

State and Local

Staging allows for some overpowering images

Christ gets new image in 'Superstar'

By Karl Pallmeyer
Staff Writer

When Jesus Christ came to Rudder Auditorium Thursday night, the audience might have been surprised to see he was clean-shaven and wearing slacks, a purple T-shirt and striped jacket. This Jesus looked more like Don Johnson than the Son of God.

About 1,700 people were offered this new look at the Son of God when MSC Town Hall Broadway presented Tim Rice's and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera, "Jesus Christ Superstar." This new version of the 1971 musical, conceived by director Scott Harris and choreographer Terry Riesen, told the story of Christ in a new fashion.

The original musical, best remembered by modern audiences through the million-selling record album and Norman Jewison's 1973 filmed version, was an attempt to show Jesus in terms of the '60s. The long hair, beads and robes of Christ's time fit

in well with the flower-power fashions of the Woodstock decade. Jesus was shown to be the first superstar, similar to the pop stars of the '60s. Harris and Riesen have updated the musical's staging so the costumes would be familiar to the "Miami Vice" generation. Fortunately Rice and Webber's wonderful music was not changed much.

The entire musical, which encompasses the last seven days in the life of Christ, took place on a single set. An inclining glass platform containing a trapdoor was at the center of the stage. Movable vertical metal bars lined the back of the stage. Spotlights were clearly visible on their scaffolding on the sides of the stage, an obvious attempt to emphasize the theatrical aspects of the superstar image. This minimalistic staging provided some overpowering images.

Jesus, Judas Iscariot, and the apostles and their women were dressed in the height of current

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fashion — with Jesus in purple, Judas in black and Mary Magdalene in blue. The Jewish priests, led by Caiaphas, were dressed in green uniforms. Pontius Pilate was outfitted in a conservative business suit, and the Roman soldiers were dressed as policemen. Except for the Tormentors, who were dressed like members of a motorcycle gang, the costumes would not look out of place outside the theater.

Despite the title, "Jesus Christ Superstar" is more about the people whose lives were touched by Jesus

than the man himself. Judas, excellently portrayed by Michael S. Proctor, fails to see the divinity of the man he has been following for three years. He didn't understand Jesus' greatness until after he betrayed him. Anne Rickenbacher was wonderful in the role of Mary Magdalene. She is a prostitute who falls in love with Jesus and ends up being changed by his love. Proctor and Rickenbacher's singing was incredible.

Stephen Burns' rich, bass voice provided an ominous tone in the passages he delivered as Caiaphas, but he was usually upstaged by the breathy voice of Blake Hammond, who portrayed Annas.

Kevin Bailey, Tom Wyatt and Mark Jacobsen were good as Pilate, Peter and Simon, respectively. Thom Goff's song and dance number as Herod was hilarious and provided some light comic relief before the intense crucifixion scene.

Paul Avedisian had the thankless task of portraying Jesus. Avedisian's voice was consistently good except when he sang the falsetto passages.

His biggest problem was that he lacked the awesome charisma associated with Christ. It's tough for any actor to play the greatest man who ever lived.

The music was fantastic. The 11-person ensemble, which included brass, woodwinds, guitar, bass, drums and keyboards, played well and provided great accompaniment for the singers.

The only problem was that the music was not loud enough. After all, this was supposed to be a rock opera.

Despite the weakness of Avedisian and the lack of volume of the music, the new version of "Jesus Christ Superstar" does an incredible job of presenting a timeless story in the terms of our time.

6 top cadets earn awards for excellence

By Tricia Pilger
Reporter

Six Texas A&M cadets received the Wofford Cain Boot and Sabre Award on Thursday from the executive director of the Cain Foundation, Harvey Walker.

Lt. Col. Donald Johnson, assistant commandant of the Corps, said three seniors, one from each of the three ROTC programs received \$1,200, and three juniors from each program received \$600.

The Cain Foundation was established in the 1970s by Wofford Cain.

