

Jesus Christ Superstar now playing at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres' through July 30!

Director focuses on telling the story

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres is thrilled to bring its audiences the groundbreaking theatrical masterpiece of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Presented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, *Jesus Christ Superstar* runs on the Main Stage through July 30, 2011.

Based on St. John's Gospel account of the last week in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, *Jesus Christ Superstar* dramatizes Jesus and his disciples' joyous arrival in Jerusalem, the unrest caused by his teaching and popularity, his betrayal, trial and crucifixion.

Perpetually changing the face of musical theatre, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres' production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* has left audiences and critics alike captivated by its power, hailing it as, "Brilliant and absolutely refreshing!" (*Asian Pages*); "Respectful...this is a resurrection you can believe in." (*St. Paul Pioneer Press*); "Impressive and meaningful...you'll experience the last days of Christ in a new light." (*Catholic Spirit*); "Superstar still rocks! This show is very much alive...the theatre reverberates with sonic intensity!" (*Star Tribune*); "Excellent...a memorable classic." (*Metro Lutheran*); "Absolutely amazing...vocal perfection...We've seen countless Chanhassen productions. *JC Superstar* was, hands down, our favorite." (guest letter).

With lyrics by Rice and music by Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is fueled by what many critics have called Webber's most riveting and compelling score, including songs such as: "Heaven on Their Minds," "Hosanna," "I Don't Know How To Love Him," "Everything's Alright," "Could We Start Again Please" and "Gethsemane."

Resident Artistic Director Michael Brindisi wanted this production to embrace a sense of timelessness. Stated Brindisi, "It is the greatest story ever told. We want the audience to get the sense that this is a story for all people and for all times, including our own. And we'd hope that in



PHOTO BY: TOM SANDELANDS

telling the story, people will walk away changed for the better."

Brindisi discussed the use of three textures in the designs: stone, metal and cloth. "The set is made primarily of stone to reflect the ancient and metal to represent the forward. The use of cloth is an integral piece in the storytelling. I won't give it all away; you'll just have to come to experience it. I believe this is the most moving and powerful piece we've ever done. The Chanhassen production ultimately celebrates the life of Jesus and his teachings to bring about change in people's lives. You can tell by the reaction of the audience each night." Brindisi continued, "We focus on the drama of the piece—not the spectacle. The ensemble tells the story in a way that touches and inspires people to explore their own faith. I can tell you that it's inspired me to revisit my own—I can't explain it, it just affect-

ed me, and in a significant way."

Recommended for audiences aged 8 and above, *Jesus Christ Superstar* will be performed eight times weekly (through July 30, 2011) with evening performances Tuesdays through Sundays and matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Dinner and show ticket prices are as follows: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday evenings \$68; Friday \$77; Saturday evening \$77; Wednesday matinee \$59; Saturday matinee \$63; and Sunday \$69. Show-only tickets are available no sooner than ten days prior to the performance. For tickets and information call the theatre box office at (952) 934-1525 or (800) 362-3515. For parties of 15 or more, contact Group Sales at 952-934-1547 or (800) 355-6273 or go online to www.ChanhassenDT.com. Very special group package prices are available for church groups. Please inquire.

As an extra-special thank you for reproducing the attached feature in your newspaper,
please use this **Jesus Christ Superstar MEDIA PASS** for either 2 dinner and show tickets, or 4 show-only tickets
with option to buy dinners at \$15.00 each. (Tickets are for use on one visit.)

Valid any performance (except Saturday and Sunday evenings) based on availability through June 30, 2011.

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