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*presents*



Book by Tom Key and Russell Treyz  
Music and Lyrics by Harry Chapin

**April 10-21, 2024**

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# ***A Message from the Director***

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In the 1940's, a Baptist minister, Clarence Jordan, brought the books of the New Testament to life in his book *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

Jordan was born in Talbotton, Georgia and from an early age he was troubled by the racial and economic injustice he saw in his community. Seeking ways to be part of a change and improve the lot of sharecroppers through scientific farming, he enrolled in the University of Georgia and earned a degree in agriculture. He also graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky with a Doctorate in New Testament Greek.

Combining his interest in scientific agriculture and the gospel of Jesus, Jordan created a community in Sumter County, Georgia committed to an area/neighborhood where blacks and whites could live and work together in a spirit of partnership. He called his experiment koinonia, from the Greek word meaning community or fellowship.

During the 50s and 60s, those at Koinonia Farms experienced excommunication from churches, machine-gun fire from Nightriders, crops stolen, roadside markets bombed, Grand Jury investigations and crosses burned on lawns of blacks. When Jordan died in 1969, the local coroner refused to come to the farm to pronounce him dead.

Today his spirit lives on through his writings and in the work he inspired. Habitat for Humanity was an outgrowth of Jordan's commitment to justice, reconciliation and partnership.

The show you are seeing is based on Jordan's book. The play designed and conceived as a one-man show was written by Atlanta actor and director Tom Key and Russell Treyz. The delightful bluegrass style music was written and composed by Harry Chapin.

This unique version of the modern day telling of the story of Jesus set in Georgia is filled with humor, humanity and hope.

It has been a joy to work on this show with an amazing cast. We hope you find it as inspiring as we do.

Enjoy!

*Tom Richardson*





**SETTING**  
**TIME and PLACE:**  
Here and Now

**The Players**

---

Matthew ..... Chris Gansel  
Tom ..... Bob Hayden (guitar)  
Andy ..... Cameron Adams (guitar)  
Mary ..... Heather Shepherd  
Jim ..... Adam Grubbs  
Jack ..... Emory Schroeter (bass guitar)  
Musician ..... Jim Spencer (banjo, mandolin)  
Musician ..... Keith Potter (guitar)

***15-Minute Intermission***



Shattered Vision  
Operators Grant  
Program



115 North Hill St. Griffin, GA. 30223

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FOUNDATION

G Griffin Area  
Arts Alliance

THE GRIFFIN DAILY NEWS



# The Players



**CAMERON ADAMS (Guitar/Andy/Vocals)** just finished playing Jack Gable in *Leading Ladies*. He is excited to be back at Main Street so soon! Prior to here his most recent performance was *Christmas Belles* at Onstage Atlanta where he played Justin Waverly. Some of his other credits include Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Academy Theater, Randall in *Bring It On* at Town Square Playhouse, and Kerchak in Disney's *Tarzan* at Lolecks Storytellers. Cameron wants to thank MSP for this wonderful opportunity. He also

wants to thank Steve, his mom, and Grandy as they support him in his acting journey.



**CHRISTOPHER GANSEL (Matthew/Vocals)** just appeared as Leo Clark in *Leading Ladies* and as Ken de la Maize in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Other roles at MSP include Vanya in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*, the Man in *Now and Then*, Kris Kringle in *Another Night Before Christmas*, Watson in *Holmes and Watson* and C.C. Showers in *The Diviners*. Griffin audiences may also remember him as Gomez in Griffin Ballet Theatre's production of *The Addams Family*. Chris wants to thank his lovely wife, Beth, who found

out she married a theater kid after it was already too late.



**ADAM GRUBBS (Jim/Vocals)** is a well known Griffin Artist and performer. Main Street Players credits include *Side By Side By Sondheim*, *Clue: The Musical*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Adam also wrote and performed the original cabaret, *No Fame, No Shame 1* and its sequel *No Fame, No Shame 2* for MSP. Other highlights: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Dr. Frank-N-Furter) *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), and *Cabaret* (Emcee). Adam would like to dedicate this performance to Mom, Brittany, Kathleen, Kate, Jack,

and Pep.