"It was originally established to help seniors in the Corps buy their boots," Johnson said.

Selection for the awards is based on performance in military science, academics and the Corps.

The cadets already must be commissioned for a military career after graduation, he said.

David C. Bretches, a senior petroleum engineering major from Odessa, is the recipient of the award from the Army ROTC program.

The junior Army ROTC recipient is Mark T. Stasney, a mechanical engineering major from Baytown.

The Navy Marine ROTC recipient is Joseph P. Lessard, a senior from College Station who is majoring in electrical engineering.

Mark D. Andress, an aerospace engineering major from Lubbock, is the junior recipient from the Navy Marine ROTC program.

Freeman A. Kilpatrick Jr. is the Air Force ROTC recipient. He is a senior electrical engineering major.

Loren H. Shellabarger is the junior recipient from the Air Force ROTC program. Shellabarger is a computer science major from Temple.

Official says plan to block Eastern buyout futile

MIAMI (AP) — An Eastern Airlines official Thursday discounted a renewed union effort to block the carrier's buyout by Texas Air Corp., saying the plan is insubstantial.

Wednesday night, leaders of the carrier's three major unions met with about 600 employees to report they are making an official offer for the airline and are looking for financing.

They also announced a lawsuit aimed at blocking the Nov. 25 shareholders meeting expected to ratify Texas Air's takeover of Eastern.

Texas Air already owns more than 51 per-

cent of the Miami-based carrier's stock.

But as of Thursday noon no suit had been filed, according to the Transport Workers Union.

"We've been hearing for some time about proposals and counterproposals," Eastern spokesman Glenn Parsons said Thursday of the latest union plan. "This is just a lot of smoke."

Parsons noted that the board already had rejected a request by the two union officials serving on the board of directors to delay the Nov. 25 meeting so employees would have more time to ready their own buyout.

"This merger will be complete" he said. "It will happen."

He also said many of Eastern's employees did not back the union effort.

On Wednesday, the three unions formally agreed to fund an employee stock ownership plan and negotiate with an outside investor to wrest control of the company from Frank Lorenzo, who built a union-busting reputation during his takeover of Continental Airlines.

Lorenzo, 46, chairman and chief executive

officer of Houston-based Texas Air since 1980, became Eastern's chairman last month.

The Eastern union coalition includes the TWU, International Association of Machinists and Airline Pilots Association.

Robert Callahan, president of the Transport Workers Union local, said Wednesday, "We're not fooling around. This is no show."

"This is a coalition; this is our company. . . . We built it with our sweat, our hands. It's ours, and it's being robbed from us."

The planned lawsuit charges that Lorenzo bought his Eastern stock at bargain prices and Eastern's officers would not consider a better offer from anyone.

That includes employees who owned about 25 percent of the stock before the takeover and wanted to expand their ownership, said Charles Bryan, Machinist Union president.

The suit claims that Lorenzo did not acquire his shares legally and should be forced to return them.

Union representatives were secretive at Wednesday's meeting about the employee stock maneuver.

But labor sources told WTVJ-TV in Miami that Eastern's union members have agreed to raise \$600 million by giving up 20 percent of their paychecks.

Richard Buxton, a representative of American Capital Management Co., which is advising the unions on their takeover plan, said, "We're concerned about human rights in South Africa, human rights in South America. Well, we've got some human rights being trampled on right here in the United States of America."

The employees will join forces with an outside investor or "white knight" to save the company from Lorenzo's grip so that the employees will have a majority interest in Eastern, according to the broadcast report.

Eastern employees refused to disclose if they have an outside investor.

Eastern lost \$155 million in the first half of this year and \$500 million this decade.

Texas Air's \$676 million purchase of Eastern was announced at the height of labor negotiations in February and approved by the Transportation Department in September.

Correction

In an article in the Nov. 5 issue of *The Battalion* Mark Allen Burns was incorrectly identified as a student at Southwestern University. Burns is a student at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. *The Battalion* regrets the error.

