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Prep Puts on "Godspell" Play - Again

Peggy L. Roske

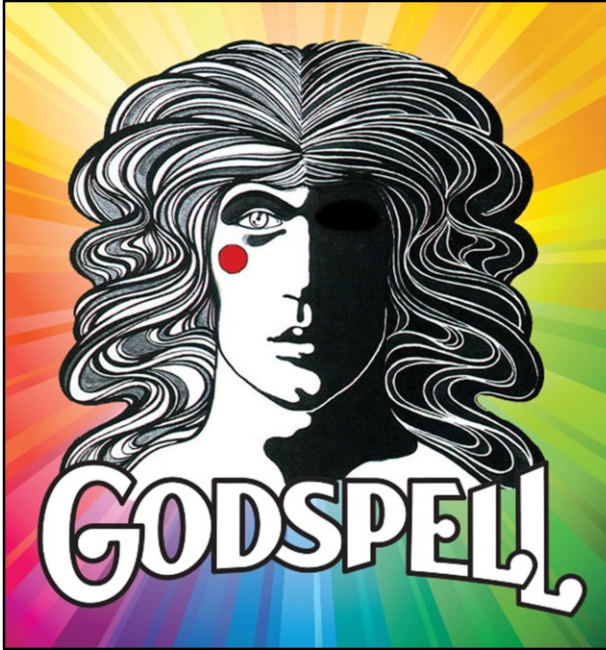
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Paramount Theater Tickets available



Come sing about love! This rockin' Broadway musical hit is based on the Gospel of Saint Matthew. It is a perfect way for young people to appreciate the Word of the Lord in an extremely lively and highly energetic way!

 SAINT JOHN'S
PREP

Left image: http://dekalbcountycvb.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Godspell_logo_big.jpg
Right: 2017 March 10 *St. Cloud Visitor* ad p.9



Background: <http://hdwallpaperdaily.com/rainbow-gradient-stripes-wallpaper/>
Photo: 2017 March 10 *St. Cloud Visitor* ad p.9

Back in 1975, it was the

First Prep Musical

Godspell

Images from the
1975 *Prep World*
issues &
yearbook

Because SJP's music department is in rather sad shape, Mr. Broussard had to rely on only his professional singing experience from the Broadway production.



Images: *Prep World* April 1975 p. 93
Text inset: *Prep World* April 1975 p.92

Back in 1975, it was the

First Prep Musical

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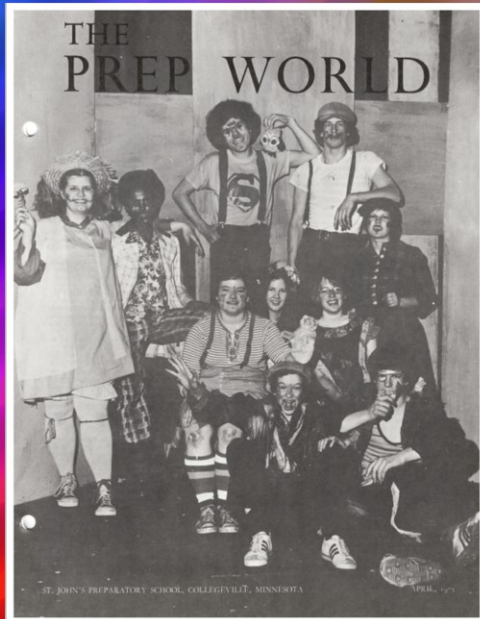
Images from the
1975 *Prep World*
issues &
yearbook

When all the aspects of *Godspell* are combined, it must be ranked as one of the finest Prep productions!

Jim Barbeau



Images: *Prep World* April 1975 p. 93
Text inset: *Prep World* April 1975 p.92



Except for an occasional soft-shoe-in-the-shower, SJP has never done any dancing on a formal level (and this year none on a social level). Yet in the Prep *Godspell* a chorus-line of dancers, not unlike the *Rockettes*, performed before enthusiastic crowds.

