

# Nobel Fool's 'Godspell' teaches tolerance

By Veronica Jenssen | Daily Herald Correspondent

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It is human nature to seek connections with people with similar interests.

Throughout life, people find their niche of friends, be they preps, geeks, anime kids, gangsters or the group of the moment.

People usually don't leave their social comforts and end up judging and looking down on others that are "different" than them. But the musical "Godspell", presented by Noble Fool Theatricals, seeks to change that.

The upbeat musical tells the story of Christ and his message to not judge others and to have acceptance for everyone.

"All the stories in the play are based on a moral. It tells you to check up on yourself, and to be kind to others," stated Tyler Vaughn, senior at Geneva High School, who plays the lead role of Jesus.

In this version of "Godspell", the numerous cliques are forced to come together and find harmony with help from Jesus. The play is very modern, which will allow children of all ages to relate to the story.

"I hope that the audience is reminded of the preachings of Christ, but in a fun and enjoyable way," director Tracey Whiteside said.

Creating the play has taken an enormous amount of time and commitment from all members of the cast who had to earn their spots with a rigorous audition. "They had to give a one-minute monologue as well as sing and dance in their audition," Whiteside said.

"I have worked in two previous shows with Noble Fool Theatricals. I love the people that work there; they have a heart for kids, and every single person is treated the same," Vaughn said.

Over 37 young adults were chosen to play in this Noble Fool production from St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia, Bartlett, West Chicago, Carol Stream, Maple Park, Downers Grove, and Winfield.

"This cast is awesome!" Whiteside said, "It's the best group of kids I have ever worked with!"

The cast has been practicing for the play since the beginning of October, with three- to four-hour practices three times a week.

"We are all really good friends, no one is separated," said Jackie Scheer, who plays a geek.

In fact the kids cast in the play are putting the morals from "Godspell" into action.

"The cast is going to go to senior centers in the area, and perform songs and funny scenes for the elderly," Whiteside said.

Unlike performing at their local high schools, the actors and actresses are placed in a more professional setting as Pheasant Run. "It is very professional for them. The tickets are sold through Ticket Master, and we are using some of the same crew members used in professional shows," Whiteside said.

"My favorite part of the show is the song 'All for the Best,'" Vaughn said.

"I enjoy the finale with its intense song and dance," said Scheer.

Come discover your favorite part of the musical-play when "Godspell" comes to life beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29th on the Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage. Tickets are available for \$13, and can be bought at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or over the phone (630) 584-6342. All other information can be found at [noblefool.org](http://noblefool.org).

## Cast:

St. Charles: Abbey Marie Villwock, Alex Adams, Allison Cook, Barbara Homan, Kevin Chlapecka, Megan Gill, Rachel Whiteside, Sara Monteleone

Geneva: Alana Goodrich, Allison Grischow, Becca Grischow, Ally Carrino, Cassidy Van Cleve, Connor Colbert, Josh Harper, Molly Carberry, Natalie Carberry, Rob O'Neil, Sadie Vaughn

Batavia: Cecily Lemon, Erika Nickelson, Jackie Scheer, Jessi McCluskey, Mary Alcott, Megan Warren, Rebecca Rousseau

Bartlett: Amy Marik, Katie Brazier, Madeline McCue

South Elgin: Allie Kutcher

West Chicago: Elena Tubridy

Carol Stream: Kara Witkowski, Tom Horvath

Maple Park: Leah Richards

Downers Grove: Liann Lucansky

Elburn: McKenzie McMullan

Winfield: Nadia Pelletier

Directed by: Tracy Whiteside, of St. Charles

Music director: Ken Jones, of Wayne