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.45 pts. 695.00	1375.00
.46 pts. 585.00	1200.00
.46 pts. 595.00	1250.00
.49 pts. 785.00	1550.00
.52 pts. 810.00	1575.00
.52 pts. 875.00	1695.00
.53 pts. 845.00	1575.00
.54 pts. 895.00	1495.00
.54 pts. 875.00	1650.00
.55 pts. 865.00	1650.00
.55 pts. 895.00	1625.00
.56 pts. 895.00	1750.00
.56 pts. 735.00	1450.00
.59 pts. 930.00	2000.00
.58 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.57 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.56 pts. 735.00	1450.00
.59 pts. 930.00	1800.00
.61 pts. 975.00	2100.00
.61 pts. 975.00	2100.00
.61 pts. 715.00	1390.00
.61 pts. 725.00	1450.00
.61 pts. 750.00	1500.00
.61 pts. 695.00	1400.00
.60 pts. 675.00	1250.00
.61 pts. 975.00	1800.00
.67 pts. 785.00	1500.00
.67 pts. 780.00	1400.00
.65 pts. 785.00	1500.00
.63 pts. 715.00	1390.00
.62 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.62 pts. 715.00	1390.00
.67 pts. 1075.00	2150.00
.67 pts. 1295.00	1600.00
.70 pts. 895.00	1900.00
.70 pts. 1145.00	2000.00
.70 pts. 650.00	1200.00
.68 pts. 795.00	1500.00
.70 pts. 1145.00	2200.00

ROUND

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.75 pts. 1095.00	2000.00
.74 pts. 985.00	2000.00
.76 pts. 1125.00	2350.00
.76 pts. 1465.00	2900.00
.83 pts. 1125.00	2200.00
.81 pts. 1085.00	2000.00
.80 pts. 750.00	1500.00
.84 pts. 1625.00	2900.00
.86 pts. 1650.00	2900.00
.87 pts. 1150.00	2000.00
.96 pts. 1950.00	3450.00
.97 pts. 1585.00	3200.00
.97 pts. 1150.00	2300.00
1.00 cts. 2150.00	4300.00
1.00 cts. 3750.00	8000.00
1.01 cts. 1725.00	4000.00
1.02 cts. 1950.00	4950.00
1.02 cts. 2760.00	5200.00
1.06 cts. 1825.00	3700.00
1.08 cts. 2795.00	4800.00
1.08 cts. 2395.00	4700.00
1.09 cts. 2825.00	4900.00
1.17 cts. 1295.00	2650.00
1.29 cts. 2385.00	5000.00
1.41 cts. 3900.00	7900.00
1.43 cts. 3750.00	6300.00
2.02 cts. 6600.00	14,000.00
2.04 cts. 6600.00	14,250.00
2.59 cts. 7295.00	14000.00
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.47 pts. 625.00	1200.00
.50 pts. 895.00	1800.00
.56 pts. 1175.00	2700.00
.62 pts. 795.00	1500.00
.71 pts. 2900.00	5000.00
.96 pts. 2295.00	5000.00
.97 pts. 1485.00	2900.00
.90 pts. 2160.00	4200.00

MARQUISE

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1.01 pts. 1595.00	3000.00
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PEAR

Our Price	compare at
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.47 pts. 1050.00	2000.00
.52 pts. 665.00	1250.00
.51 pts. 695.00	1300.00
.54 pts. 1195.00	2400.00
.60 pts. 785.00	1600.00
.62 pts. 1395.00	2500.00
.80 pts. 1275.00	2500.00

OVAL

Our Price	compare at
.81 pts. \$1160.00	2300.00
.78 pts. 1650.00	3200.00
.64 pts. 850.00	1700.00
.63 pts. 1650.00	3200.00
.90 pts. 1335.00	2600.00
1.04 cts. 1495.00	2800.00
1.15 cts. 2495.00	4900.00

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.49 pts. 750.00	1500.00
.52 pts. 950.00	1900.00
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