

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

1 November 2018

For immediate release

Jesus Christ Superstar

Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

Directed by Stephen Robertson

Musical direction by Richard Marrett

From the 24th November

The Court Theatre's mainstage

Show Sponsor: Golden Healthcare

Short show description:

In 1971, *Jesus Christ Superstar* burst onto the worldwide stage and changed the face of musical theatre forever. With a blazing score and evocative lyrics, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice created the greatest rock opera ever written, shining a light on the power of the human spirit.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR IS COMING TO THE COURT THEATRE THIS SUMMER

IN BRIEF:

The Court Theatre is bringing the most loved rock musical to the stage in their summer production of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Director Stephen Robertson and musical director Richard Marrett will be bringing a '70s feel to the theatre for this iconic musical, complete with a rock concert atmosphere that will thrill audiences throughout summer.

The story follows the last days of Jesus' life as seen through the eyes of the disciple who betrayed Jesus and led to his crucifixion, Judas Iscariot. Through Judas' perspective, the human soul beneath the divine icon is bared – troubled, doubting, loving and scared.

The main draw of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, of course, is Webber and Rice's iconic, powerful soundtrack.

The Court has compiled a group of 27 singing and dancing superstars to bring this timeless musical to life, with Nic Kyle leading the cast as Jesus; Caleb Jago-Ward joining him as Judas with Monique Clementson playing Mary Magdalene.

Talking about the complete cast, Artistic Director Ross Gumbley says, "I don't know that I've heard a stronger singing ensemble than the one we have for *Jesus Christ Superstar*."

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The Court Theatre

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Jesus Christ Superstar will be running at The Court Theatre from the 24th November.

IN DEPTH:

The Court Theatre is bringing the most loved rock musical to the stage in their summer production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber (famous for *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Cats*) and Tim Rice, their iconic '70s rock opera is still just as devastatingly powerful as when it first hit the stage.

"Of all of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals to bring to our stage, we felt this was his most enduring and, indeed, his most exciting," says The Court's Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley.

Director Stephen Robertson and musical director Richard Marrett will be bringing a '70s feel to the theatre for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, complete with a rock concert atmosphere that will thrill audiences throughout summer.

"My vision is to partially take the production back to its 1970s roots while maintaining a contemporary feel. It was written as a rock opera, so the music and sound are being designed to honour this," Robertson says.

The story follows the last days of Jesus' life as seen through the eyes of the disciple who betrayed Jesus and led to his crucifixion, Judas Iscariot. Through Judas' perspective, the human soul beneath the divine icon is bared – troubled, doubting, loving and scared.

The main draw of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, of course, is Webber and Rice's iconic, powerful soundtrack.

As Gumbley says, "the whole piece is through-sung with those great, classic, soaring, '70s rock anthems. What's not to like?"

The Court has compiled a group of 27 singing and dancing superstars to bring this timeless musical to life, with Gumbley saying, "I don't know that I've heard a stronger singing ensemble than the one we have for *Jesus Christ Superstar*."

Leading the cast is Nic Kyle, returning to The Court for the first time since his role in 2012's *Grease* to take on the role of Jesus.

Caleb Jago-Ward and Monique Clementson will be performing alongside him, playing the infamous roles of Judas Iscariot and Mary Magdalene respectively. Both are known for their previous musical theatre performances throughout New Zealand, with Jago-Ward familiar for his appearance on *The Voice Australia*.

For Kyle, his vast experience overseas has given him a new perspective for this performance – and of The Court Theatre itself.

"Having had the opportunity to live and work in the United Kingdom for a number of years, I have come to realise that The Court Theatre puts on shows to a level that you would easily see anywhere in London. Christchurch is very

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lucky to have actors, musicians and theatre practitioners that are of an international standard. No production will better show off this rich talent than *Jesus Christ Superstar!*”

Jesus Christ Superstar will be running at The Court Theatre from the 24th November.

[Click here to read more](#)

Cast

Jesus	Nic Kyle
Judas	Caleb Jago-Ward
Mary Magdalene	Monique Clementson
Pilate	James Foster
Caiaphas	Ben Kubiak
Annas	Chris Symon
Herod/Matthew	Fergus Inder
Peter	Isaac Pawson
Simon	Cameron Douglas
High Priest/Guard	Edwin Beats
High Priest/Guard	Joe Kummer
Thomas	Ben Freeth
Bartholomew	Jack Marshall
Andrew	Miles Ford
Alternate Jesus/Phillip	Chris McRae
James the Elder	James Shera
James the Younger	Jared Morello
Jude	Tem Hodson
John	Sam Harris

Apostle Women:

[Kira Josephson \(Tap Choreographer\)](#)
[Jane Leonard](#)
[Hillary Moulder](#)
[Catherine Hay](#)
[Nomi Cohen](#)
[Charlotte Taylor](#)
[Hannah Austin](#)
[Melinda Joe](#)

Band

Musical Director/Keys 1	Richard Marrett
Asst. Musical Director/Repetiteur/Keys 2	Matthew Everingham
Guitar 1	Michael Ferrar
Guitar 2	Heather Webb

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Drums [Tim Sellars](#)
Bass [Michael Story](#)
2nd Keys Sub [Hamish Oliver](#)

Creatives

Director/Costume Designer/Choreographer [Stephen Robertson](#)
Musical Director [Richard Marrett](#)
Set Designer [Harold Moot](#)
Lighting Designer (Light Site) [Grant Robertson](#)
Sound Designer (Bounce) [Ben Rentoul](#) & [Glen Ruske](#)
Stage Manager [Erica Browne](#)
Deputy Stage Manager [Jordan Keyzer](#)

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$69.00 - \$76.00
Senior 65yrs+	\$57.00 - \$64.00
Supporter	\$54.00 - \$61.00
Group 6+	\$54.00 - \$61.00
Child (U18)	\$30.00 - \$51.00
30 Below (limited numbers per performance)	\$30.00

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6.30pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7.30pm
- Forum 6:30pm Monday 26th November
Discuss the play with cast and creative team after the performance
- Matinee 2:00pm Saturday 8th December

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:
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samantha.mcconnell@courttheatre.org.nz

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