

 Sterling Playmakers  
Presents

# GODSPELL

*Produced By: Kimberly Fry*

*Directed By: Jim Bowen-Collinson*

*July 29, 30, 31*

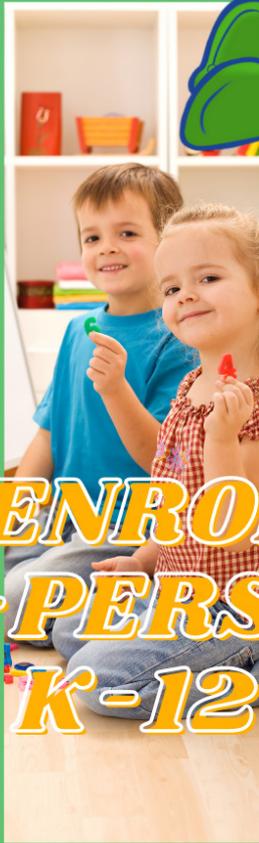
*August 1, 13, 14, 15*

*(And Available For Streaming)*

*The Theatre at  
Potomac Falls High School*

[sterlingplaymakers.org](http://sterlingplaymakers.org)





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 Sterling Playmakers present

# GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed  
by John-Michael Tebelak

Music & New Lyrics by Stephen  
Schwartz

Originally Produced on the New York Stage by  
Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan, Joseph Beruh

Produced by: *Kimberly Fry*  
Directed by: *Jim Bowen-Collinson*

Vocal Director: *Dr. Jessica Foy Long*  
Orchestra Director: *Chuck Schmidt*  
Choreographer: *Carol Jean Clark*

The theatre at Potomac Falls High School  
July 29-31, August 1 & 13-15, 2021  
HIS Sign interpreted performance July 31 @ 2pm

Online at [www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org)  
August 11 – September 20, 2021

Godspell 2012 is presented through special arrangement with Music  
Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are  
also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

# *SETTING*

The show is set in 2020

## *Act I*

Tower of Babble	Company
Prepare Ye	Judas and Company
Save the People	Jesus and Company
Day by Day	Arista and Company
Learn Your Lessons Well	Ashley and Company
Bless the Lord	Melanie and Company
All for the Best	Jesus, Judas and Company
All Good Gifts	Chris and Company
Light of the World	Kareem and Company

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission

## *Act II*

Learn Your Lessons Well (Reprise)	Carson/Courtney
Turn Back, O Man	Kate and Company
Alas for You	Jesus
By My Side	Lauren and Company
We Beseech Thee	Spencer/Stephen/ Carson (July 31 matinee) and Company
Beautiful City	Jesus
On the Willows	Judas and Men
Finale	Company

**NOTE: There will be strobe effects used during the show.**

"By My Side" was written by PEGGY GORDON and the lyrics thereof by JAY HAMBURGER

## *Our Cast*

Noah Hamadé *as Jesus*

Joshua Finger *as John the Baptist/Judas*

Arista Michelle

Ashley Williams

Carson Hopkins

Chris Gray

Courtney Camden

Kareem Taylor

Kate Clark

Lauren Baker

Melanie Kurstin

Spencer Milligan (August 13 – August 15)

Stephen Soares (July 29 - August 1)

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Sterling Playmakers is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community theatre organization in partnership with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services and the Sterling Community Center.

## *Our Mission Statement*

The Sterling Playmakers, in cooperation with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services' Sterling Community Center, will associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To foster and perpetuate wholesome theatrical presentation for all age groups, of both a cultural and entertainment value to the community of Sterling, ever keeping in mind our obligations to the community in the safeguarding of the principles of good taste in all our endeavors. To produce, direct, write, teach, stage, and in all ways provide all forms of performing arts activities and events for children and adults, and to hire such staff as may be necessary. To exist as a nonprofit organization, which operates strictly for the enjoyment of our members, providing an outlet for the artistic talents of as many community individuals as possible.

## *Statement of Diversity*

Sterling Playmakers is committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive environment for our volunteers, audiences, and the entire community. We embrace our differences and respect the unique contributions of each individual. We will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions, religion, creed, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other protected status as established by law.

