

Jesus Christ Superstar

Opposing reviews presented

By ANN KENNERLY
Brunswickan Staff

Theatre St. Thomas will stage its final performance of the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the French Cultural Centre, Ecole Ste Anne tonight at 8:00 p.m.

Compsed by Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyricist Tim Rice, Jesus Christ Superstar portrays Christ's final weeks on earth. Its first release as a record in 1970 made Jesus Christ Superstar a modern classic. It has since enjoyed success not only in its record and screen versions, but also on stage, as a concert attraction and as a source of recording material for numerous artists.

Theatre St. Thomas' production features Tom MacIntosh most impressively in the lead role as Jesus, who he

strongly portrays as weak and flawed. John Lawrence provides a striking portrayal of Judas and Anne Marie Desmond warms hearts as Mary Magdalene.

Jim Creamer portraying a clever and likeable Pontius Pilate and the comic and charming performance of Blair Hebert as King Herod give the production a well rounded. The band at times tended to drown out the characters when they weren't close enough to a microphone making sections inaudible to some.

The groups first operatic production is brilliantly directed by Ted Daigle, STU Department of Romance Languages. Professor Daigle directed the university's previous musical productions of "Godspell", 1981 and "Fiddler On The Roof," 1982.

According to producer Steven Clark, "Superstar's popularity was a significant factor in choosing it as the university's 1983 musical production. Of course," he added, "the opera's beautiful and intricate score particularly attracted Christine Dairon, the production's musical director and president of Theatre St. Thomas." Clark also noted that "while a production of Superstar requires a relatively simple set, it offers many challenges in the areas of special effects."

On the whole, Jesus Christ Superstar is a true delight. Tonight is your last chance to experience it.

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By TOD BOVINGDON

Theatre Saint Thomas undertook the monumental task of presenting the smash

Broadway Rock Opera 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. This play is difficult to present at best, impossible at worst, and Theatre Saint Thomas seems to have struck a balance between the two.

The role of Jesus, played admirably by Tom MacIntosh, could have been played with more feeling, as it was often apparent that he was just singing the part and not really feeling the anguish of a man who can see his life about to be cruelly snuff out.

Judas, argued by many as the hardest role in the opera, was sung by John Lawrence. In his own way he did a superb job, however often it was hard to hear him (even from this reporter's vantage point of six rows back).

Ciaphas the high priest is a roll for a bass. Ciaphas in the

Theatre Saint Thomas is a baritone at best and a weak one at that. Thank God that this reporter knew the play and the words by heart or the entire scene with the high priest would have been totally unintelligible.

The final scene, The Crucifixion was the only scene that merited a 10, even a 10.5 if that is possible. When the first nail was pounded into Jesus' feet, one could even feel the pain. An excellent scene.

Overall the play rates a 7.5 but an evening well spent none the less. My heartiest congratulations to the cast and crew and especially to the director Ted Daigle for their efforts.

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YEARBOOK

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