**ROBERT HAYDEN (Guitar/Tom/Vocals)** has always been a fan and supporter of Main Street Players, and is delighted to be appearing on stage here for his second time. Music is life itself to him, and he grew up playing Harry Chapin's music. He is a native of Tennessee, but claims the whole southeast as home. He holds doctoral degrees in educational leadership and chiropractic medicine. He loves every day of practice at the Iris City Chiropractic Center. He has been blissfully married to Diane for four decades, and they plan at

least four more together.



**KEITH POTTER (Stage Manager/Guitar/Vocals)** Keith has been involved with MSP for two seasons, serving as a volunteer in the set construction, sound tech, stage management and stage hand work. He was just awarded Volunteer of the Year at the Griffin Area Arts Alliance "Hearts for the Arts" for the 23-24 season. Prior to working with MSP, he had been involved in theater for many years while serving in the US Army in Korea and Germany where he was an actor, musician, stage hand, stage manager and part of the set construction team. He has been involved in productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Greater Tuna*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Annie*, *Cyrano De Bergerac* and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. He loves working with the staff and actors at MSP and is blessed to be able to take part in the magic that is The Main Street Players.



**HEATHER SHEPHERD (Musical Director/Mary/Vocals)** was last seen as Sister Mary Leo in *Nonsense Boulevard*. She is so glad to be back on stage again- especially here with her MSP family. This is her eighth show with Main Street- she sends her love to the whole cast and crew- they have been amazing to work with! Her last show with The Henry Players was *Next to Normal* which earned her a MAT award. She sends a huge thank you and love to Marian and Norma for every opportunity to be a part of their family here. Greatest love to Paul, their children, and grands.



**EMORY SCHROETER (Bass Guitar/Jack/Vocals)** was last seen as Dillard Nations in *Foxfire*. Other roles at Main Street include: Hoss in *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, BJ Gibson in *1940's Radio Hour*, the Radio Technician in *Inherit the Wind* and Roy in *The Odd Couple*. Barnette Lloyd in *Crimes of the Heart*, Cousin Chicken, Mitch, Officer Dugger, Ronald, and Kelvin in *Mama Won't Fly*, Jack in *Cotton Patch Gospel*, Bill Ray in *On Golden Pond* and Harold Bride/Joseph Bell in *Titanic the Musical*. He grew up in Bowling Green, KY and has lived in Griffin, GA since 1999. He has been an active member of the choir at Griffin First United Methodist Church, is a member of Griffin Choral Arts and plays bass guitar at the Branch, at Griffin FUMC. He is a general dentist and is practicing in Zebulon with Magusiak, Morgan and Brown Dentistry. He is married to Meredith and has two lovely daughters, Anna Leigh and Stuart.



**JIM SPENCER (Banjo and Mandolin)** has lived in the Griffin area since 1979 and was married to Judy Pitts (now deceased). They have two daughters, Susan and Lisa, who are both graduates of MCG of Augusta, along with five grandkids. Jim is currently a member of the Praise Team at Mt. Gilead Baptist and a bluegrass/gospel band named, The Soggy Broccoli Boys. This is his first participation in a theatrical production-we hope he will be back for more!

# Artistic Staff and Crew



**NATE BARNES (Lighting Designer/Lighting Technician)** has been the Griffin Spalding County School System's Auditorium manager for the past ten years. During this time, he has worked in both audio and lighting. Nate has experience in lighting and audio for several theatrical, ballet, and concert organizations. Nate also volunteers on the audio and visual team at Oak Hill Baptist. He is honored to work with MSP again and for the opportunities he has been given.



**FRANK DANSBY (Master Carpenter)** was Main Street's most valuable volunteer for the 2018-2019 season. He and his wife, Martha, are lifelong supporters of the arts and in particular theatre. Five years ago Frank joined Resident Scenic Designer BJ Hughes backstage at Main Street Players and quickly became a tremendous asset to the production team. With his background as an airplane mechanic and his vast knowledge of DIY (do it yourself), he quickly picked up on the construction techniques specific to theatre. Frank has worked on twelve productions for Main Street. With his construction and carpentry skills, he has allowed BJ to expand his vision of what our productions can look like, resulting in even more professional looking sets and scenery. Thank you, Frank, for being part of the Main Street family!