## *Our Board of Directors*

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Aubry Fisher, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Gillen, Secretary  
Jim Bowen-Collinson, Treasurer

Julia Braxton	Shanna Christian	Eric Fisher
Bill Fry	John Geddie	Angela Hepola
Ellen Price	Tim Silk	Rachel Veal

# *Production Team*

Producer	Kimberly Fry
Director	Jim Bowen-Collinson
Vocal Director	Dr. Jessica Foy Long
Orchestra Director	Chuck Schmidt
Choreographer	Carol Jean Clark
Assistant Director	Patty Kelleher
Production Stage Manager	Helen Gernhardt
Technical Director/Set Designer/Master Carpenter	Joe Christian
Publicity Manager	Shanna Christian
Props Manager	Jonathan Mulberg
Asst Props Manager	CC Schmidt
Stage Manager	Matt Beasley
Lighting Design/Operation	Ethan Feil
Lighting Crew	Chris Gray, Ellen Keil, Katie Brusseau, Mylo Schmidt
Follow Spot Operators	Mylo Schmidt, R.C. Castaneda
Sound Design/Operation	Duron Long
Sound Technicians	Joe Christian, Shanna Christian
Set Construction	Bill Fry, Jill Beasley, Jim Bowen-Collinson, Joe Christian, Mylo Schmidt, Matt Beasley, Patty Kelleher Scott Ruegg, Shanna Christian, Full
Costume Design	Sew What?! Costumes
Costume Manager	Shanna Christian
Box Office Managers	Mark Humphrey, Mary Abbott
Box Office Assistants	Annabel Johnson, Barb Gillen, Joan Ashby, Laura Garofolo, Lindsey Silk, Marleen Coté, Peggy Darr, Phil Coté, Randy Ashby, Tim Silk
House Managers	Lisa Alford, Jill Figueiras
Consulting House Manager	Lora Buckman
Ushers	Abby Price, Ellen Price, Avery Leon, Genevive Leon, Jana Drumm, Joe Campanella, Leah Naranja, Victor Yager
Audition Assistants	Chuck Schmidt, Helen Gernhardt, Lora Buckman, Mark Humphrey, Shanna Christian
Audition/Rehearsal Pianist	Joe Faber
Photographer	Alan Price
COVID Coordinator	Tim Silk
Bulk Mail Manager	Joe Campanella
Bulk Mailing Assistants	Alan Price, Angela Hepola, Barb Gillen, Carlos Figueiras, Ellen Price, Helen Gernhardt, Jill Figueiras, John Geddie, Kathy Bleutge, Lora Buckman, Shanna Christian, Tim Silk

# *Our Band*

Conductor  
Bass  
Guitar  
Percussion  
Keyboard

Chuck Schmidt  
Allan Bentkofsky  
Jeff Bishop  
Carlos Figueiras  
Joe Faber

## *Special Thanks*

Rebecca Ayling and Sue Schryer of Loudoun County Public  
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Michaela “Kiki” Ottenberg, Corrine Fox and Said Shah and  
the rest of the staff of Potomac Falls High School

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Alan Price Photography

Sarah Quadros

The staff at GAM Graphics and Marketing

Chris Bruno and Brunoland Media for putting together our  
streamed performance.

HIS Sign for providing sign interpretation at the July 31  
matinee

Our sincerest appreciation to everyone we may have  
missed or who contributed to this production after this  
program went to print.

# Director's Notes

There are times when I am having a rough day, I always think back to this Walt Disney quote: "It's kind of fun to do the impossible." I think we can all agree that 2020 was a rough year for everyone and brought to life impossible things we previously took for granted in our everyday lives: A hug from a loved one, civil conversations even when we disagree, even going to the theater.