Left image: *Prep World* April 1975 p.87
Right image: *Prep World* April 1975 p.93
Text: *Prep World* April 1975 p.92

St. Cloud Daily Times
Entertainment
 Television schedules for Monday, April 7 through Sunday, April 13, 1975 inclusive

SJU Prep School to perform "Godspell"

COLLEGEVILLE — St. John's Preparatory School will present the rock musical "Godspell" in St. John's University auditorium April 11-13 at 8 p.m. with a special matinee set for April 12 at 2 p.m. "Godspell" (from which the gospel is derived) means good news. It is based on the gospel according to Matthew relating the story of Christ. Instead of portraying actual characters of the gospel the play will deal with contemporary followers of Christ.

Director is Dennis Brunsard, a student at St. John's Seminary. He is a veteran Broadway, television and movie actor and was a member of the original Broadway production of "Godspell." Assistant director will be Cindy Pallister, St. Cloud.

Music for the production will be performed by students from St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph.

Admission is \$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for students and will be available at the door. Group rates by reservation are available by contacting the school.



Cast members for St. John's Preparatory School's production of "Godspell" are (back row) Tony Generous, Minneapolis; Gert Sandberg, St. Cloud; Peter Wielinski, Richfield; Diane Alexander, Rockville; Greg Young, Chicago; (middle row) Cheryl Lodermaier, St. Joseph; David Busch, Mamel; Theresa Goerger, Collegeville; (front) Cathy Snoon, Collegeville, and Sean McCornick, Chaska.

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St. Cloud Times April 7, 1975
 Play program courtesy of Tess (Teresa Goerger) Koltes, SJP '75



— St. John's Preparatory School will present its musical production of "Godspell" on April 11-13 at 2 p.m. Each night the cast will relate the gospel story through the use of simple characters and songs. The production will be directed by Broun Johnson, a veteran member of the production staff. Tickets are available at the school office. For more information, contact the school office.

Cast members for St. John's Preparatory School's production of "Godspell" are (back row) Tony Generous, Minneapolis; Geri Sundberg, St. Cloud; Peter Wielinski, Richfield; Diane Alexander, Rockville; Greg Young, Chicago; (middle row) Cheryl Lodermeier, St. Joseph; David Busch, Hamel; Theresa Goerger, Collegeville; (front) Cathy Sneen, Collegeville, and Sean McCormich, Chaska.



Program courtesy of Teresa (Tess) Goerger Koltes, SJP '78

St. Cloud Times April 7, 1975

Play program donated to the SJU Archives by Tess (Teresa Goerger) Koltes, SJP '78

“The best part of the whole deal was [that] Fr. Alan Steichen, who was headmaster at the time, sent us a BUNCH of colored carnations on closing night. We threw them out to the audience who kept giving us standing ovations. It was pretty cool.”

*Teresa (Tess) Goerger
Koltes, SJP '78*

THE CAST

David Busch	Gerl Sundberg
Peter Wielinski	Diane Alexander
Tony Generous	Teresa Goerger
Greg Young	Cheryl Lodermeier
Sean McCormick	Cathy Sneed

The Production Staff

Director	Denny Broussard
Assistant Director	Cindy Pallister
Musical Director	Vicky Gabler
Lighting	Ben Condit
Publicity	Rick Meis
Crew Supervisor	Cindy Pallister

The Band

Electric Guitar	Don White
Acoustic Guitar	John Holter
Drummer	Mark Lodermeier
Bass	Don Welker
Organ	John Bell

and
Pianist for both rehearsals and performances, Vicky Gabler

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Fr. Alan Tarlton, OSB, Gayle Groebner,
Fr. Alan Steichen, OSB, Stephen Pavkovich,
Fr. Jim Phillips, OSB, and Ed Girres, for
their support and contributions to this
production. Without them, GODSPELL would
not have been possible.

Many thanks for the prayers and enthusiasm
of The Matlack Family in Phenix, Arizona.

