

GODSPELL JR. CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Godspell Jr. is an ENSEMBLE show, and with the exception of Jesus – who acts mainly as a facilitator and less of a “performer” – there are no leads. The dramatic weight of the show is equally divided amongst the principal cast members. It will be important for our cast to understand the nature of this ensemble production. Working together will be the key to a successful production of Godspell Jr. The show is a wonderful way for young performers to learn the importance of cohesion and teamwork in a theatrical setting. There are many different ways for individual characters to be featured, whether they are singing solo or taking a role as narrator or player in one of the scenes. The following are capsule descriptions of some of the characters in Godspell Jr.

- **JESUS** – In Godspell Jr., Jesus is first and foremost a teacher. He should come off very naturalistic – not high and mighty or judgmental. He should be charismatic without being affected. Serious, but with a good sense of humor.
- **JOHN THE BAPTIST/JUDAS** – In the original production of Godspell this role was played by one actor. In order to give as many opportunities to our performers, our production will have two cast members play this role. These characters are charismatic, but also headstrong and sometimes act in rash ways, never meaning to do wrong, but not always clearheaded about finding the best solution.
- **DAY BY DAY** – The singer who sings “Day By Day” doesn’t need to have a wide range, but the song should sit in a place where they can sing it out strongly and with conviction.
- **LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL** – The two soloists for this number should be singers who can enunciate expertly – the song is less about the melody and more about getting the words out quickly and so that the audience can understand them.
- **O, BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL** – This is a big song with several changes in tempo and tone. It requires a singer with the biggest, most dexterous voice.
- **ALL GOOD GIFTS** – The slow, beautiful ballad of Godspell. Of all the songs in the show, this one demands a beautiful voice.
- **WE BESEECH THEE** – Here’s one for class clown! It can be almost spoken and still work well, as long as our performer has personality plus!
- **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** – Another song that can almost be spoken. But the singer has to really “sell” this song.
- **BEAUTIFUL CITY** – Beautiful and sincere, the singer must be able to let us know that this is the reason of the show - convey that they understand the message Jesus has been teaching and help impart that to the audience.
- **NARRATORS (King Narrator 1, King Narrator 2, Samaritan Narrator, Rich Man Narrator, Prodigal Son Narrator 1, Prodigal Son narrator 2)** – Most of the parables have a narrator or two. Our narrators don’t have to be our best actors, but they should be among our best speakers.
- **PLAYERS (Judge, Widow, Debtor, Fellow Servant, Good Soil Leader, Shy Child, Weeds, Seeds, Lost Sheep, Sneaky Goat, Goats, Sheep, Goat Leader, Son, Pigs, Landowner, Elder Son)** – Some of the players have lines and some do not. Whether or not they have actual dialogue, ALL players will be encouraged to develop larger than life characters.

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKING PARTS

Godspell Jr. is all about storytelling! Memorize the following dialogue from the script. Try to memorize the paragraph word for word as closely as you can. At audition your goal will be to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. We want you to be as *entertaining, creative and energetic* as you possibly can. You may use no props or costumes in the telling of the story. Just use your voice and your body. We want to see how inventive you can be in telling this story.

SAMARITAN NARRATOR

A man was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell in among robbers who beat him, stripped him, and left, leaving him half-dead. It so happened that a priest came upon him, but when he saw him he went past on the other side. So, too, a judge came to the place and saw him and went past on the other side. But, a Samaritan who was making the journey came upon him, and when he saw him, was moved to pity. He went up and bandaged his wounds, bathing them in oil and wine. Then he put him onto his own beast, brought him to an inn, and looked after him there. The next day he produced two pieces of silver and gave them to the innkeeper and said, "Look after him, and if you spend anymore, I will repay you on my way back."