When I knew we had to change our originally intended show for the summer, I wanted to pick one that would be warm, inviting, and achieve the impossible. We went through a lot of titles, but the one that remained constant was *Godspell*. I performed in the show my freshman year of high school, and always look back on that time as one of the best experiences in my academic theatrical career. It was also where I met two of my best high school friends, Nicole and Chelsey. Over the years, Chelsey's parents, Paula and Stu, would become great friends with my father; and just like a modern Brady Bunch episode, Nicole would become my stepsister when my father married her mother, Patty. Talk about a full circle moment for me when revisiting this material!

I decided to do the 2012 revival because not only does it give the show's content a bit of a facelift, but also gives the score some rejuvenation. There are also many timeless pop culture references, some still from the original 1971 libretto, and jokes that resonate in 2021, especially ones written prior to the 2016 presidential election. But even with all the revisions done to give the show a bit of fresh air, the core of a troupe of actors portraying the greatest story ever told in a world that needs healing is still there. While the religious aspect still present, all of the cast members onstage start divided in a world that is divided by hate, greed, and violence, and end the show unified, spreading the teachings of Jesus: hope, love, compassion, and community.

While being a dreamer at heart, I am a true believer that art should imitate life. Tonight, you will be brought into the black and white world of the not so distant past (summer of 2020) with protesters spouting quotes from various philosophers. Together, our protesters will be transported into a colorful world with Jesus and Judas, and perform Jesus' parables through various theatre games and improvisation styles. As the show progresses and they reach their journey's end, each one is inspired to spread love and build a beautiful city of man.

I would like to thank Sterling Playmakers Board of Directors for having the faith in us to achieve the impossible and allow us to do this production. Thank you Matt, Mylo, RC, and C for keeping things lit and in tip top shape while our actors are onstage; the band(Al, Jeff, Carlos, and Joe F.) for making this score rock; Shanna for all of the publicity; Jonathan for coordinating all the props; Sew What?! for coordinating all the costumes; Duron for making sure our actors are heard; Ethan for making the show beautiful with color and light; Helen for always being the constant steady force in the team, and making sure everything runs smoothly; Joe C. for giving me a set that is urban, beautiful, and a great sandbox for the kids to play in; Carol for the fun choreography; Chuck for making the band sound amazing; Jessica for teaching the children how to sing the house down; Patty for being and my right hand person and Kim for being my left hand person because without both of you I would have been lost; and my cast (Noah, Josh, Arista, Ashley, Melanie, Chris, Kareem, Kate, Lauren, Stephen, Spencer, Carson, and Courtney) for journeying down the yellow brick road with me. Finally, thank you to my family, especially my father and stepmother Wayne and Patty Collinson, and to my wonderful husband, Erik, for always being my best friend and my person.

I dedicate this production in loving memory of my dear friend, Stu Smith, and my mother-in-law, Gail Bowen.

Welcome back to the theater, thank you all for coming, and enjoy the show!

*Jim Bowen-Collinson*

# Meet Our Cast

Noah Hamadé (Jesus): Noah is an actor based in Northern Virginia. He is a rising senior studying Musical Theatre and Communications at JMU. Some of his favorite credits include performing in the Carner and Gregor Concert on the Millennium Stage at The Kennedy Center, as well as Houdini in Side Show at JMU. Noah acts to learn about life through experience, and he hopes to inspire each audience member to grow with him to make the world a more understanding place. Instagram: @noah.hamade

Joshua Finger (Judas/John the Baptist): Josh has been singing for as long as he can remember. He is currently studying music and voice at NOVA. This is his first show with Sterling Playmakers. He is extremely excited and grateful for this opportunity to get back on stage in front of an audience and perform live.

Arista Michelle: Describing Arista Michelle in 75 words or less is kind of hard but imagine a human with a combination of these words: Dynamic, Loving, Kind, Talented, Swing Dancer, Hugger, Songwriter, Session Artist, Voiceover Artist, Foodie, Actress, Minister, Mother, Beloved Child of God. Arista dedicates this show to prodigal sons around the world. No matter what you've done or where you've been, our Heavenly Father is always willing to welcome you Home with open, forgiving, loving arms.

