

FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:



WWW.THEATRICALOUTFIT.ORG

Media Contact: Ashley Judge
ashley.judge@theatricaloutfit.org
Phone: 678-528-1504

The Balzer Theatre at Herren's
84 Luckie Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Cotton Patch Gospel

Written by Tom Key and Russell Treyz
With music and lyrics by Harry Chapin

August 12—August 30, 2009

at The Balzer Theatre at Herren's

"The basic facts of the story are shocking. This teenage girl claims to be impregnated by God. It's a story that has lived for so many generations that we get used to the shock value of it. By not changing the story but changing the setting of the story affords the audience the opportunity to experience it for the first time."

As a former cast member and now the play's director, Tom Key cites this sentiment as the key to the success of *Cotton Patch Gospel*: an adaptation of Clarence Jordan's "Cotton Patch" versions of the gospels of Matthew and John for the stage. Inspired by both Jordan and his development of the interracial Koinonia farming community in south Georgia, Key and Treyz's version transplants the story of Jesus into the mid-20th-century American South and considers what might have happened had Jesus been born in Georgia—with Gainesville standing in for Bethlehem, Valdosta for Nazareth, and Atlanta as the fateful Jerusalem. Several standing ovation-inspiring tours later, this perennial favorite of bluegrass and jazz music and soulful storytelling plows new ground with an all-new cast and is produced in association with Georgia Ensemble Theatre (www.GET.org)



Reviews:

"Cotton Patch Gospel is the musical that asks: Would the people of today's world know a savior if they saw him? ... the underlying message is spiritual ... it's deeply moving ..."
— Atlanta Journal-Constitution

"...the loaves and fishes become 'Nabiscos and sardines'—it maintains respect for Jesus' message, putting it into engagingly plain words. As this Jesus says, 'Man does not live by grits alone.'"
— Creative Loafing, Atlanta

Theatrical Outfit

Box Office
Tuesday – Friday,

12 noon – 6 pm
678-528-1500

Tickets: \$35 Regular.

Group discounts and \$15 student tickets available.

Calendar Info:

Preview: Aug. 12- 14 @ 7:30 pm.

Opening Night: Aug. 15 @ 7:30 pm.

Matinees: Aug. 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 @ 2:30 pm.

Evenings: Aug. 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29 @ 7:30 pm.

Talkback event after the performance Aug. 28.

Student Matinee Aug. 26 @ 11:00 am; Senior Matinee (\$15) Aug. 19 @ 2:30 pm.

GET performances: Sept. 2 – 20.

Biographies and Cast:

Tom Key (Director)

Theatrical Outfit directing credits include: *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, Walker Percy's *The Moviegoer*, Horton Foote's *The Chase*, Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell* (Suzi Nominee Best Director) and Thomas Ward's new play *Keeping Watch* (Best Production 2006 *Creative Loafing*). He conceived and co-authored *Cotton Patch Gospel*, earning two Dramalogue Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Theater, and publication by Dramatic Publishing Company, which will publish his adaptation of *The Pilgrim's*

Daniel May ('Matthew' & Others)

An Atlanta native, Daniel has appeared on most every stage in Atlanta and several abroad. This year you may have seen Daniel in *Corpse!* at Aurora Theatre, *Tent Meeting* here at Theatrical Outfit, *1:23* at Synchronicity, or *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at Georgia Shakespeare. He is an associate artist at both Georgia Shakespeare and Actor's Express theatres and a proud member of Actor's Equity. Thank You for supporting the arts in Atlanta by attending live theatre.

Also Cast:

Scott E. DePoy

Fiddle & Ensemble

Eric Moore

Ensemble

Buck Peacock

Guitar & Ensemble

Ryan Richardson

Bass & Ensemble

Rick Taylor

Banjo & Ensemble

Krystal L. Washington

Ensemble