

INSIDE OUT

A STUDY GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



THE 12

SYNOPSIS

Act 1: Friday evening.

Jesus has been crucified. Judas is dead. The remaining 11 Disciples gather, fearing for their lives and unsure what to do without their Teacher.

Act 2: Sunday morning.

The Disciples are still hiding when Mary Magdalene arrives with news.



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The 12

Book and Lyrics

by Robert Schenkkan

Music and Lyrics by Neil Berg

Special thanks to the Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for its continued support of new play development at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts

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MAR 27 - APR 26
STAGE THEATRE

PLAYWRIGHT/CO-LYRICIST

ROBERT SCHENKKAN (Book and Lyrics)

Robert Schenkkkan is the author of 14 plays including the Pulitzer Prize-winning, *The Kentucky Cycle*. Last season, his play about LBJ, *All The Way*, won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics, Drama League, Kennedy Prize, and the ATCA/Steinberg Awards for Best Play and broke two Broadway box office records. Its sequel,

The Great Society, is headed to Broadway in 2016. Robert was nominated for two Emmys and won a WGA Award for the HBO miniseries, *The Pacific*, and is the co-author of the film, *The Quiet American*. *All the Way* will be featured in the 2015-16 season at the Theatre Company of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

The Greatest Story Ever Told is called that for a reason — an extraordinary cast of individuals displaying the full range of human strengths and weakness, in a struggle with the highest of stakes and a surprise ending that changes the world. For the writer approaching this story (even this very small part of it) with an eye to bringing a contemporary take the first question is — which version?

The four gospels famously disagree on details large and small. As just one example, take the discovery of the empty tomb. In Mark, Mary goes with two other women and encounters a “Young Man” who tells her Christ is risen but they are afraid and tell no one about it. In Matthew, Mary Magdalene and Mary discover the empty tomb and are greeted by an Angel

and then Jesus himself. In Luke, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary find the tomb and “two men in dazzling apparel.” And finally, in John, Mary finds the tomb empty, and then goes and gets the disciples. They visit the tomb but leave, confused. Mary remains and sees two Angels. And then Jesus. Only in this last version does Jesus appear to Thomas and show him his wounds. Obviously, you can’t be true to all four gospels and so you are forced right at the beginning to make decisions about what elements you feel are important *to the story you are telling*. This imperative is what guides the writer working with historical material no matter whose story it is — be it Jesus of Nazareth or Lyndon Baines Johnson.

– Robert Schenkkkan

COMPOSER/CO-LYRICIST

NEIL BERG (Music and Lyrics)

Neil Berg is the composer/lyricist of the hit musical *The Prince and the Pauper* (Lambs Theater). Other musicals include *Never Grimm* (upcoming Mark Gordon and Raymond Wu, Producers), *Grumpy Old Men* (Royal Manitoba Theater Center), *Tim and Scrooge*, voted “one of the best musicals” (NYMF, NYC), *The Man Who*

Would Be King (NYMF, Village Theater), *Heidi* (Walden Family Playhouse), *False Profits* (Theater Off-Park, NYC), and *Percy Penguin* (Penguin Playhouse). He is a graduate of BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, NYC.

www.neilberg.com

TWELVE DISCIPLES

The baptism of Jesus at age 30 by John the Baptist marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. He then retreated into the Judean Desert and fasted for 40 days. There he was tempted by Satan but refused every temptation; after Satan departed, the angels came and nourished Jesus. (This is the account in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Gospel of John does not describe these events.)

Shortly after his return from the desert, Jesus began to assemble a group of followers, called the Disciples, or "the 12." His first recruits were the fishermen Simon (whom Jesus renamed Peter) and

his brother Andrew; they were followed shortly by another pair of brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee. That Jesus is said to have had 12 Disciples is symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel (from whom the Jews descended); in fact, Jesus had many more than 12 followers during his lifetime, though "the 12" were his core group of disciples.

There are few contemporary historical documents about the lives of the 12. However, many traditions and legends about their lives were passed down from the early church and compiled in *The Golden Legend*, a late medieval bestseller compiled around the year 1260.