Construction Crew	Jane Meinz Aurt Hoppe Mike Goossens
lighting Crew	Aurt Hoppe
Prop Crew	Lisa Lodermeier Mary Lesnick Aurt Hoppe Shelly Pallister Mary Noonan Jim Barbeau
Running Crew	Mary Lesnick Shelly Pallister
Publicity Crew	Rick Meis Mary Noonan Bob Brass Mary Lesnick Dave Noon
Ushers	Katie Johnson Lisa Lodermeier Paul Stearns Mary Noonan Rick Meis Liz Johnson Jim Connors Rick Herz Tia Egan Sue Borgert
Ticket Sellers	Mary Noonan Liz Johnson Mary Heber Ais Heberger
Door People	Bob Brass Rick Meis Paul Stearns Katie Johnson Mary Heber Mary Noonan Mark Hoodecheck

Play program donated to the SJU Archives by Tess (Teresa Goerger) Koltes, SJP '78

30 years later, the circus theme & costumes reappear on the SJP campus (and they take the show on the road)

Monks Bring Circus to Saint John's

by Margaret Wethington Arnold



June 2005

Abbey Banner

■ The circus came to Collegeville, June 12-18. Inspired and directed by **Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB**, professional circus performer for thirteen years, two dozen boys and girls, aged twelve to sixteen, spent a week learning and performing basic circus skills. Performances were given at the Benedictine parishes of Collegeville, St. Joseph and Richmond.



Walter Kiefler, OSB

Saint Joseph, Minnesota, was invaded by circus clowns during the Collegeville Circus Camp.

2005 *Abbey Banner* v.5 n.2 p.20

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/24065>

A bit about Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, Prep director of plays and circus camps, once a circus performer himself!

Br. Paul spends much of his time at St. John's Prep. In his third year teaching theater at the prep school, he directs the drama program, which will put on six performances throughout the year. "That will keep us busy," he says. "My goal is to get each kid at Prep to be involved in one play, in some way, during their years here."

He still keeps up a little bit with circus life by putting on a circus camp for kids in the summertime. Last summer, 12 kids participated in the first year of the camp. It went so well that Br. Paul expects it to fill up to 40 next summer. Putting on all those wild projects is exhausting, but it's part of what he calls "wringing the most out of life."

The Record Oct.9, 1997, p.9



Br. Paul-Vincent (photo by Ben Clasen)

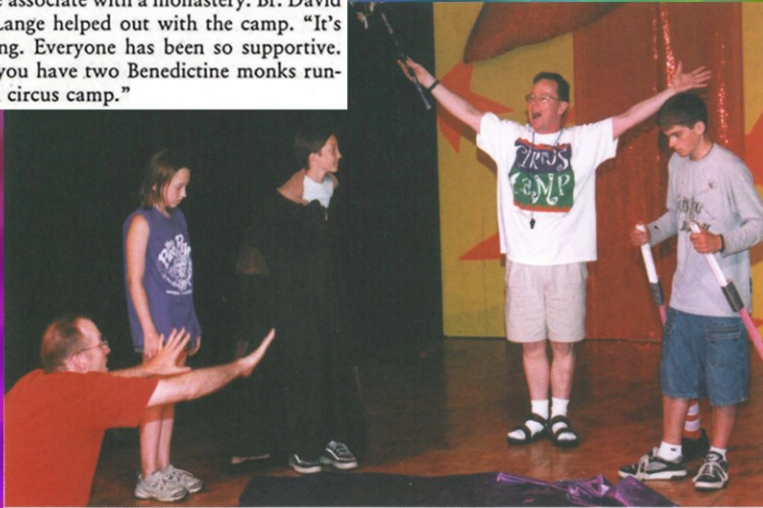
1997-10-09, *The Record*, p.9

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/39283>



Paul-Vincent as
ringmaster

Running a circus camp isn't what most people associate with a monastery. Br. David Paul Lange helped out with the camp. "It's amazing. Everyone has been so supportive. Here you have two Benedictine monks running a circus camp."



