

**ABC PLAYERS PLAY PROPOSAL FORM
2026-2027**

Play: Jesus Christ Superstar

Author: Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber

Director: Stuart Yaden

Check Preferred Time(s): Fall December Winter Spring

Cast Requirements: (provide number needed)

? Men, ? Women, 0 Boys, 0 Girls, ~18 Any

Plot Synopsis:

The last days of Jesus as told in rock opera form. Includes nuanced and unique interpretations of the different biblical character's perspectives while dramatizing such events as Jesus driving out the money changers, the last supper, Judas' betrayal, King Herod's trial, and Jesus' crucifixion, among others.

The show had a legendary run in the 70's and has been produced countless times around the world. It is popular both among Christians and non-Christians.

Unusual Technical Aspects (set, costuming, music, lighting, dialect, etc.):

The set would primarily be a live projection of the performers as a backdrop. I anticipate this will be doable with a wired connection and I am willing to invest time and money to make it happen. If it becomes impossible to find a way to make this happen as we near the time rehearsals begin, I will pivot to using prerecorded video of the actors. The screen will be flown out towards the end of the show to reveal risers or stairs that Jesus will ascend to symbolize his death.

There would be a live 5 piece band situated behind the screen. If I am unable to hire/recruit a band by a reasonable time, there are tracks available from ROCS.

Costuming will be modern dress. There will be some direction to coordinate outfits (for example Pontius Pilate will be wearing business attire to differentiate them from the rest of the cast). Some ensemble members may need purchased outfits to differentiate from role to role (for example the lepers will wear hospital gowns).

Names/Positions of Committed Staff (Optional):

Other Comments:

This production would use non-traditional casting, casting the lead roles (Jesus and Judas) with female or non-binary actors, and using genderblind casting for the remainder of the cast. Inspiration was drawn from the EP "She Is Risen" which recorded songs from the show with an all-female cast. Inspiration was also drawn from the recent production at the Hollywood Bowl which starred Cynthia Erivo as Jesus. This shift allows for one of the most well known stories of all time to appear fresh, and changes the dynamics surrounding several plot points in new and fascinating ways (for example, Jesus and Judas' debate about Mary's past as a prostitute and its impact on public perception mirrors modern day feminist debate about chastity and presentation in a patriarchal world).

This show will draw heavily from rock concert aesthetics in the lighting and staging.

Budget Estimates:

Costumes	\$250	Royalties	\$2000
Lights	\$2000	Scripts	\$1100
Programs	\$150	Set	\$750
Props	\$150	Sound Effects/Video	\$0
Publicity	\$200	TOTAL	\$6900

Characters/Roles:

Lead Roles:

Jesus of Nazareth
Judas Iscariot
Mary Magdalene

Supporting Roles:

King Herod
Caiaphas
Peter
Pontius Pilate
Simon Zealotes
Annas

Ensemble Roles:

3 Priests
Lepers
Cured Lepers
Merchants
Apostles
Soldiers
Judas' Tormentors
Reporters
Temple Ladies
Soul Girls