PETER

Peter was a leader among the 12 and one of the inner group of three (the Gospels report that Peter, James and John sometimes accompanied Jesus when the other Disciples were not present). He was originally named Simon, but Jesus renamed him Peter (which means rock), saying, "On this rock I will build my church." Jesus also said to Peter, "I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

All four Gospels report that Peter denied knowing Jesus three times during his trials. He bitterly regretted these denials and became one of Jesus' most ardent followers. On Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter, the Holy Spirit descended on the Disciples and other followers of Jesus in the form of tongues of flame, and each of them began to speak in tongues (or foreign languages). On that day, Peter was the first to preach to the assembled crowd and to accept the call to preach the Gospel to the nations; the Acts of the Apostles (the fifth book of the New Testament) reports that 3,000 Jews converted to Christianity that day. Peter later had a vision that led to the Disciples' decision not to require Gentile converts to observe Jewish dietary laws; he was instrumental in the choice to spread the word of Jesus beyond the Jewish community.

While confined in a Roman prison, Peter converted the jailers and baptized

them with water that he caused to flow miraculously from a rock. The Acts of the Apostles reports that Peter was rescued by an angel on the eve of his trial before Herod, and that sick people were brought into the street in the hopes that Peter's shadow would fall on them and they would be healed. Other miracles traditionally attributed to Peter include raising a smoked tuna fish from the dead, depriving a Roman magician of his power of flight so that he crashed and died, and raising a Roman senator from the dead by speaking a word in his ear.

Peter was executed in Rome around AD 65 on the order of Emperor Nero. Peter asked to be crucified upside down, because he considered himself unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus. Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City (Rome, Italy) is built on Peter's burial site.

The New Testament books First Peter and Second Peter were written as letters from the Apostle Peter to churches in Asia Minor, though modern scholars believe they were written in his name shortly after his death. Peter may have known and provided information to the author of the Gospel of Mark. Peter is considered the first Pope of the Roman Catholic Church as well as the patron saint of fishermen and Popes.

ANDREW

Andrew was a follower of John the Baptist before he became Jesus' first Apostle; he introduced his brother, Simon (later called Peter), to Jesus as well. The brothers had been fishermen in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee, but they abandoned their fishing nets to follow Jesus.

Andrew's later missionary travels took him to what are now Turkey, Greece, Russia and Poland. He was crucified in Achaia, a region of Greece; he prayed to the Lord while on the cross and continued

to preach from the cross for two days before he died. The Greek Orthodox basilica Saint Andrew of Patras was erected over the place of his death and is said to contain his relics (part of the cranium, a small finger and parts of the cross on which he was martyred).

Andrew is often depicted in art with wild hair and a long beard, with a cross (or X) and a book (signifying contemplation and meditation). He is the patron saint of fishermen.

JAMES THE GREATER

James and John, sons of Zebedee, were among Jesus' first Disciples (because two of the 12 were named James, they are often distinguished as Greater and Lesser, referring to seniority). They had been fishermen and followers of John the Baptist. Jesus gave them the name "Boanerges," meaning "Sons of Thunder," due to their passionate nature. The two brothers, along with Peter, were privileged among the 12: on multiple occasions they accompanied Jesus when the others did not.

James the Greater is believed to have preached the Gospel in Samaria and Judea, and also in Spain. He is the only Apostle (other than Judas) whose death

is recorded in the New Testament. He was sentenced to death by the sword by King Herod Agrippa (grandson of Herod the Great) in 44 AD.

James is known by many names: in Latin, Jacobus; in Italian, Giacomo or Giacomo, which became the English James and the French Jacques; in eastern Spain, Jaime; in western Iberia, Iago; and in Portugal and Galicia, Santiago or San Diego. The Camino de Santiago, or the Way of Saint James, has for centuries been a pilgrimage route to Spain's Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, the reputed burial place of James the Greater.

JOHN

John, the younger brother of James the Greater, was the youngest of the 12 and is believed to have written five New Testament books: the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. He is referred to as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" in the Gospel of John. He was also the only one of the 12 to die a natural death; he died at a great old age in Ephesus, Turkey.

John is often depicted in art with a cup or chalice with a snake in it, referring to *The Golden Legend* tale in which he was forced to drink poison, but it miraculously had no effect. Emperor Domitian tried to execute John at the Latin Gate in Rome by having him put into a vat of boiling oil. However, John was unharmed by the boiling oil, so the emperor exiled him to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the book of Revelation.

BARTHOLOMEW

Little is known about the early life of Bartholomew (also called Nathaniel), born at Cana in Galilee. Upon hearing about Jesus of Nazareth, he initially rejected him, saying “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” However, when his friend Philip introduced him to Jesus, Bartholomew acknowledged him as Son of God and King of Israel and became one of the 12.