Ashley Williams: This is Ashley's first show with Sterling Playmakers. Some of Ashley's favorite past roles include: Crystal (Little Shop of Horrors), Rusty (Footloose), and Milly (Seven Brides for Seven Brothers), and Deloris (Sister Act!) When she's not on stage you can find her enjoying karaoke, singing, and eating nuggets. Ashley has had fun getting to know her cast mates. She would like to thank her family, and God for always supporting her. Thank you Sterling Playmakers for casting me in this production!

Carson Hopkins: A rising Senior, Musical Theatre major from Falls Church, Carson is ecstatic for his Playmakers debut. He was most recently in FDU's zoom production of *Songs For A New World* and *A Little Night Music (Frid)*. He performed in Fairleigh Dickinson's (FDU) production, *Avenue Q (Newcomer)*. Carson would like to thank his family and friends, his director Cindy Thole, past directors/instructors Michael Repogle, Beth DeMarco, Stacey Jones, and finally his vocal instructors Patricia Little and Mariana Karpatova. Enjoy the show!

## Meet Our Cast

Chris Gray: Chris is a long-time performer in the region and is thrilled to be back in front of a live audience and working with the Sterling Playmakers again! Some favorite roles include Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Caractacus in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Cornelius in *Hello Dolly*, and Tommy in *Brigadoon*. He is most proud of his daughter Abby who shares his love of the arts.

Courtney Camden: Courtney is a DC based writer and actress who is thrilled to be making her Sterling Playmakers debut with this incredibly talented cast. Past credits include Paulette in *Legally Blonde*, Mrs. Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and Edna in *Hairspray*. Lots of love always to Lurry & Greg.

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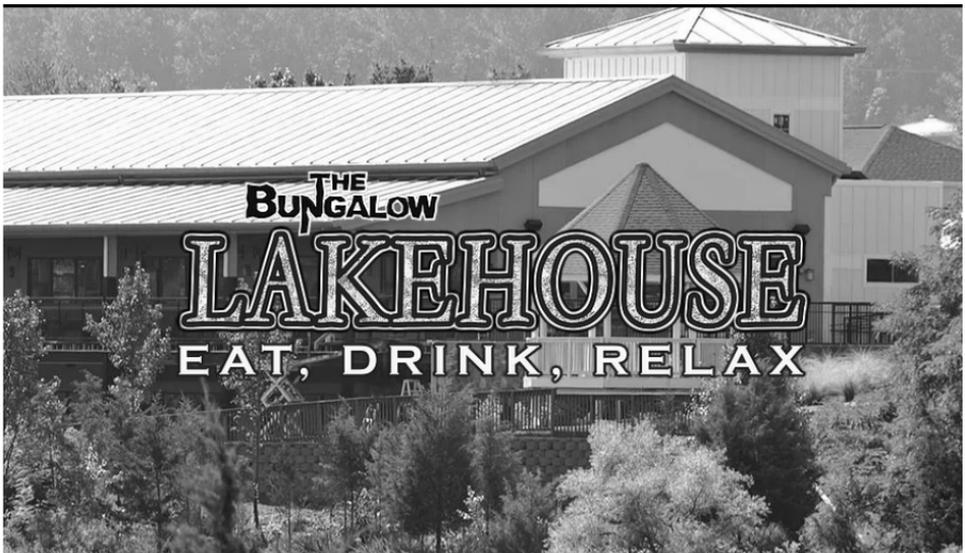
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# Meet Our Cast

**Kareem Taylor:** Kareem is happy to return to the Sterling Playmakers' (SP) stage! Previous credits include J.B. Biggley in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (SP) and ensemble roles in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (SP) and *Beauty & the Beast* (SP). Kareem sings locally in the area with *On That Note* (SP), a traveling cabaret-style musical theater ensemble. Offstage, Kareem enjoys board/video games; running; traveling; local breweries/wineries; and Beyoncé.

**Kate Clark:** This is Kate's third show with the Playmakers after appearing as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Humpty Dumpty in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Kate recently moved to the area from Austin, Texas where some of her favorite roles were Grace in *Annie*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Sarah in *Company*, Mimi in *Guys and Dolls*, Gwendolyn in *The Odd Couple*, Isabella in *Measure for Measure*, and Saphir in *Patience*. Day by day, Kate is a school librarian.



