



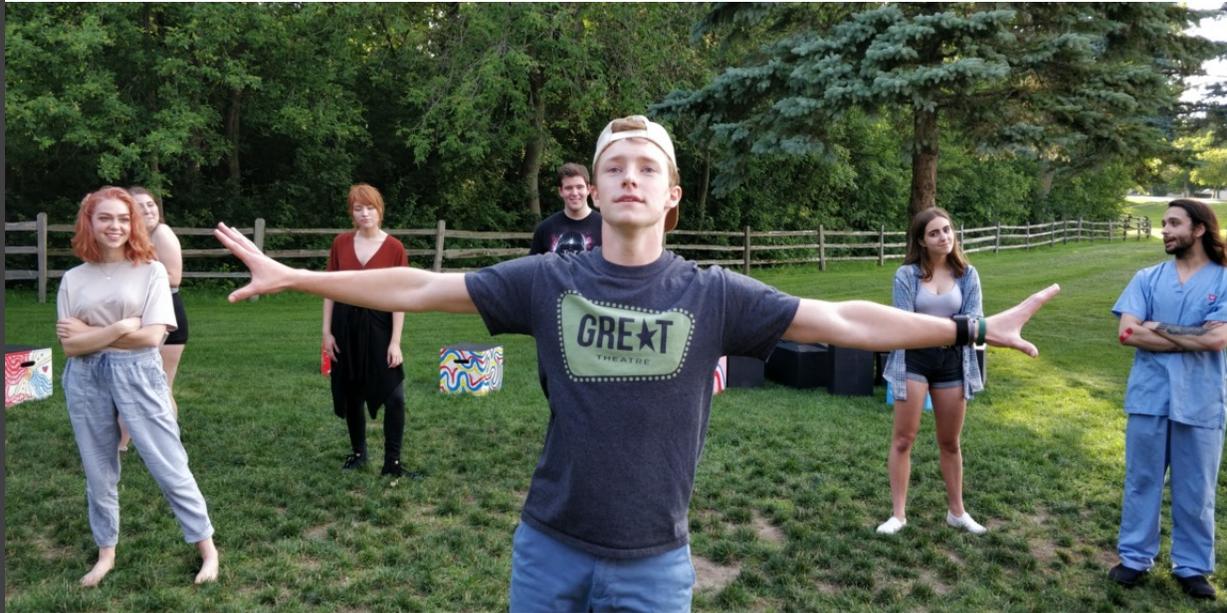
FIVE WINGS  
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**Let's Sing About Love: The Little Falls Summer Musical  
Presents: *Godspell***

When it rains, it pours. When the COVID 19 pandemic arrived in our region, first came changes to our own personal day-to-day realities. Then came its impact on the parts of our lives that bring us live theater, music and other forms of arts. It sometimes seemed that all the changes were too much to bear. Yet, in the face of this adversity, artists are doing what they do best: getting creative.

A new theater organization in our region, the Little Falls Summer Musical team is demonstrating that they are resourceful, resilient, and unwavering in their commitment to bring theatre musicals to their audiences this summer-even in a world changed by COVID 19.



"We started out wanting to bring musicals back to Little Falls that were high quality and entertaining. We wanted to give people something they would really enjoy," shared co-founder, Michael Burr. With his son Lucas Burr as co-director, alongside co-director Michael Kalpakoff, the team of talented young actors and actresses pulled off their first show in 2019, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The response from the audience and the performers was encouraging.

"After the Spelling Bee show wrapped, we began thinking about what we would do next," shared Michael. After reviewing several options, they selected "Godspell." "Michael Kalpakoff and Lucas felt it would be a very well received, It is a well known musical that would be a fantastic addition to the theatre groups' repertoire." It has a smaller cast, minimal set requirements, and offers many opportunities for a high level of creativity. "Godspell allows for the cast to ad lib and make it their own. With a terrific script and music, it would also be timely and speak to issues that the team was interested in presenting," shared Michael.

Godspell was the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (Wicked, Pippin, Children of Eden), and it took the world by storm. Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," Godspell features a parade of beloved songs, including "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side."

