

## CONTENT AND GENERAL FAQs

### 1. IS JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN?

While we fully understand that individuals ultimately must decide for themselves, we believe that our interpretation of this show is appropriate for most ages. There are stylized depictions of violence including the scourging and crucifixion of Jesus and the death of Judas, however they are not overly graphic. There are several scenes that depict tormentors (actors who represent the turmoil that Judas feels) and once scene showing Jesus healing the lepers. These scenes might be mildly frightening to very young viewers. Overall, the message of the show is universally accessible to all ages!

### 2. HOW ARE THE CHARACTERS DEPICTED IN JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR?

This is a common question when it comes to this show. Some have labeled certain productions as controversial however we feel that that is often misplaced. Our treatment of the material has been carefully curated to present the message of the show in a way that is equally approachable by those of a religious background and those who may consider themselves of the secular mindset. The story comes directly from the Gospels in the New Testament and while the music is of a rock/pop nature, we believe that the style was selected simply a vehicle to convey the complex emotions that the characters present, and we feel that the score does this incredibly well. Ultimately, we feel that our production is a beautiful and accessible interpretation of the Passion story set to some of Andrew Lloyd Webbers best music!

### 3. DOES THIS STORY TRULY CONCERN JESUS OF THE BIBLE OR IS IT SET IN ANOTHER TIME PERIOD?

Productions of JCS are all different. We chose to set our production during the biblical time period however the material does use language and styles that may not be “of the era” to help convey ideas, feelings, and emotions (ie. the rock and roll stylings). There are several moments in the show that take place outside timeline of the story.

### 4. I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SHOW'S HISTORY. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE?

The most comprehensive book to date is Rock Opera: The Creation of **Jesus Christ Superstar** from Record Album to Broadway Show and Motion Picture, by Ellis Nassour and Richard Broderick. The book is sadly out of print, but you can still find used copies on Amazon.com.

Youtube has some excellent documentaries about the creation of the album and the 1973 film.

During the Covid Lockdowns, Ghostlight hosted a virtual interview with Ted Neeley, the actor who played Jesus in the 1973 film version. The interview is a first-hand account of much of the history of the show! Watch it [here](#):

## **5. WHAT IS JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR?**

Press documents describe it as everything from “a global phenomenon that has wowed audiences for over 50 years” to “a timeless work set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events.” But the simplest answer is best: *Jesus Christ Superstar* is a rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Set in two acts, *JCS* tells the story of the final seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. It dramatizes his entry into Jerusalem, the unrest caused by his preaching and popularity, his betrayal by Judas, the trial before Pontius Pilate, and his ultimate crucifixion. The piece is sung-through, with no spoken dialogue.

## **6. WHAT IS THE RUNTIME OF THE PRODUCTION?**

The show is presented in two acts with a 15 minute intermission. The total runtime including intermission is approximately 1 hour 45 minutes.

## **7. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?**

We're incredibly excited and honored to have the opportunity to bring this production to the Olympic Peninsula! We've been waiting four years to get to mount the show after our last attempt in 2020 which was interrupted by the pandemic.

This is rock opera and therefore might have a few short sections that are presented in a style mimicking the rock arena rock arena sound. While the majority of the show is very musical theatre-esq, there are parts that are slightly louder than the typical musical theatre experience. These sections do not last very long and are presented that way for a specific dramatic reason. We try to be very careful and sensitive with the sound design to make it approachable and comfortable for all, but patrons overly sensitive to loud noises may wish to wear some kind of hearing protection during those moments (notably the end of the Overture, parts of the Last Supper, Gethsemane, and Judas' Death). We will have concert style ear plugs available at the theatre for those that wish to use them.