Bartholomew is believed to have preached the Gospel in Turkey, Armenia and Ethiopia. According to *The Golden Legend*, he also traveled to India, where he bound a black demon in chains

of fire; the local king then converted to Christianity, but his brother killed Bartholomew. Various traditions report that Bartholomew was flayed alive, beheaded or crucified (or some combination thereof). Similarly, the site of his death is disputed: it may have been India, Turkey or Armenia. The Saint Bartholomew Monastery near Başkale, Turkey, was built on one of the traditional sites of his martyrdom. He is often depicted in art with a book and a flaying knife; sometimes he is shown skinless (or holding his own skin) or with a chained black demon.

JAMES THE LESSER

Because two of the 12 were named James, they are often distinguished as Greater and Lesser, referring to seniority, as James the Greater was one of the first Disciples. (In this musical, James the Lesser is called Jimmy.) Alternately, they may be identified by their fathers: “James, son of Zebedee,” or “James, son of Alphaeus.”

After Jesus was crucified, James refused to eat. According to First Corinthians, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared first “to James, then to all the Disciples.” In the medieval text *The Golden Legend*, Jesus said to James, “Rise, my brother, and eat, because the Son of Man has

risen.” (Pre-modern sources assumed James the Lesser was the same person as “James the brother of Jesus.”)

James was a leader of the early church in Jerusalem. He was martyred in 62 AD. He had been asked to stand on the pinnacle of the Temple and warn the people against the doctrine that Jesus had been resurrected and would come again. However, he did the opposite, and so they pushed him to the ground. He survived the fall, but they stoned him and beat him to death with a club. Throughout the ordeal, he prayed for his attackers. James is often portrayed in art holding a club in reference to his martyrdom.

MATTHEW

Before joining Jesus, Matthew (also called Levi) was a tax collector, a profession despised by the local Jews as dishonest and colluding with the Romans. He lived in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. Matthew invited Jesus to his home for a feast; prompting the local religious leaders to criticize Jesus for eating “with tax collectors and sinners.” When called by Jesus, he immediately left this corrupt but profitable profession in order to follow him.

After Jesus’ death, Matthew preached the Gospel among the Jews for 15 years before traveling to other countries. According to *The Golden Legend*, he evangelized in Ethiopia, where he converted the royal family by curing King Egippus’ son. He later preached against the king’s non-Christian successor and was therefore assassinated by a swordsman while saying Mass. Matthew is the patron saint of accountants and bankers.

PHILIP

Philip was born in Bethsaida in Galilee and was a fisherman and a disciple of John the Baptist before following Jesus. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tested Philip by asking where to buy bread to feed the multitude who had come to see him, and Philip responded incredulously, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Jesus then took the five loaves and two fish brought to him and multiplied them to feed the thousands of people.

Philip preached the Gospel in Greece, Syria and Phrygia, a region in Turkey. Legend reports that he visited a city in

Scythia that was beset by a dragon; once he'd persuaded the people to replace their idol of Mars with a cross, he was able to drive the dragon away. Philip died in Phrygia in 80 AD, though accounts of his manner of death vary: *The Golden Legend* reports his crucifixion, but other traditions hold that he was speared or stoned. In 2011, archaeologists unearthed a tomb believed to be Philip's under a fifth-century church in Hierapolis, Turkey. Philip is often depicted in art with a dragon or a cross, or symbolized by loaves or baskets of bread.

SIMON

Simon (called Simon the Zealot or Simon the Cananean to distinguish him from Simon Peter) was born in Cana, Galilee; before joining Jesus, he was part of the Zealots, a fiercely patriotic political movement in first-century Judaism that sought to incite the people of Judea to rebel against the Roman Empire and expel it from the Holy Land by military force. (In the years 66–70 AD, the Zealots' movement culminated in the First Jewish-Roman War, or the Great Revolt, which unfortunately resulted in the destruction of the Temple.)

Simon and Jude Thaddeus traveled together, evangelizing in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Various traditions report that Simon was sawn in half in Persia (modern Iran), crucified in Samaria (today's West Bank), martyred in Caucasian Iberia (now Georgia) or died peacefully in Edessa (near the border of Turkey and Iraq). His common attribute in art is a saw, referring to the version of his death in which he was cut to pieces by pagan magicians.