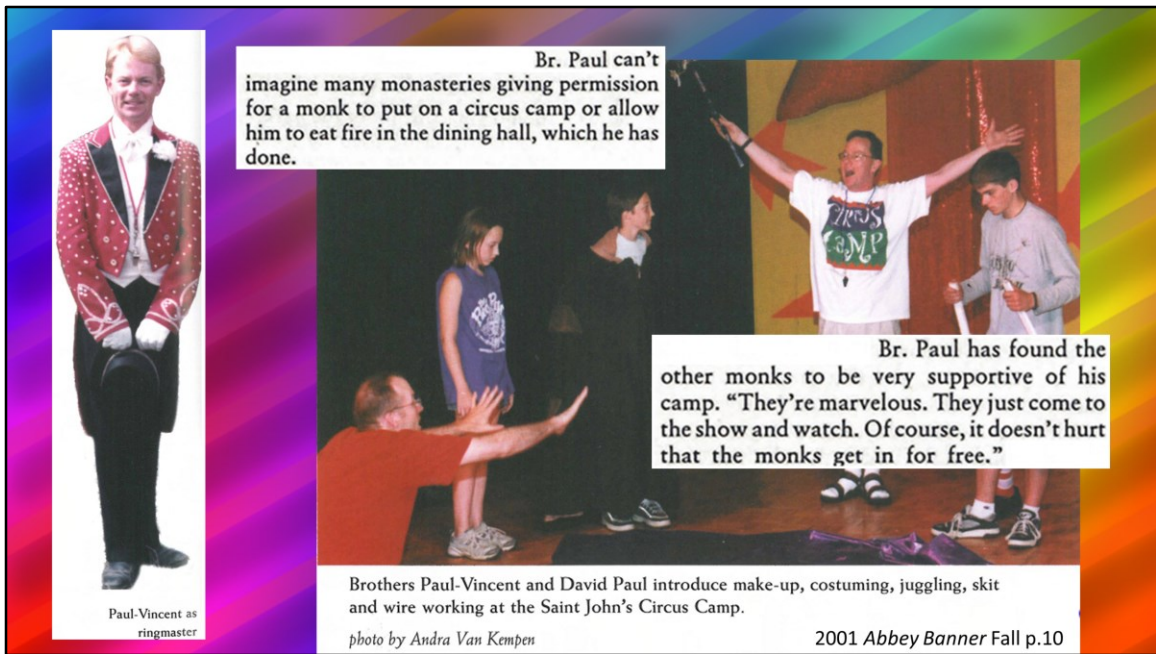
Brothers Paul-Vincent and David Paul introduce make-up, costuming, juggling, skit and wire working at the Saint John's Circus Camp.

photo by Andra Van Kempen

2001 Abbey Banner Fall p.10

2001 Abbey Banner v.1 n.2 Fall p.10

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23677>



2001 Abbey Banner v.1 n.2 Fall p.10

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/23677>

GRAND INDOOR CIRCUS
AT
St. John's University
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 30, 1916

THE GORGEOUS PARADE will precede the numerous acts and events. Don't miss this singular spectacle. The FAMOUS MILITARY BAND is an attraction by itself. Bring the children with you.

TRAINED ANIMALS from the burning sands of Africa and from the ice fields of the North---Elephants, Tigers, Lions, Giraffes, Horses, Monkeys, Black Bears, Polar Bears---will perform the most astounding feats. We shall have with us the celebrated trainers of these animals, under whose direction even the lions are as meek as ordinary tame donkeys. **KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE CIRCUS DONKEY.**

A TROUPE OF CLOWNS will perform ten of the most ludicrous and side-splitting acts. A bunch of concentrated joy, glee and mirth.

ACROBATS specially procured and trained for this occasion, will exhibit daring feats of skill and dexterity. These are artists in their line.

SPECIAL FEATURES. There will be something new and unlooked for all the time. Thrilling and surprising effects every minute.

NEW! THE ONLY FROG QUARTETTE! NEW!
Not to be outdone by any other organization. In addition, the management presents the hitherto monotonous marsh-dwellers as harmonious songsters for the first time in any two-ring circus.

In the Gymnasium. Thanksgiving Day, 1916
RAIN OR SHINE. YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS IT

THE GORGEOUS PARADE will precede the numerous acts and events. Don't miss this singular spectacle. The FAMOUS MILITARY BAND is an attraction by itself. Bring the children with you.

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From the SJU Archives:
Grand Indoor Circus poster, printed by St. John's University Press

Grand Indoor Circus poster 084/7 (Box 1:03)

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Compiled in March 2017 by
Peggy Landwehr Roske, CSB/SJU Archivist
from resources in the SJU Archives.
Special thanks to Tess Goerger Koltes, SJP '78
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Grand Indoor Circus poster 084/7 (Box 1:03)