



SYNOPSIS

The musical YESHUA takes a fresh look at the final week of Jesus' life through drama, dance and song. It aims to be thought-provoking without being controversial. Whilst being heavily based on the gospel accounts, particularly Mark's, YESHUA also takes into consideration some Jewish sources (Flavius Josephus, Geza Vermes, Howard Jacobson) and archaeological sources (Shimon Gibson).

All the major characters and events of "Holy Week" are here but seen through the eyes of Maximus and Minimus, two Jewish pilgrims, who try to establish who this man YESHUA (Jesus' Hebrew name) really is. At first, Maximus is swept up by all the hype and fervour of the day whilst Minimus is the doubter. By the end of the play the roles have reversed. You the audience will have to make up your own mind!

YESHUA – An Easter Musical for all ages

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CAST

Speaking parts/Solo spots :

Maximus (an early believer in Christ)

Minimus (a sceptic at first)

Jesus

Judas (the traitor)

Peter (the leading disciple)

John (Jesus' favourite)

James (John's elder brother)

Nicodemus (a Pharisee)

Caiaphas (high priest)

Annas (former high priest and father-in-law to Caiaphas)

Roman Centurion

Devil

Maid 1

Maid 2

Servant of high priest

Pilate

Non-speaking parts:

Other disciples: Thomas, Andrew, Matthew, Thaddeus, Philip, Simon, James, Bartholomew.

Temple Traders (at least six)

Barabbas
Crowd (at least six)
Pilgrims (can form part of crowd scenes)

TOTAL NUMBER IN CAST: Approx. 40
DURATION OF PLAY: Approx. 60 minutes

SONG ONE: JESUS AKA

Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison

Jesus is a friend to me
Jesus is a friend to you (x2)

Jesus A.K.A. (x3)

Verse 1

As a Saviour he can save your soul
As a Master He can make you whole
As a Friend He'll take you to the end
But that may all depend (Jesus A.K.A.)

Verse 2

As the Door He'll open up the way
He's your Shepherd you should never stray
As the Holy One His work's begun
There's room for ev'ryone (Jesus A.K.A.)

Jesus is a friend to me
Jesus is a friend to you
Jesus A.K.A (x3)

Verse 3

As Messiah He will take you higher
As the Light of the World He'll stoke your fire
As the Holy One He will inspire
Faith is all that you require (Jesus A.K.A.)

Verse 4

As a Father, Son and Holy Ghost
He will feed your spirit like a host
As the one and only Trinity
He will set you free (Jesus A.K.A.)

Jesus is a friend to me
Jesus is a friend to you
Jesus A.K.A (x3)

Scene 1: Near the Gates of Jerusalem

The stage is empty except for Minimus who is quietly chilling out. Maximus runs onto the stage all excited...

Maximus: I wanna find Jesus!

Minimus: Who? (sounding surprised)

Maximus: Jesus!

Minimus: Which one?

Maximus: What do you mean, which one? Jesus of Nazareth, the Jesus! He's on his way into Jerusalem. People say that he's the Messiah.

Minimus: (looks at Maximus in disbelief and says in contempt) Nothing good ever came out of Nazareth.

Maximus: Minimus, he's gonna save us!

Minimus: Save us from what?

Maximus: (getting annoyed) What do you think? The Romans! He's gonna send the Romans packing!

Minimus: (said in disbelief) Really?

Maximus: Listen! (pauses) Here he comes, into Jerusalem on a donkey, just as it says in our holy scriptures! And look! (points) People are waving palm leaves!

Minimus: Why palm leaves?

Maximus: Because the palm leaf is a national emblem, a sign of patriotism. Something incredible is about to happen, very soon.

Jesus (on a donkey) and disciples enter Jerusalem amongst a crowd of people waving palm leaves.

SONG 2: SING HOSANNA

Verse 1

I bet you thought he'd come on a horse
With a lot of military force
Well you're wrong, that isn't his thing
He is just a gentle king

Chorus

Shout Hosanna to our king
Shout Hosanna let the bells ring
He will throw the Romans out
He will save us there's no doubt
We're so glad you've come to rule
You're so awesome, hip and cool!

Verse 2

As foretold in days of yore
He would ride into the city for sure
On an ass, that mystifier
It's all there in Zechariah

Chorus

Shout Hosanna to our king
Shout Hosanna let the bells ring
He will throw the Romans out
He will save us there's no doubt

We're so glad you've changed the mood
You're a hit, the number one dude!

Verse 3

Spread your robes upon the ground
For a saviour we have found
Wave your palm leaves in the air
He has answered every prayer

Chorus

Shout Hosanna to our king
Shout Hosanna let the bells ring
He will throw the Romans out
He will save us there's no doubt
We're so glad you've hit the scene
Give three cheers to the Nazarene

The crowds follow Jesus off stage.

Scene 2: The High Priest's Palace

Caiaphas is sitting comfortably on his throne being attended by his maids and servants. Annas is sitting nearby. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, dashes in with some news...

SONG 3: IS EV'RYTHING ALRIGHT?

Caiaphas:

Is ev'rything alright?
Is ev'rything alright?

Nicodemus:

I don't mean to bother you
But have you heard the news?
There are hundreds, thousands, more
Forming in their queues!
They have found the saviour
Look at their behaviour
Ev'ryone's so happy now
They've shaken off their
Shaken off their
Shaken off their blues

Is ev'rything alright?
Is ev'rything alright?

All:



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As fun to produce as they are to perform!