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## New “Godspell” in Herndon is Not in Limbo

*NextStop Brings a Modern Twist to the Musical Sensation*

**Herndon, VA / Washington, D.C.** – NextStop Theatre Company, located near Reston Town Center, opens “Godspell” on March 1, 2018. Director **Lorraine Magee** brings a modern twist to the musical, setting the new production in a coffee shop.

The show, whose writers include Stephen Schwartz, creator of Broadway’s “Wicked,” retells parables of love, understanding, and tolerance from the Bible. The play is frequently set in an abstract, timeless environment or city street.



“Our *Godspell* is not in a limbo--it is in the here and now” said Magee, enjoying the ubiquitous nature of an impersonal coffee shop filled with device-clutching patrons as a backdrop for the tales of enlightenment. “In the 21st century, the internet and the coffee shop were supposed to be places to bring us together and connect us to one another, but they seem to have had the opposite effect.”

Despite the title and source material, “Godspell” doesn’t cater to solely religious audiences. “You don’t have to be Christian, or even a believer in any higher power, to find meaning in this story,” noted Magee “The message is about compassion, understanding, and building a community despite our differences. And we need that now.”

The cast includes **Angeleaza Anderson, Philip Da Costa, Javier Del Pilar, Tess Higgins, Jennifer Lambert, Bobby Libby, Alan Naylor, Jolene Vettese, Chani Wereley, and AJ Whittenberg.**

“Godspell” is the first of a pair of shows about religion in NextStop’s 2017/2018 season. Its counterpoint, the play “Bad Jews,” will provide an irreverent take on faith in America. “Bad Jews” finishes the season in May and is the capstone to a year-long commitment by NextStop to provide different perspectives on similar topics.

In addition to directing, Magee also choreographs the show, joined by a creative team including Music Director **Elisa Rosman**, Scenic Designer **Jack Golden**, Sound Designer **Neil McFadden**, Lighting and Projections Designer **Brittany Shemuga**, Costume Designer **Maria Bissex**, Properties Designer **Colleen O'Brien** and Stage Manager **Rebecca Talisman**.

Performances are Thursdays through Sundays from March 1 to April 1, 2018. Tickets range from \$35 to \$65 and are available online at [www.NextStopTheatre.org](http://www.NextStopTheatre.org) or by calling [866-811-4111](tel:866-811-4111). *All seating is General Admission*. Additional fees may apply. Performance popularity determines ticket prices and advance booking is strongly recommended.

Information on how NextStop is using their 2017/2018 Season of Shows to build the bonds of community can be found at [www.NextStopTheatre.org/Together](http://www.NextStopTheatre.org/Together).

#### **About NextStop Theatre Company:**

NextStop Theatre Company is an award-winning professional black box theatre just moments away from Reston Town Center, Historic Downtown Herndon, Dulles Airport, and the Wiehle-Reston Metro. The company has established a strong regional reputation for producing critically acclaimed productions and educational programs, while showcasing a wide array of local talent, Broadway headliners, and locally-driven arts relevant to the community.

NextStop Theatre is made possible in part by generous support from the following valued donors: The Town of Herndon, The Ruth & Hal Launder's Charitable Trust, The Nelson J. & Katherine Friant Post Foundation, The Arts Council Fairfax County, The Virginia Commission for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, and NextStop's loyal patron donors.

NextStop's 2017/2018 Season is sponsored by AutoScandia.

#### **LOCATION:**

NextStop Theatre Company  
269 Sunset Park Drive  
Herndon, VA 20170

#### **GROUPS:**

Group discounts are available for 8 or more tickets in the same transaction using the promotion code "GROUP8." You can book online or by phone.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/NextStopTheatre](http://www.Facebook.com/NextStopTheatre)  
Instagram and Twitter: [@NextStopTheatre](https://www.instagram.com/NextStopTheatre)