THADDEUS

Thaddeus (also called Jude) was a farmer in Galilee before he became a follower of Jesus. Little is said specifically of him within the New Testament, but he did ask Jesus, "Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?"

Thaddeus preached in Syria, Mesopotamia and Persia, frequently traveling with Simon. His method of death is unknown: versions include that Simon and Thaddeus were hewed to death by pagan magicians, or beaten to death with a club, or killed with an ax.

Thaddeus is often depicted in art with a flame above his head, possibly for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, or for the flames of which the Mesopotamian devils complain to Thaddeus and Simon in *The Golden Legend*. Another common depiction is Thaddeus holding an image of Jesus, because later texts report that Jesus made an image of his face by wiping it on a cloth and sent it to King Agbar in Edessa (near the border of Turkey and Iraq), and Thaddeus is believed to have visited Agbar in his missionary travels.

THOMAS

Thomas, also called Didymus (“the twin”), has come to be known as “doubting Thomas” because, according to the Gospel of John, he initially doubted reports that Jesus had risen from the dead, declaring, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” Later, when Jesus appeared to Thomas,

Jesus said, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas preached in Parthia and Persia (both in modern-day Iran) and India. He was stabbed to death with a spear in 72 AD while praying on a hill near Chennai, on the east coast of India. San Thome Basilica was later built over his tomb.

JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, was the disciple who betrayed Jesus by identifying him to the Sanhedrin (the high judicial council) in exchange for 30 pieces of silver. Judas led them to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying on Thursday evening (after the Last Supper). Judas kissed Jesus in greeting; this was the prearranged signal so that the arresting soldiers sent by the High Priest Caiaphas would know which man to arrest.

Judas soon regretted his action and

tried to return the silver, but the priests refused to accept it. Judas hanged himself on the same day Jesus was crucified.

Judas is traditionally despised because of his betrayal of Jesus. In many languages, the term “Judas” has become synonymous with a betrayer. In the Gospels of Luke and John, Satan had entered into Judas, causing the betrayal. In Matthew, Jesus foresaw Judas’ betrayal; in John, he both foresaw and allowed Judas’ actions.

MARY MAGDELENE

Though not one of the 12, Mary Magdalene was another ardent follower of Jesus; in fact, she stayed with him at his crucifixion and witnessed his burial, though the 12 had fled into hiding.

Mary Magdalene is often identified as the Gospels’ unnamed “sinful woman” who anointed Jesus’ feet with oil and dried them with her hair, despite bystanders’ objections that he should not associate with such people and that the costly oil could be sold and the money used to help the poor. Because of this latter association, Mary Magdalene is often portrayed in art with an alabaster jar and with her clothing in disarray, in reference to her supposed profession as a prostitute. Apocryphal texts state that Jesus loved Mary more than the Disciples; some authors have gone so far as to speculate that Mary Magdalene and Jesus were married.

Jews were not permitted to touch a dead body on the Sabbath (Friday sundown until Saturday sundown), so Mary Magdalene was on her way to anoint Jesus’ body early on Easter Sunday morning when she encountered the empty tomb. She immediately believed in and proclaimed his bodily resurrection, making her arguably the very first Christian. She was the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. He commissioned her to tell the 12 of his resurrection; she is sometimes called “the Apostle to the Apostles.” She was with the 12 and many other followers of Jesus on Pentecost (50 days after Easter) when the Holy Spirit came to them; like the others, she went out to preach the Gospel. Tradition holds that she set out on a rudderless boat, eventually landing in France. The date and manner of her death are unknown; various traditions believe she died in France or in Ephesus (Turkey).

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

During his three years in ministry, Jesus was credited with many miracles. His first (according to the Gospel of John) was at a wedding in Cana, where he turned water into wine after the hosts had run out of wine for their guests. All four Gospels record instances in which Jesus caused the blind to see. Also recorded in all four Gospels is the feeding of the multitude: using only a few small loaves and fish, Jesus fed four or five thousand people who had come to hear him speak; afterward the Disciples gathered several basketfuls of leftover food.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke record the miracle of Jesus' calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples feared they would drown, and they woke Jesus, who "rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He

said to them, 'Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?'"

The Gospel of John records the story of Lazarus. Jesus was friends with Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, who lived in the town of Bethany. Upon hearing that Lazarus was ill, Jesus first delayed a few days, and then visited his friends' home. Martha met him on his way into town, informing him that Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus responded: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." He commanded the tomb be opened, despite Martha's objection: "But Lord, by this time he stinketh." He then commanded Lazarus to exit the tomb, and he did so, alive and well.