Casting calls went out and production began on Godspell, scheduled for the 2020 summer season. Then COVID hit. "We were a bit taken aback by everything, but we knew the themes of this show had suddenly become even more relevant with the pandemic. Godspell is about a community of people coming together, thinking about how to treat one another and there is no better time than now to do a show about community and the need to come together and love each other," said Michael.

After shuffling through a variety of ideas of how to keep the show moving forward Michael reached out to the owners of the Long Prairie Drive-In. "The Long Prairie high school had their graduation ceremony this year at the drive-in and with plenty of space and parking accommodations it worked really well. Although the drive-in isn't

in Little Falls the owners are from Little Falls. So, I took a chance and sent them a Facebook message and started a conversation with Michelle and Dan Claseman." Michael and his son Lucas went to the drive-in to scope out the logistics and to talk with the owners in person. "Michelle, Dan and their children, Tyler and Hailey, were interested in working with us. Considering the times we are in, the drive-in itself was a really great option.

Aside from the obvious challenges ahead of them there was one other setback the team had to overcome: no stage. "Much like everything else, when someone gives you a challenge you try to overcome, and you end up doing something different and unique. The lack of a stage led to some interesting approaches. However, it worked really well with the social distancing needs during rehearsals and the choreography actually benefited from not having a stage to limit the cast," shared Michael. So, once more, the show must go on, and so it will!

Godspell runs the first week of **August (see dates and times below) at the Long Drive-In Theater, 24257 Riverside Dr, Long Prairie, MN**

### **SHOW TIMES for *Godspell*:**

**Thursday, August 6 - Gates open at 5:30 p.m.**

**Friday, August 7 - Gates open at 3:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 8 - Gates open at 2:00 p.m**

Car viewing for all shows is effectively limited to the front row only. Front-row parking may be reserved for a \$10 fee.

Due to capacity limits and social distancing requirements, lawn-chair and front-row seating may be RESERVED IN ADVANCE ONLY.

Note: Any remaining tickets will be sold at the gate for each show, neither lawn-chair seating or front-row parking with a view of the stage can be guaranteed for audience members who purchase their tickets at the gate.

Tickets are available at <http://www.lfsummermusical.com/tickets.html>

[Please see this FAQ about how the Little Falls Summer Theater folks are dealing with COVID-19.](#)

**From the FWAC team to the Little Falls Summer Musical Team: Break a Leg!**



**IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ: Special Conditions Apply**

Due to the outdoor venue and the COVID-19 pandemic, the following special conditions apply to all tickets for this show:

**1) RAIN DATES:** Monday, Aug. 10, gates at 8:00 p.m. (tickets honored from Aug. 4 and 5 shows only); Sunday, Aug. 9, gates at 2 p.m. (tickets honored for Aug. 8 show only).

**2) LAWN CHAIR SEATING and SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Lawn-chair seating on the lawn in front of the stage will require social distancing between one attendee group and another. Your cooperation in helping us follow public health guidelines is greatly appreciated.

**3) RESERVED FRONT-ROW PARKING:** Besides the lawn-chair seating noted above, only the first parking row will allow an unaided view of the live action from your vehicle. Front-row parking may be reserved for an added \$10 fee. Only one front-row reservation is required per vehicle. (Note: During nighttime shows, a big-screen simulcast and FM broadcast will allow viewing from vehicles throughout the Long Drive-In Theater parking area.)

**4) MINNESOTA SUMMER CONDITIONS:** We strongly recommend bringing insect repellent, especially for the nighttime shows, and sunscreen for the daytime show. NOTE: The Long Drive-In Theater DOES regularly spray insecticide to control bugs, but please prepare for typical Minnesota summer conditions.

**5) TECHNICAL CONDITIONS:** Our nighttime shows on Aug. 4 and 5 involve technical arrangements that are experimental for a drive-in theater projection. The LF Summer Musical and Long Drive-In teams will make every effort to provide a quality video and audio experience for the drive-in audience, but we are not a big-budget Hollywood operation and cannot provide Hollywood-quality production values. Thank you for bearing with us and for appreciating this extraordinary event for what it is.

**6) NO REFUNDS:** If one or more shows must be canceled for reasons beyond our control, or if you decide to leave the show early for any reason, your ticket price becomes a tax-deductible donation to Little Falls Summer Musical (a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization). All revenues from ticket sales will be used to pay for the fixed costs of this production. Thank you for understanding!



