

He Is

By Jae Campbell

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STORY OF THE PLAY

This show is a modern rendition of the traditional Easter story, highlighting events surrounding Jesus' last days. From the time He arrives in Galilee to His arrest, death and resurrection, the audience will be captivated by this biblical retelling. The story is set in present day and includes D12, his street-smart gang of disciples, a young group of zealous followers who later turn on him, and the Pharisees and Sadducees dressed in priestly garments and big church hats, who plot to end Jesus' fame. Using dramatic monologues, comedic lines, heartfelt songs and praise dances, this story will resonate with both traditional and contemporary audiences. The imagery depicting the horrific death of Jesus will come to life, and in the final scene you will be reminded of His life's purpose and the charge given to us through the Holy Spirit. The audience (congregation) knowing the Holy Spirit has come, will feel compelled to draw near to God and step into their calling.

Run time: 65-70 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

He Is was performed in April 2017 at Agape Faith Church, in Clemmons, NC.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(13 males, 3 females, and 12 + flexible.)

JESUS: Son of God.

Disciples of Jesus. D12 members.

PETER

ANDREW

JAMES 1

JOHN

MATTHEW

THOMAS

SIMON

BARTHOLOMEW

JUDAS

PHILIP

THADDEUS

JAMES 2

MARY: Mother of Jesus. Also citizen.

HANNAH: Servant, sings a solo. Also citizen.

MAGGY / SEBASTIAN'S WIFE: Mary Magdalene. Also citizen.

ENSEMBLE CAST of 12 or more.

These roles can be double or triple cast.

VOICEOVER: Narrator voice.

CITIZENS 1-6: Citizen of Jerusalem, crowd members.

PHARISEE 1-3: Represent the modern-day gospel preachers. They wear loud suits, big church hats and carry iPads.

SADDUCEE 1-3: Represent the modern-day Catholic priests.

AUCTIONEER / BAILIFF / OFFICER

DETECTIVES 1 and 2: Investigate/question Jesus.

OFFICER / SEBASTIAN

ANNAS: Assistant District Attorney.

CAIAPHAS: District Attorney.

PILATE: Judge.

HEROD: Judge.

ANGELS 1 and 2: Present at Jesus' tomb, sing a duet.

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MUSIC

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
Rhythmic instrumental music
“Let me Stand Behind You, Lord”
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
“Oh, the Blood of Jesus”
“The Traitor”
“Christ Crucified”
“The Stone Is Rolled Away”
“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

SETTINGS

(Simple area staging lets the scenes flow seamlessly.)

ACT I

Scene 1: On the street
Scene 2: On a road
Scene 3: Inside the temple
Scene 4: On the road
Scene 5: An inn
Scene 6: A secret spot
Scene 7: A coffee shop/upper room
Scene 8: Outside at night

ACT II

Scene 1: Caiaphas' office and the streets
Scene 2: Caiaphas' office, courtroom, Herod's chambers
Scene 3: Street below Pilate's balcony
Scene 3: Torture and crucifixion (behind a scrim)
Scene 4: Sunday morning at the empty grave

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ACT I
Scene 1

VOICEOVER: The events of over 2000 years ago in the Middle East seem so foreign from our world today. Back then the most common mode of travel was by foot or by donkey. Food was fresh, not frozen, money was exchanged in the form of gold, silver, and precious stones, not by swiping or tapping. Although the way of life was different, the experiences of that time are so prominent in today's society, that they need no explanation: fear, disease, hope, revenge, hate, rage, happiness.

It can be hard for some to understand the course the Messiah endured because it seems mythical or unfathomable. Today we bring *His* reality to *you*, and engulf *you* in *His* experiences. You will *see* how He was loved; you will *hear* how He was betrayed, you *speak* as one of His own, and you will *resonate* with His pain. You are now a part of His journey as He travels through His final days as a man, the Messiah on Earth.

(The LIGHTS come up and a CROWD begins to form on stage. They are whispering and talking.)

CITIZEN 1: Did you hear about His last miracle?

CITIZEN 2: Hear about it? It was live and in color for me, honey. I was there!

CITIZEN 3: Me too. And when He said, "Lazarus, come forth," Lazarus jumped out of that tomb and—

CITIZEN 1: We went into an uproar of praise!

CITIZEN 2: I've never seen anything like it!

CITIZEN 3: And He's supposed to be coming here!

CITIZEN 4: When?

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CITIZEN 1, 2, 3: Today!

CITIZEN 5: He's here! He's here!

CITIZEN 6: Look, the Messiah's coming!

CITIZEN 1: Hosanna!

CITIZENS: Hosanna!

CITIZEN 2: He's a blessing to us all! The King of Israel!

CITIZENS: The King of Israel.

CITIZEN 3: Hosanna in the highest!

CITIZENS: Hosanna in the highest!

(JESUS enters from the back of the sanctuary. The SONG "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," begins to play. CITIZENS, mixed within the congregation stand with their palm branches and begin waving them. ACTORS sing and move into a synchronized dance as Jesus makes his way through the crowd, shaking hands, and waving at the people then moving up to the stage. At the end of the song ALL exit. The PHARISEES enter USL.)

PHARISEE 1: Did you see that?

PHARISEE 2: Yes, we saw it, and it's quite upsetting!

PHARISEE 1: I told you He is getting too much attention.

Too much power for His own good!

PHARISEE 3: I have to agree. This is getting out of control!

PHARISEE 2: Did you see that smug look on His face as they worshipped Him? Disgraceful!

PHARISEE 3: We have to do something to bring Him down a peg.

PHARISEE 1: The people have to see that he's just a prophet - nothing more. We've got work to do.

BLACKOUT

End of Freeview

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