THE PASSION

The final few days of Jesus' life are often referred to as the Passion, and are celebrated annually with Holy Week, culminating in Easter Sunday. The Passion began with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before Jewish Passover. He came riding on a donkey, and the people cheered for him and laid down cloaks and palm branches for the donkey to walk on (this is commemorated as Palm Sunday). Jesus visited the Temple and, enraged, drove the moneylenders from the premises, accusing them of turning his Father's house into a den of thieves. For the next few days, Jesus taught and performed miracles. The high priests and other leaders were afraid of his growing power among the people and began to plot with Judas, one of the 12, about how to arrest him without inciting the crowds.

On the Thursday evening, Jesus shared the Passover meal with the 12. He called the bread and wine his flesh and blood as he gave it to the 12; this is considered the first Communion. Jesus predicted his own

betrayal, and when the 12 objected, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crowed. After the meal, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. There, Judas, who had left during the meal, rejoined the group. When he greeted Jesus with a kiss, the soldiers he had led there arrested Jesus. Peter pulled out a sword and attacked, cutting off a servant's ear. Jesus rebuked Peter and healed the servant before leaving peacefully with the soldiers. The 12, fearing for their own safety, ran away.

Throughout Thursday night and the early hours of Friday morning, Jesus endured a succession of trials before various Jewish, Roman and local officials, including the Sanhedrin (Jewish supreme court) under High Priest Caiaphas, the Roman prefect Pontius Pilate (who offered the crowd a choice to release Jesus or the criminal Barabbas: they chose Barabbas) and Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great). Peter followed, but the crowd suspected he was one of Jesus'

followers, though he denied knowing Jesus at all; this happened three times. Judas, upon seeing the treatment Jesus was receiving, tried to return the silver he had been paid to the priests, who refused it; Judas then hanged himself. Jesus was whipped and given a crown of thorns before he was made to drag his cross to Golgotha, where he was crucified. Among the witnesses were Mary Magdalene and Jesus' mother Mary.

Crucifixion was a typical method of execution for criminals in the Roman

Empire. Usually, the condemned were left on the crosses until he died, which could take hours or days. However, with the Jewish Sabbath coming at sundown, there was a rush to remove the bodies from the crosses. Soldiers broke the legs of the criminals who had been crucified with Jesus in order to speed their deaths. Seeing that Jesus had already died, a soldier thrust a spear into his chest to confirm his death. Before sundown, Jesus was placed in a tomb carved into rock and sealed with a large stone.

ROMANS AND ZEALOTS IN JERUSALEM

The Romans, led by Pompey the Great, conquered Jerusalem and its surrounding kingdom in 63 BC. Herod the Great was appointed "king of the Jews" in 40 BC; he oversaw an extensive building campaign, including the Temple. He was the ruler when Jesus was born, around 4-6 BC. When Herod the Great died in 6 AD, new Roman rulers dissected and taxed his kingdom. Judea was incorporated as a Roman province, prompting the first armed revolt of the Zealots.

The Zealots were a political organization inciting violent resistance against the Roman occupation. Josephus, a late-first-century scholar and historian, described the Zealots as a "fourth sect" outside contemporary Judaism's three main sects (the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes). The Zealots can be traced to 6 AD, when Judas the Galilean led a revolt against Rome, opposing the payment of tribute by Israel to a pagan emperor because God alone was Israel's true king. The Romans brutally crushed this revolt, but

the Zealots continued to maintain that payment of taxes to Caesar was an act of treason to Israel's God.

Unrest was again threatening at the time of Jesus' ministry and crucifixion, approximately 30 AD. Several years later, around 46 AD, two sons of Judas the Galilean (the original leader of the Zealots) were involved in another unsuccessful revolt and executed by the Romans. The Zealots' armed resistance culminated in the Great Jewish Revolt, or the First Jewish-Roman War, which began in 66 AD. They succeeded in taking over Jerusalem and held it until 70 AD when the Romans, led by General Titus, retook Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple in the process. The final holdout of the Great Jewish Revolt took place at the siege of Masada in 73 AD. When Roman forces finally took the desert stronghold, they found that the 960 Zealots defending Masada had committed mass suicide rather than surrendering to the Romans.

TIMELINE FROM PASSION TO PENTECOST

Palm Sunday: Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph, celebrated by the crowds.

