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# Jesus Christ Superstar: One-on-one with director Danny Harvey

By **BOBBIE FLATT**  
*Georgetown Globe Productions*

In May, Georgetown Globe Musical Productions presents *Jesus Christ Superstar A Rock Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice. It runs 8 p.m. on May 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 2 p.m. on May 8 at Christ the King Catholic High School, Guelph Street, Georgetown. For tickets call 905-877-3700 or online [www.halton-hills.ca/theatre](http://www.halton-hills.ca/theatre)

While the actors are on stage to present this magnificent story to you, behind the scenes is the presence of those who manage the production—the producer, the director, the choreographer, the musical director, the stage manager and all of their department heads and assistants. Together, they are all the complete essence of team work, collaboration and community.

I interviewed director Danny Harvey about his involvement.

Bobbie Flatt (BF): Tell us a little about your directing background.

Danny Harvey (DH): My first directing gig was with Globe back in 2003 with *Cabaret*. I have had the pleasure of directing a few more with this company, including last season's *Man of La Mancha*, other than that I work with The Rose Theatre Brampton as an artistic director.

BF: What is *Jesus Christ Superstar* about?

DH: *Jesus Christ Superstar* is the last five days of Jesus' life as told from the point of view of Judas Iscariot

BF: Why is it your passion?  
DH: When I was younger I used to listen to the concept album over and over until I nearly wore it out. Something about the rawness of emotion and humanity of the story appealed to me. It places the idea of Jesus being a regular human being with fear and doubt in our minds yet it still manages to avoid being blasphemous.

BF: What do you want your audience to walk away with?

DH: My goal as a director is to make people feel; I want you to feel entertained first and foremost. Moreover I want the au-

dience to be amazed that entertainment like this is happening in their own back yard.

BF: What is the style in which you intend to present this story? Will it be the classic version?

DH: Theatre evolves constantly; that is what makes it interesting. I am trying to place this show in an "anytime" borrowing costumes and props from several eras.

BF: Is this show for families?

DH: It's not for little kids but I fell in love with it when I was 12. As far as recommending a specific age to attend, parents know what their children are capable of handling or understanding so they are best to make the decision, but, 10-12 and up is a good guideline to attend this show. It could inspire a discussion.

BF: How does directing professional theatre and community theatre differ?

DH: Greatly. Professional shows are rehearsed across two or three very intense weeks. Community theatre is a much longer process allowing for friendships and relation-

ships to develop, it's a social club as much as anything else. Professional theatre is also social but it is also everyone's "job" so there is a different energy. I find talent is rarely the difference; many professional actors still do community theatre because they simply love it. It really is the truest form of theatre.

BF: Community theatre is very much about family, family in the sense of community and in genealogy. I understand there are several family members husbands/wives, sons/daughters, brothers/sisters, grandparents in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Can you talk about these two aspects of the family and the effects it has on the production?

DH: My fiancé and mother are both in this production, also many of my closest friends. It's an incredible feeling to all building towards one common goal. Its like an old time barn raising, everyone has their skills, we communicate, argue, laugh cry and in the end we have created something tangible and real and we get to share it with other people.



**DANNY HARVEY**

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