**BJ HUGHES (Director/Resident Designer)** is enjoying his thirteenth season with Main Street Players. He is even more delighted to be celebrating his 52nd anniversary in professional theatre during which he has worked as an actor, teacher, director and designer. During his career he has produced, directed and designed over 150 productions. BJ is originally from New Jersey. After obtaining a degree in theatre, he spent four years touring America in classical repertory before settling in Atlanta where for the next 30 years he acted, taught and directed at the Alliance Theatre. He extends special thanks to Norma and Marian for inviting him to Griffin and providing a home with this creative theatre company.



**NORMA RICHARDSON (Artistic Director)** has been involved with theatre for most of her life and has appeared on a number of Atlanta stages among others. As a director her credits include: *Miracle on 2nd Division Street*, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, *Another Night Before Christmas*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *The Sweet Dellilah Swim Club*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Honky Tonk Highway*, *Nunset Boulevard*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Titanic, the Musical*, *Tuesday's With Morrie*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and Then Some!)* in 2015 and 2019, *Mama Won't Fly*, and *Our Town*. On stage performances include: *Foxfire*, *Now and Then*, *The Wild Women of Winedale*, *Fireflies*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Sweet Dellilah Swim Club*, *Southern Comforts*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Love Letters*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Guys*,



*Steel Magnolias*, *Grace & Glorie* (2 times), and *Same Time Next Year*. Her career in television began with Turner Broadcasting/CNN. After leaving Turner, she was an Executive Vice President with Primerica and General Manager for their corporate television production department for over 20 years. She is a native of Griffin, Georgia and is the Founding Artistic Director of Main Street Players.



**MARIAN SORENSEN (Associate Artistic Director)**

received her theatrical training at the Alliance Theatre School at the Woodruff Arts Center. While there, she was contracted as a teacher (her other passion) for both their youth and adult programs. She served as the Assistant Director of the School from 1981-1986. Marian has performed and/or directed on the stages at The Alliance Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Open City Theatre and Theatre in the Square. She has directed and performed in several

shows since joining the MSP family in 2009.



**KAREN STANFORD (Production Assistant)**

has proved to be a versatile asset both on and off the stage at MSP. She was last seen as Luella Bennett in *The Diviners*. Other productions at MSP include multiple roles in *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast*, *Charlotte's Web* as the Goose and Mrs. Dunlap in *Inherit the Wind*. She was honored as Main Street's Volunteer of the Year for the 2015-2016 season as she logged in over 150 hours of her time with set construction. As a young lady, Karen was an

avid participant in her high school's Thespian Club, as well as, performing in *Swingin' High* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*. She would also like to give a special thanks to her two children for their love and support.

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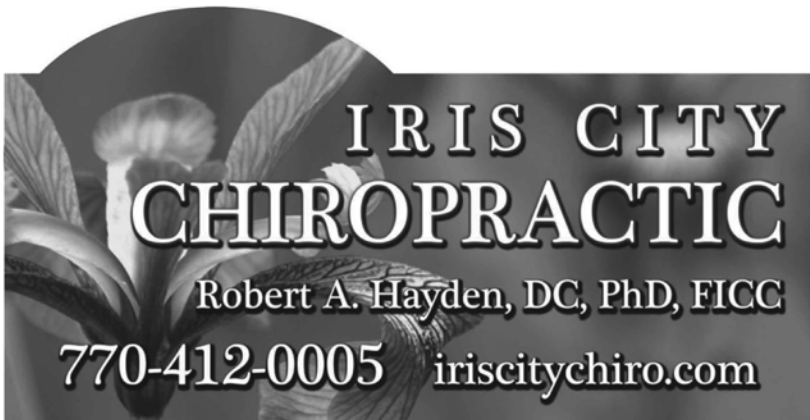
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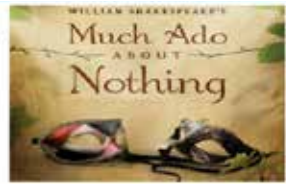
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