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# Meet Our Cast

Lauren "LB" Baker: Lauren is originally from Baltimore, MD currently resides in Leesburg, VA. This proud alum from Shenandoah University enjoys finding her unique voice within theatre! Previous roles include: Conrade (Much Ado About Nothing), Miss Jones (How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying), a member of SPM's cabaret group "On that Note", and Assistant Director for SPM "The Laramie Project". Lauren gives all thanks to God and her family for their support in everything!

Melanie Kurstin: Sterling Playmakers debut! Most recently The Revolutionists (Charlotte Corday) (LTA) and PUFFS (Megan Jones) (WPTC). Notable credits include: NYC: American Idiot (Whatsername), Hedwig...(Yitzhak); REGIONAL: Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson (Storyteller), The Rocky Horror Show (Magenta), and Wild Party (Kate). Virtual theater credits include: Into the Woods (Witch), Wedding Singer (Linda), and Assassins ("Squeaky"). Additional credits: choir honoring Billy Joel at the Kennedy Center Honors. This performance is dedicated to her Mother who is always a Light in her World. IG: @MelanieQuinn13

Spencer Milligan: Spencer is beyond excited to be making his Sterling Playmakers debut and to be back in front of a live audience. Some of his recent credits include The Fantastiks, Bye Bye Birdie, As You Like It, The Three Musketeers, and Little Women the Musical. In the rare moments he is not at rehearsal, he enjoys singing in the shower, martial arts, and reading the latest Star Wars novel.

Stephen Soares: Stephen Soares is an actor new to the DMV area, having arrived just in time for a pandemic! Some of his favorite shows that he's been a part of are Disgraced, American Idiot!, and Dead Man's Cellphone. He is excited to finally be back on stage, working on the things he loves most.

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# Meet Our Production Team

**Jim Bowen-Collinson (Director):** Jim is so proud to be directing this cast and team. Originally from Cape May, New Jersey, he received his B.M. and M.M. in Vocal Performance at Shenandoah Conservatory. He directed *Steel Magnolias* for Playmakers in 2019 and has performed in many productions. Favorite roles include Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *How to Succeed... (Bud Frump)*, *Little Women* (Laurie/Rodrigo), *Urinetown: The Musical* (Caldwell B. Cladwell), and *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor).

**Kimberly Fry (Producer):** Kim wants to welcome everyone back to the Theatre! We have missed you all. She is thrilled to be working with this talented group of artists involved with another Playmakers production. Jimmy – It's been a long and wild ride to bring this show to life and I'm so thankful you were my partner through it all. Many thanks to her family and friends for their support this year.

**Carol Jean Clark (Choreographer):** Carol has been involved with the stage for over 30 years. She is a director, music director, choreographer, actor, dancer, singer, voice/piano/acting instructor, horseback rider and occasional merperson. Carol graduated from AMDA NYC for musical theatre and has performed on stages from the Kennedy Center to the Sage Theatre in Times Square. She would like to thank Troy Brown for his mentorship and encouragement and her mom for all the support over the years.



**Mary Shelton**  
**Owner/Director**

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# Meet Our Production Team

Chuck Schmidt (Orchestra Director): After five Sterling Playmaker's shows as trombonist and Assistant Director, Chuck is thrilled for his first Playmaker's show as Orchestra Director. At the Langley School (where he has been Director of Bands for 29 years), he has conducted shows such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Shrek*, and *Mary Poppins*. Special thanks to my wife Debbie for her patience while M, C and I do another summer show! Break a leg to our pit musicians!

Duron Long (Sound): Duron Long has been with the Sterling Playmakers since 2018. Duron has been doing Audio/Visual for several years in various settings. Previous show credits *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Much To Do About Nothing* with the Playmakers working technical crew. He looks forward to working many more shows in the future.