Monday through Wednesday: Jesus visited the Temple and drove out the moneylenders, performed miracles, taught, etc.

Thursday: Jesus shared the Passover meal (the Last Supper) with the Apostles, and then went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Judas betrayed him; Jesus was arrested.

Good Friday morning: Jesus endured multiple trials before various Judean and Roman authorities; Judas hanged himself; Jesus was scourged and crucified.

Good Friday afternoon: Jesus died on the cross; he was buried before sundown.

Easter Sunday: Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb and rushed to tell the Disciples; Jesus appeared to some of his followers.

One week after Easter: Jesus appeared to the 11 Apostles.

40 days after Easter: Jesus ascended into heaven.

50 days after Easter: Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the Disciples and other followers of Jesus.

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QUESTIONS

- 1) Was there anything in the production that surprised you? What were you expecting and how was it surprising?
- 2) How did the scenic, costume, and lighting designs contribute to how the story was told on stage?
- 3) How does musical theatre, and in this case rock and roll, enhance or detract from the characters and the story?
- 4) How would you describe the relationships between the characters? How do they feel about Teacher?
- 5) What is happening in the world outside the room where the play takes place? Why are the characters congregating in this room and what are they hoping to accomplish?
- 6) What are the men fighting about? Why is there such distrust between them?
- 7) How does Mary Magdalene fit into the group? What support does she give the others?
- 8) How would you describe Simon? What does he claim to have done and why does he make this claim? How do the others react to his claim?
- 9) What does Jimmy want from Mary Magdalene? Why does she respond in the way she does?
- 10) What does Thad mention in his dream and how do the characters respond?

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Make your experience unforgettable when you join us for one of these insightful, educational events:

Insider Perspectives

Get an exclusive insider's perspective of each play when you join us for a professionally-moderated discussion with our creative team. Held at The Jones at Speer & Arapahoe. Free.
Mar 27 | 6pm

Talkbacks with the Cast

Join a fun and engaging discussion with the actors directly after select performances. Free.
March 31 | 9 pm
April 1 | 9 pm
April 7 | 9 pm
April 8 | 9 pm
April 14 | 9 pm
April 17 | 9 pm
April 22 | 9 pm

Talkbacks with Higher Education Advisory Council

Participate in a topical discussion led by members of our academic community held directly after select performances. Free.
Apr 19 | 9:30pm

Theatre & Theology Talkbacks

Join Pastor Dan Bollman of the Rocky Mountain Evangelical Lutheran Synod to examine each show through a theological lens directly after select performances. Free.
Apr 21 | 9pm

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The Denver Public Library recommends:

Read!

Quarantine by Jim Crace

Crace's writing is both beautiful and spare as he reimagines Christ's forty days in the desert. Coming at the story askance we see more of Musa, a dying merchant and a great big bully of a man, than we do of Jesus. As we watch Musa recover though, after a simple blessing by a young man obsessed with the idea of being a healer, perhaps the real power of the Christ is revealed.

Watch!

Last Temptation of Christ (Criterion Collection, 2000)

Watch Scorsese's award nominated film based on the Nikos Kazantzakis book which first treated Jesus Christ as more of a man than a God. A man who was filled with pain and doubt, anger and dreams. A simple carpenter with a message of love. Ultimately Jesus of Nazareth's greatest temptation was perhaps the desire to be just a man. Deftly portrayed by Willem DeFoe, this movie will leave you haunted. Available on BluRay and DVD.

Listen!

The Testament of Mary by Colm Tóibín

Tóibín tackles this subject from the perspective of Mary. People come to her seeking stories about her son, they want the stories about the son of God. Mary, though, feels that Jesus was just a boy who ran with the wrong crowd, a group of misfits. While Mary claims she remembers nothing, like any mother she perhaps remembers too much about his gruesome end. A short and sharp read this is not the sorrowful and obedient Mary of the Pieta, no this is a mother wishing to forget the agonies suffered by her son.

Download!

Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal by Christopher Moore

Most of us are familiar with the story of the immaculate birth and then of the Christ's later years as a teacher, preacher and messiah but very little is known about the intervening thirty years. Now you can remedy that ignorance by reading *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*. Biff grew up alongside Jesus, whom he knows as Joshua, and participated in his many shenanigans, and adventures. Come see a side of Jesus you never would have expected, there's even zombies er- I mean resurrected corpses. The eBook and the audio eBook are available for download at downloadmedia.denverlibrary.org.



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