Starlight for *Godspell*. Some of her most recent shows we're *My Son Pinocchio Jr*, *Present Tense*, and *Radium Girls*. She is 13 years old and would like to thank her parents for driving her to and from the theater. She would also like to thank her amazing cast members for bringing such a wonderful show to life. She can't wait to join Starlight for more musical adventures.

## Production Team

**Dan Ashlock (*Director*)** - Dan is the Artistic Director for Starlight Community Theater and is very excited for *GODSPELL!* In December, he directed the Arizona premier of *The SpongeBob Musical*. For Starlight, his directing credits include *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Zoni nom), *Mamma Mia*, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *Holy Matrimony!* (Zoni nom), *A Christmas Story*, and *The Pajama Game*. At Desert Stages Theater, Dan has directed *Damn Yankees*, *Puffs!*, *Oliver!*, *Spamalot*, *Seussical*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *6 RMS*, *RIV VU*, *Dark at the Top of the Stairs* and Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*. He has performed in productions in Arizona, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Maryland including *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Murder In the Heir* at Starlight. Dan earned a BS in Speech Communication/Theater from NAU and a MS in Counseling at CCSU. He lives in Phoenix with his wife Renee and they are the proud parents of two adult children, Nathan and Quinlyn.

**Elisa Kurbat (*Music Director*)** - Elisa is thrilled to be music directing at Starlight Community Theater once again with such two incredible casts! Elisa grew up in Cleveland, Ohio where she went to Kent State University for Criminology and then Baldwin Wallace Conservatory for piano and voice. While in Ohio, Elisa played piano for Mansfield Orchestra, while maintaining a full piano and vocal studio. Elisa's love for musical theatre was realized when she first music directed *Cinderella*. Since then, she's music directed many musicals. Her favorites include *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Urinetown*, *Cabaret*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Theory of Relativity*, *Footloose*, *Addams Family*, and *Spring Awakening*. Elisa currently works at Arizona School for the Arts in the theatre arts department and continues to teach privately. "Thank you to Dan and Lindsay for being such fantastic teammates, and many thanks to her wonderful husband, family and friends who are incredibly supportive of this crazy career."

**Lindsay Tejera (*Choreographer*)** - Lindsay started dance when she was 3. Since then, she has studied in all type of dance style including tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical and musical theater. After several years on a competition team Lindsay went on to participate in theater shows around the valley. Lindsay has gone on to choreograph multiple theater shows around the valley. She has earned her associates degree in dance and a bachelor's degree in business from ASU. Currently she is a full-time dance teacher at North Pointe Prep and a part-time instructor at Diamond Dance Works. She is very happy to be working with her whole family on *GODSPELL!*

**Rick Tejera (*Stage Manager Adult Cast*)** - Rick is excited to back behind the curtain as Stage Manager for *GODSPELL!* (Adult Cast). Rick was last seen on Stage in Starlight's production of *The Pajama Game*. Rick has also been seen in Starlight's productions of *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story* and *You Can't Take It With You* among others. Rick has also been a tech or Stage Manager in many Starlight productions. He would like to thank to Dan for including him on the Production Team and the adult cast for their support and comradery. "And of course, thanks Susan and Lindsay for their support. Enjoy the Show!"

**MacKenzie Schmidt (*Stage Manager Teen Cast*)** - MacKenzie is very excited to help out with the production of *GODSPELL!* She has lots of experience both on and off the stage. Some plays you might have seen her in are *Game of Tiaras* as Other Princess 2 and the one act *Beef Junkies* as the cow. When she is not performing onstage, she loves to help backstage. MacKenzie has been an assistant stage manager for many shows including *Newsies*, *Les Misérables*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She also was just a stage manager for *Perfect Arrangement* at Paradise Valley Community College and a stage manager for *Scrambled Eggs* at B3 Theater. She would like to thank Dan for being an amazing director and the whole cast for being amazing and working with her even though she may not have everything figured out. MacKenzie hopes you enjoy the show!

**Alison Rondone (*Costume Designer*)** - Alison has been involved in community theater and dance for the past 40+ years. She began sewing and designing at age 11, inspired by her very creative grandmother. She has been a dancer, choreographer, and teacher since her twenties and has

danced many principal roles, including the Sugar Plum Fairy and The Rose in *The Nutcracker* and Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, and in annual productions and spring galas in southern California. In addition to her role as a dancer/choreographer/teacher, Alison has created numerous costumes for a number of dance and community theater productions and has also operated her own business as a wedding dress and bridal headpiece designer for the past 10 years. In addition to her theater production roles, she has been an ensemble cast member in several community theater productions, including *Brigadoon*, *Oliver*, and *South Pacific*. Her love of dance and design has been her creative focus for the past several decades and she desires to continue to expand her role in community theater.

**Mike Rippenkroger (*Set Construction*)** - Mike is an award-winning member of our production team. He builds the sets for nearly all Starlight productions. Mike is family-oriented – married to Nena and father to Will.

**Michelle Johnston (*Set Decoration/Painting*)** - Michelle has been a part of Starlight for over 7 years now when she painted her first set for *Beauty and the Beast*. When not designing enchanted woods or stately living rooms or sneaking in the occasional role on stage she's an investigator at MUFU Union Bank. She's been in the field of financial crimes for over 20 years and retired from the US Army reserves in 2016 after 26yrs of service.

**Renee Ashlock (*Lighting Design*)** - Renee has served as the Lighting Designer for *The Spongebob Musical*, *Avenue Q School Edition*, *Holy Matrimony*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Mamma Mia* (Starlight) and *Oliver*, *Damn Yankees* (DST). She has also been a stage manager and technical director for numerous DST, ASA and BCHS productions. Her favorite theater jobs are set construction, lighting and photography. Renee teaches middle school science for the Loyola Academy at Brophy College Prep. She appreciates and loves her supportive family: Dan, Nathan & Alaine and Quinlyn.

**Autumn Kuhn (*Sound Designer*)** - Autumn just recently returned to the technical side of theatre after a brief hiatus. She returned doing sound for Starlight Theatre's production of *The Spongebob Musical* and is thrilled to continue her passion for *GODSPELL!* She would like to thank Paul and Samantha Hartwell for bringing her back into theatre.

**Susan Tejera (*Properties Designer*)** - Working on shows since 2014 Susan has found a true passion for props. She has gained recognition for her works on properties design by receiving an AriZoni nomination for *Curtains* the musical comedy as well as an AriZoni Award for her work on *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. Susan would like to thank the cast and crew of this production especially her husband Rick as well as her daughter Lindsay.

**Alec Merrill (*Assistant Director Adult Cast*)** - Alec is thrilled to be an assistant director for this fantastic show (Adult Cast)! He was recently seen at Starlight as Mr. Krabs in the *The SpongeBob Musical*. He would like to thank, Dan Ashlock for this wonderful opportunity, as well as all the talented cast and crew of *GODSPELL!*



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April 29-May 7, 2022

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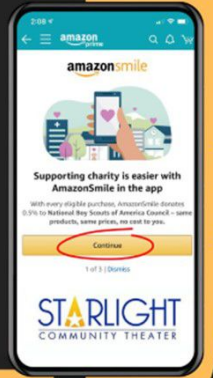
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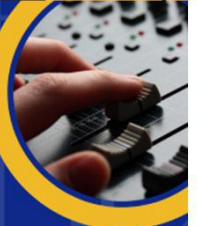
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