Helen Gernhardt (Production Stage Manager): Helen has been involved with the Playmakers in a variety of technical roles since her family was cast in 'Robin Hood'. She's been hanging around backstage for just about every show since and considers it a privilege to have this group in her life! It's been a blast watching shows evolve from simple words on paper to a life in front of an audience. Love to Paul & Brian for introducing her to the lunacy known as "theatre".

Dr. Jessica Foy Long (Vocal Director): Jessica is a voice teacher/choral conductor from New Orleans, Louisiana. She holds degrees from Northwestern State University (B.M. and M.M.) and Shenandoah University Conservatory (D.M.A.). Dr. Long's notable credits include operatic roles *Dido* (*Dido and Aeneas*) and *Suor Angelica* (*Suor Angelica*). Comedic roles include *Ruth* (*Pirates of Penzance*), *Mrs. Jones* (*How to Succeed...*). She has appeared with soprano group *Sopranessence* and *Sterling Playmakers' On That Note*. This is Dr. Long's first time serving as vocal director for Sterling Playmakers.

Sign Language Interpretation  
For the July 31<sup>st</sup> 2 pm performance is provided by



# Meet Our Production Team

Joe Christian (Technical Director): Joe has been part of a number of Sterling Playmakers productions since 2014, working both on and off stage. Whether he is performing on stage, designing the stage, or singing with On That Note, he is glad to help bring theatre to the community.

Jonathan Mulberg (Props Manager): Jonathan is super excited to be a part of Godspell and this cast and crew. This is Jonathan's first production with Sterling Playmakers and is looking forward to many more, including next summer's production of Ragtime, which he is directing. Many thanks to Jimmy, Kim, Joe and C for their help with arts and crafts. He would also like to thank his wife Abbie for all her support.

Mylo Schmidt: Mylo is doing his 3rd show for Sterling Playmakers. Mylo has been in many different roles with Sterling Playmakers, including spotlight for 42nd Street and this show to stage crew, and spotting the epic fight between the Beast and Gaston in Beauty and the Beast. In the future Mylo hopes to make an impact on the music industry and the world itself, hopefully creating a better universe for everyone that crosses his path.

Shanna Christian (Publicity Manager): Shanna loves the role of Publicity Manager and probably spends entirely too much time on social media. She can most often be found behind the scenes, as producer, running crew, or costumes, and even occasionally appears on stage as a performer. She is excited for her directorial debut with Catch Me If You Can for Sterling Playmakers in Fall 2021.



Sterling Playmakers are especially grateful to the staff at GAM Graphics and Marketing, for their continued generosity and support of all of our shows.

# Meet Our Band

Allan Bentkofsky (Bass): Allan has played bass since age 12 and currently plays with the Loudoun Symphony Orchestra, the Loudoun Jazz Ensemble, Linda Anderson and Friends and other ensembles in Northern Virginia. Over the years Allan has played in several pit bands, including Mame, South Pacific, and Music Man. Godspell marks his first appearance in the pit for Sterling Players.

Jeff Bishop (Guitar): This is Jeff's first show with Sterling Playmakers. He is the guitarist for the Loudoun Jazz Ensemble, a local big band, and performs with Linda Anderson and Friends. He also plays with several other small groups, mostly jazz. Jeff is a piano technician and divides his time between tuning pianos, playing guitar, dabbling in lutherie, and building guitar amps and fx.

Joe Faber (Piano): Joe is excited to be working on his fifth Playmakers production and is grateful for the chance to collaborate with such a talented company. He is especially thankful to be playing on top of the scenery this year, rather than inside it! Much love and special thanks to Gina and Julia for putting up with months of schedule disruptions and incessant show tune references.

Congratulations Jeff on being part of the Godspell Band!

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# Sterling Playmakers

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Directed by Ellen Price



## CATCH ME IF YOU CAN



November 12-14 & 19-21, 2021

Directed by Shanna Christian



## DIRTY WORK AFOOT

OR

The Trials of a Working Girl

Spring 2022

Directed by Terry Nelson DiMurro

# RAGTIME

The Musical

Summer 2022

Directed by Jonathan Mulberg

[www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org)





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OWNER/ KITCHEN DESIGNER



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